

AAUW Austin, TX Branch

Hope you received the EVITE for this month. IF NOT, contact Jean Bessent. RSVP due 1/31.

Lunch is \$25 and coffee only \$5. MENU on calendar page 2.

Please specify if you are staying for lunch. Guests are always welcome, but please include guest's name in reply.



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BUZzzz & Public Policy

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Panel of Alternative Health Practitioners

Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 AM at Norris Conference Center

In general, the term "alternative therapy" refers to any health treatment not standard to Western medical practice. When used alongside standard medical practices, alternative approaches are referred to as "complementary" medicine. Many people find that Alternative therapies support and even accelerate their healing process. Our panel for the February meeting consists of 3 highly trained professionals representing three of these Alternative/Complementary fields. They will each present about their specialty and then answer your questions. For many of us who have experienced health crises, either physical or emotional, these specialties have represented a lifeline to healing and an opportunity to regain balance in our lives. We hope that you will join us for this presentation and begin to better understand options for perhaps enhancing your own healthy lifestyle in 2020.

* **Taryn Altendorfer** is a Licensed Acupuncturist and National Board-Certified Practitioner of Oriental Medicine. Upon graduating with a Master's of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MACOM) she opened her wellness studio, Jiv Daya Whole Health. In addition, she serves as adjunct faculty at AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine in Austin, Texas. Taryn also holds a B.S. in Psychology and a M.S. in Ministry with an emphasis in Family Systems Theory and Counseling. Although very highly educated in her field, Taryn believes that it takes more than textbook knowledge and techniques to be successful, it is when knowledge and techniques are combined with treating genuinely and authentically from the spirit that yield the best outcomes. (<https://jivdayawholehealth.wixsite.com/jivdayawholehealth>)



* **Fai Chan** was born in China and grew up in Hong Kong and came to the US in 2003. She is a Clinical Aromatherapist who started her career in this field in 2014 after moving to Austin. While she was still a student, she published research findings with international aromatherapy journals. In 2015, she served on the board of a world leading aromatherapy association (Alliance of International Aromatherapists). Deli Aroma LLC is dedicated to holistic healing protocols and research. Grounded in pharmacology, her specialties are in the healing of psychiatric/neurological issues and diabetes. Based on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) framework, with the synergistic effects of combining the therapeutic approach with chemistry, her clients find her remedies to be very effective. (www.Deliaroma8.com)



* **Mary Schneider** is a Resonance Repatterning expert, kinesiology practitioner and ordained minister with a global private practice in Austin. After a successful career in marketing and public relations, for 18 years she has been in private practice to help clients around the world create positive life changes by clearing negative and limiting beliefs and repatterning them to resonate with what they do want in their life. Repatterning is a process for positive change based on new physics, which tells us that all matter is energy with frequencies that can be optimized. (<http://repatternit.com/>)



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

HIKING

Feb. 2 U of Texas Urban Hike – Landmark Tour
<https://landmarks.utexas.edu/tours>
 Leader: Linda Welsh

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (usually 1st MONDAY)

Feb. 3 *Educated: a memoir*
 Author: Tara Westover
 Leader: Roberta Coffin

FIRST FRIDAY BOOK GROUP

Feb. 7 *Obsessive Genius - The Inner World of Marie Curie*
 Author: Barbara Goldsmith
 Leader: Gayle Smith

PROGRAM, Feb. 8 – see page 1

MENU: Asian chicken: boneless chicken breast with orange sweet soy & ginger sauce, served with fried rice & julienne vegetables. Selection of desserts. Iced tea and coffee are available.

