

**AAUW Austin, TX Branch**

Hope you got the EVITE for this month. IF NOT, contact Jean Bessent. RSVP due by January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please send any edited future updates no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to this new email address:

AAUW-ATXnewsletter  
@aauw.net



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BUZZZZzzzz

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

This month’s speaker is Martha Wofford, a lifelong Texan like many of us. She was born and raised in a small town in the Texas Panhandle, then moved to Austin to attend UT. She received her BS in Communication Disorders in 1967, her Master’s in Audiology in 1969, and her Ph.D. in Communication in 1977.

After she retired in 2000, she volunteered at the VA for another 3 years, and now teaches seminars on different topics for UT’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Dr. Wofford’s neighbors know her as *“that lady down the street who brings us cookies covered in pet hair.”*



Dare to lead.  
Dare to be bold.  
Dare to take risks.  
Dare to be authentic.  
Dare to change the game.



***Eva Peron: the Argentine Rainbow***

**By Dr. Martha Wofford**

**Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00 AM  
At Chateau Bellevue**

**Eva Duarte Peron was born and lived in a time of political upheaval in a country historically KNOWN for its instability. That background—as well as her marriage to Argentina’s notorious president Juan Peron—gave her an “edge” and a ferocity that few women can claim. But it was her childhood poverty that made her want to lift others, especially women and children, out of misery. She became an icon known as “The Argentine Rainbow”—a sign of hope for those who’d never known hope.**

**The Eva Peron lecture is one of 12 lectures in UT’s Lifelong Learning Institute’s “Bad Girls” seminars. The 11 women of the series are not “bad” in the traditional way we understand the word, but “bad with a wink.” They all had their dark sides, but in the end, their accomplishments made them stand out as people of vision and worthy of our esteem.**

*RSVP to Jean Bessent ([jeanbessent@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbessent@gmail.com)) by January 2<sup>nd</sup> for lunch (\$25 each) or just program with beverage (\$5).*

*Beautiful menu includes: tomato basil soup with a cheddar crostini (served at the table after the lecture). Our main course will be chicken with a lemon caper sauce. For dessert we will enjoy the apple cobbler with Crème Anglaise.*

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

**CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE** (usually 1<sup>st</sup> MONDAY)

**Jan. 6:** *The Library Book*

Author: Susan Orlean

Facilitator: Joyce Pulich

**HIKIING**

**Jan. 9** Steiner Ranch

Leader: Rolinda Carrington & Friend

**PEARS**

**Jan. 12** 3-5:00 PM

Game Night with wine and goodies

Hosts: Anita & Don Knight

**SW BOOK GROUP**

**Jan. 13** *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Author: Delia Owens

Hostess: Brenda Hahne

Facilitator: Brenda Hahne

**CENTRAL BOOK GROUP**

**Jan. 13** *The Keeper of Secrets*

Author: Julie Thomas

Facilitator: Randi Carter

**CULTURE & CUISINE**

**Jan. 16** Mediterranean “cruise”

Hostesses: Cindy Darilek, Pam Watson,  
Carol Fritz

**NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS**

**Jan. 18:** Saturday, 4:00 PM

Sommelier: Kristi Willis

Hostess: Elaine Penn

**OUT TO LUNCH** (3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY of each month)

**Jan. 21:** 11:15

Cypress Grill - Seafood, Cajun & Creole

4404 W William Cannon Dr, Ste L

Host: Resa Dunn

**CREATIVE STITCHERY**

**Jan. 22**

Host: Jackie Hardee

Co-host: Elaine Penn

**HIKIING**

**Jan. 25** Stargazing Hike, Enchanted Rock

Leader: Roberta Coffin

**MYSTERY GROUP** (4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY)

**Jan. 27** Potpourri – read anything!

BJ Brewhouse, **The Shops at Arbor Walk**

**ART TOURS** (4<sup>TH</sup> OR 5<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY)

**Jan. 29** 10:00 AM

Albert B. Alkek Library, TX State U., San Marcos

Wittliff Collection of SW writers

and SW & Mexican Photography

Lunch: Saltgrass or Mamacitas

Planners: Judy Reinhart, Evelyn Farmer

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

**OTHER EVENTS**

**January:** Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) trainings - VDR signup link:

<https://forms.gle/mRBGMBKzqqX4kViX7>

Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, Tax Office  
5501 Airport Boulevard, Austin

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, First Unitarian  
Universalist Church of Austin  
4700 Grover Ave, Austin

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, Central Texas Food  
Bank- 6500 Metropolis Drive, Austin

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am, Tax Office  
5501 Airport Boulevard, Austin

**Jan. 26** *Chillin' with Chili*, 1-3:30 PM – see p. 3

**SAVE THE DATE: April 17-19, 2020**

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

**A CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

## Women in Action



**STEM NEWS** per Nancy Andren, [texasnancy@austin.rr.com](mailto:texasnancy@austin.rr.com)

Three of our members contributed 9 hours of their time to Girlstart's DeSTEMber Extravaganza. If you have not participated in any of these fun volunteer events, you are missing out.