SW BOOK GROUP

Feb. 10 *Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen*
 Author: Sarah Bird
 Hostess: Jennifer Swenson (at Hampton Library)
 Facilitator: Mary Kate Fredriksen

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

Feb. 10 *Mademoiselle Chanel*
 Author: C.W. Gortner
 Facilitator: Maggie Kadlecek

HIKING

Feb. 13 Slaughter Creek Preserve
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/texas/slaughter-creek-trail-loop>
 Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Mindy Nichols

PEARS

Feb. 14 Celebrating Valentines
 Hosts: Arlo & Dixie Schurle



NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

Feb. 15 Chocolate and Wine Pairing, 4:00 PM
 Hostesses: Phyllis Folarin & Terry Whaley

OUT TO LUNCH (3RD TUESDAY of each month)

Feb. 18 11:15
 Gino’s Vino Austin, 1239 E. 51st Street
 Host: Mary Ellen Scribner

CREATIVE STITCHERY

Feb. 19
 Host: Suellen Mills
 Co-host: Beverly Locklin

CULTURE & CUISINE

Feb. 20 Black History
 Hostesses: Brenda Scholin & Myrtle Bell

MYSTERY GROUP (4th TUESDAY)

Feb. 25 Mysteries with Animals
 BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk

ART TOURS (4TH OR 5TH WEDNESDAY)

Feb. 26 Jeweler Carianne Schulte
 10:00 AM 1808 Ulrich Ave. - www.carianne.com
“Creating pieces that nurture the Spirit”
 Lunch: Vivo Restaurant, 6406 N. I-35
 Planners: Terry Whaley, Carianne Schulte

For more information on venues, etc., contact the Interest Group chairs per the branch yearbook.

OTHER EVENTS

Feb. 1 Branch Strategic Planning – see page 6

STEM volunteer dates – see page 3

Mar. 4 International Woman’s Day Celebration
#EachforEqual - <http://www.unaaustin.org/>

SAVE THE DATE: April 17-19, 2020

**Texas AAUW 2020 Convening
 Courtyard Marriott, Pflugerville**

A CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Deadline for reservations: March 27, 2020
 More info in AAUW-TX UWT coming soon.

Women in Action



STEM NEWS per **Nancy Andren**, texasnancy@austin.rr.com

Let's get 2020 off to a great start by volunteering at one of our STEM partners: Girlstart or Latinitas.

Volunteering at Girlstart:

1. Monthly evening volunteer nights to help with various projects at Girlstart Headquarters (1400 Anderson Ln., Austin, 78757) from 6-8:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for the next 4 months of the year are: February 18th, March 17th, April 21st and May 19th. RSVP on their website: girlstart.org.
2. Deep in the Heart of STEM, Sunday February 2 at the Bullock Museum. Volunteer shift is 11 am to 3:30 pm. You can sign up on the Girlstart website (see above) or contact me.
3. April 18th - Girlstart Girls in STEM conference at Connally HS. This is the same date as our State Convening so we would provide help before and after with goody bag stuffing and data entry.

Girlstart sent the following report: Girlstart After School had more than 2000 4th and 5th grade girls enrolled in 91 programs in 2 states. 100% of these girls participate at no cost. Girlstart summer camp had more than 900 4th through 8th grade girls attending 35 camps in 6 states with over half participating at no cost. More than 23,000 people participated in Community events across the country. And more than 500 girls participated in two Girls in STEM conferences held here in Texas.

Volunteering at Latinitas: Latinitas has a new volunteer coordinator, Bailey Pownall. He is looking forward to meeting all our volunteers.

1. Starting January 18th Latinitas will be starting another cohort of Code Chica and continue their popular Digital Parents. They could use volunteers for these programs which meet on Saturdays for Code Chica and in the evening for Digital Parents. Bilingual ability is requested for volunteers with Digital Parents. Some coding experience is needed to help with Code Chica.
2. Media Chica on March 6-18 will need volunteer Field Trip leaders.
3. Latinitas Purple gala on April 25th is a fund-raising event and will include dinner. Volunteer at the event, beforehand or attend, or all three.
4. Future Chica is on May 2. This is a one-day conference held at Oracle Riverside Campus. We provide snacks for this event and volunteers. The girls will learn about new technology.

Here are some non-volunteer ways to help Latinitas. You can:

1. donate supplies via You Give Goods at <https://yougivegoods.com/shop?drive=10306>
2. visit their Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/27CEO7GTV0MSV?type=wishlist>
3. donate \$ directly at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E333480&id=11>

The Latinitas mission is to EMPOWER ALL GIRLS TO INNOVATE WITH MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY and they do this via their after-school club activities, summer camps, conferences and professional development. There are 23 after-school clubs confirmed for 2020 - 8 more than in 2019! Volunteers are always needed especially with new sites. Latinitas also hosted 3 conferences in 2019 including one in San Francisco. They had 7 weeks of summer camp where girls learned many new things to apply to both their daily life and to their future. Latinitas also launched their new coding program for high school girls. More than 40 girls have earned their certificate from this program. Latinitas works with Austin Coding Academy to produce this program.