Girlstart reports that they are serving more than 3000 girls per semester in their after-school program. Also, from analysis by Director **Tamara Hudgins**, girls who attended Girlstart After School exceeded in the numbers that received National Honor Society membership at East View High School in Georgetown.

Latinitas is among the six organizations that will be honored at an award ceremony during SXSW for their commitment to community service. They will receive a grant with a focus on hands-on solutions to community issues, especially where they improve the lives of the underprivileged or disenfranchised.

Code Chica at Latinitas is starting their 4<sup>th</sup> cohort in January, 2020. This is for girls in 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade and occurs on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm beginning January 18<sup>th</sup>. Remember, if you have any skills in teaching coding, contact Bailey Pownall, the Engagement Manager, who handles all-things volunteer at Latinitas.

Here are upcoming volunteer opportunities with Girlstart:

1. Monthly evening volunteer nights to help with various projects at Girlstart Headquarters (1400 Anderson Ln., Austin, 78757) from 6 - 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for the first 5 months of the year are: January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>. **RSVP on their website: [girlstart.org](http://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. I will have a sign-up sheet for this event at our next meeting, or you can sign up on the Girlstart website.
3. 2020 Girls in STEM conference, Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Connally High School. More details to follow. **SAVE the date!**

## Make Plans for Chillin' with Chili (fun for FUNDS)

You'll have rung in the New Year. The tree and decorations will be long gone. The weather will be chilly, but no football to watch. **So what to do on a chilly, late January, Sunday afternoon??**

Why not come 'chill' with friends over some steamy bowls of yummy chili?! We'll have all your favorite chili fixings plus an assortment of waters/sodas, and a treat or two for dessert. BYOB. Count on at least 5 chilis to choose from, or taste them all. **Vote for the Crowd Favorite!**

**Who's invited?** You, husbands, significant others, and adult friends! We'll provide name tags for all. This is a **fundraiser**, so we will be accepting \$10 donations per person at the door.

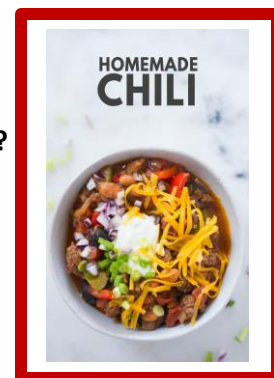
**WHERE: Debbie Starr's home, 6205 Mesa Grande Dr, Austin, 78749**

**WHEN: Sunday, January 26 from 1-3:30 pm**

Please RSVP online as soon as possible after receiving the invite so we can plan properly. All of your generous donations will go to the AAUW Unrestricted Fund helping real women meet real challenges!

## Austin AAUW & Georgetown AAUW to Host AAUW of Texas' 49<sup>th</sup> Convening at the Courtyard Marriott in Pflugerville, Texas, April 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

Come together to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote, learn from our history, and plan for the next 100 years of suffrage. Early Bird Registration is \$150 (by 3/1/2020); Regular Registration \$200. The Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) has been meeting to plan a fun, informative and inspiring event. We are looking for a photographer to document the event. Contact Chair **Linda Welsh** ([lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com) or 512-586-1575) if you are interested in taking pictures or volunteering for the event. More details and registration form in AAUW-TX UWT.



**Women in Action**



AAUW American Fellowship alumna Rachael Rollins this year become the first woman elected district attorney in Suffolk County (which includes Boston) and the first woman of color to hold that job in Massachusetts. She also fought for women’s futures by defending Title IX as a college student over 20 years ago.

As college lacrosse players, Rollins and her teammates retained a lawyer after her university tried to cut their winning program ... but not the losing men’s football team. They won their case, since Title IX stipulates that federally funded institutions are legally required to provide students with equitable sports opportunities.