Women in Action

Show Some Love. -- Do you realize that Valentine's Day is shortly after our next Branch Meeting? Why not 'show some love' to AAUW, as well as special people in your life, by giving a donation and receiving some gourmet pretzels? Yes, they're back... rod pretzels designed by **Debbie Starr** and prepared by the Fab Funds Committee, wrapped in delicious caramel, drizzled with dark and white chocolate, with some rolled in nuts or sprinkles. Yumm! They went FAST last year, so don't forget your checks or cash and get ready to make a sweet donation to AAUW with an even sweeter reward.



- **Jan Rooker**, FUNDS Chair, 203.613.8060

Our Sister Suffragists fought long and hard to win the right to vote for women. Celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage by becoming a Sister Suffragist.

Donate \$100 to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund #9110 between now and the April 2020 Convening and you will be honored as a Sister Suffragist.

Where will you be on Tuesday, March 3?
How about Tuesday, November 3?

For sure you will be where we need every possible Texan to be: in the voting booth casting a primary ballot in March and a general election ballot in November. There's too much on the line for Texans to sit these elections out. And sad to report and hope to rectify: Texas is the 47-48th state in voter turnout in the USA.



Several of our members are already VDRs (Volunteer Deputy Registrars), ready to register new or update existing voters. Tax Assessor and VDR trainer Bruce Elfant calls VDRs his "Civic Engagement Army." Options for Community Living, a housing nonprofit, married voter engagement to their mission. Many nonprofits are asking themselves how to engage a hard-to-reach population, namely students. Join Nonprofit VOTE and other organizations in reaching thousands of young people each year in high schools, community colleges, and concerts. See also page 5, 6.

Ann Marie Ellis refers us to **Common Ground for Texans**, which had a timely conversation about the function and selection of judges, because the governor approved the creation of the Tx Commission on Judicial Selection. The Commission will explore alternatives to the system of partisan elections used in Texas.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The AAUW Austin Branch is composed of many active, intelligent, and engaged women. It is a blessing to be part of this organization. At this time of year, we ask our talented members to consider taking a leadership role. The nominating committee, composed of **Elaine Penn, Judy Reinhart, Marina Rivers, Connie Munoz,** and **Ruth Rubio**, is looking for women to fill the positions of co-president, secretary, co-vice-president for membership, and program vice-president. Please consider filling one of these important positions and contact a committee member to volunteer yourself or suggest another member whose skills you have observed.

Most AAUW members are concerned about public policy. In the absence of a public policy chair, **Jean Bessent** and **Cathy Werner** have volunteered to mobilize a voter registration initiative. At the January branch meeting, several members signed up to help with policy initiatives. If you didn't have a chance to sign up then and want to be part of the effort, please contact Jean or Cathy. We also need a member or members to take on the broader mission and chair the public policy committee. Contact Larayne or Joyce if you are interested. Finally, filling a vital role, **Anita Knight** has done an amazing job producing the branch newsletter for several years. We still need someone (or a team) to take on this important responsibility. Anita has agreed to mentor her successor(s). Let Larayne or Joyce know if you are interested.

Thank you for your dedication to the organization.

Joyce Pulich & Larayne Dallas

Branch BUZZzzzzz and PUBLIC POLICY

Past President Dale Willimack Dies at Age 91

Our friend Doris Dale McGee Willimack died on December 29, 2019 after a life of service and accomplishment. We knew her as Dale. Dale Willimack joined AAUW in 1997 and held the position of Austin Branch President for the 2006-2007 term. During her time with the Austin Branch, Dale also worked as a committee member and was known to have a big smile.

Dale graduated in 1961 from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and, according to information from her family, hoped to be a reporter. We don’t think that she worked as a reporter, but she was employed as “the only woman working” at Humble Oil during her time there and worked as administrative secretary in the J.J. “Jake” Pickle public relations firm. She was a wife, mother, and grandmother; and had a notable 37-year career as Program and Convention Coordinator for the Texas Medical Association. In 1985, Dale was awarded the Professional Excellence Award by the Texas Society of Association Executives.

As noted in her obituary, Dale was a “passionate advocate for education and women’s equality in the workplace.” She demonstrated this through her contributions in the workforce and through her work on behalf of AAUW.



Congratulations to **Ann Gibbs** on her upcoming marriage to Significant Other Daryl Robinson!

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BRAVO to **Ann Marie Ellis** for travelling south of the border with St. David’s Episcopal Church to deliver food and comfort! To help, she recommends donating to Team Brownsville, which was founded in July 2018 by a small group of like-minded educator volunteers from Brownsville, Texas. They started serving asylum seekers on the Brownsville/Matamoros international bridges, by bringing food, clothing, bedding and shelters from the sun. You can help too – see page 6.

Equal Pay Days

The Texas Legislature will not be meeting in 2020, so AAUW Texas is going to visit the home offices of legislators on all the Equal Pay Days, to inform them about pay equity. Watch for more information in future issues of this newsletter about the specific dates and talking points you can take with you to the local offices. We will be visiting in early March for Asian Women's Equal Pay Day, on March 31, 2020 for general Equal Pay Day, in April for White Women's Equal Pay Day, in June for Moms' Equal Pay Day, in August for Black Women's Equal Pay Day, in September for Native Women's Equal Pay Day, and in November for Latina Women's Equal Pay Day. In addition to helping fight the cause of equal pay, this project qualifies for both the MAP Award and the 5 Star Recognition Program for Texas branches.

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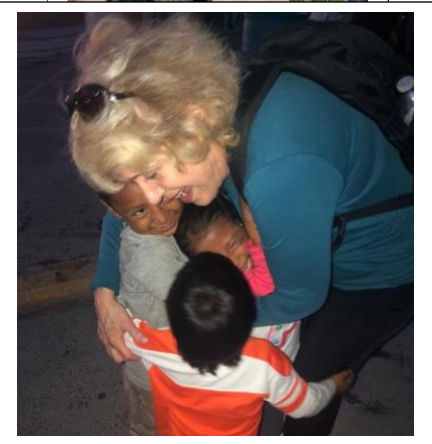
Join the branch voter registration initiative with **Jean Bessent & Cathy Werner**. Become a volunteer deputy registrar (VDR) – It is easy. The state requires you attend a one-hour training session. Training sessions are offered in Travis County at 10:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month and at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Additional classes are added as needed. Locations of trainings vary. Here are upcoming dates:

- ✓ Saturday, February 1st, 2020 at 10:30am, Tax Office - 5501 Airport Blvd.
- ✓ Saturday, February 15th, 2020 at 10:30am, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin- 4700 Grover Ave, Austin, 78756
- ✓ Saturday, March 7th, 2020 at 10:30am, Tax Office - 5501 Airport Blvd.

More PUBLIC POLICY, thanks to WOMEN IN ACTION



See Ann Marie Ellis, page 5



What can YOU do to stop the inhumane Migrant Protection Protocol and provide humanitarian support?

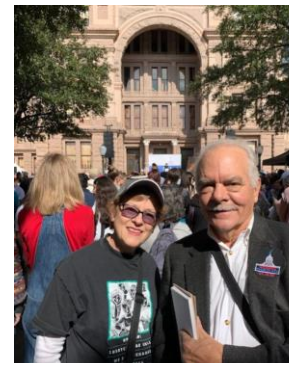
Join with others in the Austin area. Contact: StopMPPAustin@gmail.com, Austin Border Relief Volunteers on Facebook

Donate to provide humanitarian support: www.teambrownsville.org/donate www.rgvrapidresponse.com/send-money/

Your editor was at the 4th annual Austin Women’s March, aka Rally, on Saturday, January 18th at the Texas Capitol. A few other Austin AAUW members (**Mary Lou Bell, Carol Blanchard, Zosia & Joseph Hunt**) could be found in the crowd of about 3500. Women were challenged to VOTE and get women to the polls!! Anita wore her old black AAUW t-shirt reading: “When you shortchange girls, you shortchange America.”