In the #MeToo era, Title IX also ensures the rights of sexual assault survivors in federally supported educational programs. Yet, unbelievably, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos last year proposed a rule that would make it harder for students to come forward while making it easier for schools to evade accountability.

Our supporters’ response was swift and overwhelming. More than 100,000 people submitted comments about this unfair rule, including many from AAUW.

**But we must keep fighting until this dreadful proposal is reversed.** With you on our side, we will. We’ve worked too long and too hard to accept anything less than full protection against sex discrimination in all areas of education.

from Gloria L. Blackwell  
Senior Vice President of Fellowships & Programs

*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.*

**Starting a New Year with Austin AAUW**  
The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on the one just past and to look ahead with anticipation of good things to come.

- As for remembering 2019:
- Thank you to all of our volunteers! With attention to countless details, you keep our organization working & successful.
  - We especially thank our past presidents for the lovely Winter Social and for the reminder of “Women who Dare.”

- Expecting good things in 2020:
- Our consideration of branch goals continues with a special Strategic Planning Session, to be held early in the year.
  - Our branch will co-host the state “Convening” --- otherwise known as the AAUW state convention --- being held in Pflugerville April 17-19.
  - We have many study-group meetings, plus branch meetings, on the calendar. We will be sharing, learning, and making social connections.

Best wishes! From the Co-Presidents,  
**Joyce Pulich and Larayne Dallas**

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Several members and friends are regular customers of fruitcakes and special goods from Collin Street Bakery. If you order using the Austin AAUW club account C012 (that’s a zero, not an “O”), we get credit and a return of 5% of total orders per year. The money is contributed in the branch’s name to AAUW Funds.

No problem if you mail or fax the club order form OR CALL 800-747-8836 to order. Online apparently one cannot use this club account. But if you tell **Anita Knight** (dbasknight@aol.com) you have ordered as an AAUW member or friend without the club code, Collin Street will add you to our account, and we will get credit for your order. THANKS!



Branch BUZZzzzzz



A good time was enjoyed by more than 80 branch members and their guests during the annual winter social on December 8. Past presidents of the branch provided an array of delicious homemade finger foods, punch, tea and coffee. Table decorations featured displays of books about and quotations from “Women Who Dare”, the theme for this end-of-the year (and because it was 2019, the end of a decade as well!) fun and friendship gathering at which we also celebrated the 2018-2019 year of successful fundraising, outstanding support of STEM opportunities for Austin girls, and the awarding of five valuable fellowships to female doctoral students at the University of Texas. We also welcomed a new member, **Elena Toneva**, and the return of former member **Rima Xoyamayagua**. The vibe of the afternoon was enhanced with music by the Dripping Swing Band from where else—Dripping Springs!



In processing RSVPs for the social we learned that one of our most social and enthusiastic honorary life members can no longer travel to meetings and events because she has moved to Sagebrook Health Center. Sagebrook is located at 901 Discovery Blvd. in Cedar Park. **Jerry Cassidy** would love to have visitors or receive cards. Even if you didn’t know Jerry personally, just mention AAUW and you will be considered a lifelong friend! Call 512.496.7217.

- thanks to **Mary Ellen Scribner**

Keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Jorge Babot, husband of **Sharon Babot**; Karen Knight, daughter of **Anita Knight**; and **Diane Brewer** at loss of her dear brother.

Thanks to all these *gift wrappers* at Barnes & Noble:

TIP\$\$ for AAUW Funds totaled: **\$270** – YEAH!

SOUTH

- Jonesie Abernathy
- Lilac Bauer
- Tulis Escobar
- Ines Garcia
- Sue Ellen Jeffers
- Anita Knight
- Berta Lloyd
- Connie Munoz
- Suellen Myers
- Joyce Pulich
- Jan Rooker
- Ruth Rubio
- Debbie Starr

NORTH

- Roberta Coffin
- Evelyn Farmer
- Phyllis Folarin
- Zosia Hunt
- Janie Maldonado
- Ashmanhan Rasool
- Judy Reinhart
- Cathy Werner
- Terri Whaley
- Janet Widoff
- Pam Wolff

**MORE FUND\$\$ facts:**

Our charity, **American Association of University Women**, recently received a quarterly donation of **\$128.94** thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com.

To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of:

- **\$2,695.88** to American Association of University Women
- **\$156,109,909.51** to all charities

Thank you for supporting **AAUW** by shopping at smile.amazon.com.