Pooja Sethi with client



Anita & Joseph Hunt



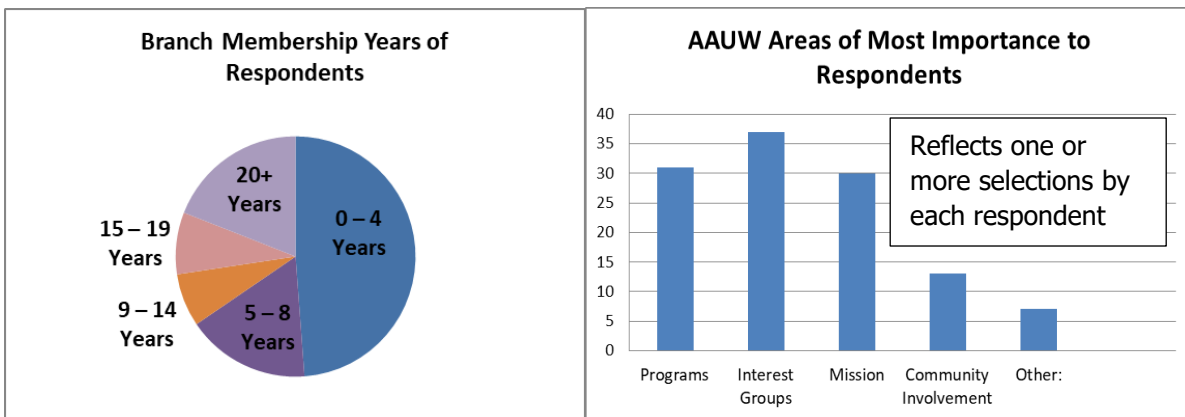
NEED A BALLOT BY MAIL?? You must be sixty-five or over, and we have a large number of members who qualify! And some of our other members probably have family members or volunteer with groups for which this info might be useful. **Mary Ellen Scribner** realizes she can skip a lot of driving, looking for parking, etc., but best of all, she can vote while sitting at a computer looking up candidates and issues on which she needs/wants more information. We are so blessed in Travis County with a terrific county clerk (Dana DeBeauvoir--we should get her for a program!) and Bruce Elfant as county tax assessor-collector and voter registrar. They have made the county website a wonder! <https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/ballot-by-mail.html>. The Ballot by Mail request form can be downloaded at: https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/images/pre/pdf_tc_elections_ABBM_2018.pdf



The results are in!

We asked, you answered.

Cathy Werner submits this summary with thanks to all of you who completed the branch member survey sent out this past summer/fall. Of the 198 members who received the survey, 84 participated – an outstanding response rate of 42%. This was step one in the strategic planning process -- assessing our organization’s adaptability as we move into the new decade. By measuring how well we are meeting the needs and expectations of our members and learning what we might do to improve or expand our programming, we can develop engaging, meaningful and relevant activities for the future.



As noted in the chart above right, interest groups were rated highly (42% were in 1-2 groups, 35% in 3-4), while just 13 cited community involvement as most important to them. Approximately 50% of respondents reported that they attended at least half or more of the monthly programs; 68% indicated a desire for the branch to offer more hands-on community involvement opportunities. Most respondents (79%) did not consider themselves “2-Minute Activists,” and just 33% were willing to serve on a branch committee (a similar statistic among both new and longer-term members).

An expansive list of potential causes and issues of interest was also provided by a number of those surveyed. These included both program suggestions and engagement opportunities, including: immigration, climate change, voter registration, mentoring, literacy, Work Smart, STEM/STEAM outreach, healthcare, and diversity.

For step two of this process, please provide your input to our SWOT analysis (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AAUWStratPlan>) to help guide our goal-setting meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 1, at the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library (5125 Convict Hill Road). We hope you will join us for this 2-hour session from 10:30AM to 12:30PM.

Best regards to **Minden Pletsch** after deferring the newsletter editor role for personal reasons. We hope she will continue her interest in public policy issues. **Anita Knight**, Editor Pro Tem, dedicates this issue to her.