

AAUW Austin, TX Branch

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

AAUW-ATXnewsletter
@aauw.net

Information sent after this date may not be considered for publication. Thanks!



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Calendar Women in Action Branch & Community BUZZzzzz

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

**Coming up: SUNDAY,
December 8, 2019
2-4:00 PM**

AAUW Austin Branch's
Winter Social,
Featuring
Women Who Dare



Hosted by Branch Past
Presidents

Lamar Senior Activity Center:
2874 Shoal Crest Ave., Austin

**November 9th Program:
Norris Conference Center, 10:00am**



"The Politics of Climate Change" by Dr. Anna Graybeal

Anna Graybeal is a psychologist in private practice, working with individuals, couples and groups. She has a BS from Harvard University, a PhD in evolutionary biology from UC Berkeley, and a PhD in clinical psychology from UT Austin. She also co-founded the Austin chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a volunteer-based organization working to build the political will for a stable climate. (See also page 7.)



You should have already received your EVITE for this program with optional lunch buffet for \$25! If not, please RSVP to Jean Bessent, jeanbessent@gmail.com

If you have not yet received your 2019-2020 yearbook, please come to the monthly branch meetings, or pick up at your Interest Group(s).

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (usually 1st MONDAY)

Nov. 4 *Becoming*
 Author: Michelle Obama
 Facilitator: Cathy Werner

PEARS

Nov. 9: noon – 6:00 PM
 17th Annual Paella Lovers United Cook-Off
 Camp Ben McCulloch in Driftwood
<https://paellaloversunited.com/wordpress/>
 Planner: Marsha Endahl Kramer

SW BOOK GROUP

Nov. 11: *Becoming*
 Author: Michelle Obama
 Hostess: Debbie Starr
 Facilitators: Debbie Starr & Maria-Inés Garcia

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

Nov. 11: *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*
 Author: Amy Ellis Nutt
 Facilitator: Mary Lou Bell

NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

Nov. 14: 7:00-9PM
 South American wines with Sommelier Ian
 Hostess: Sandi Sykora

HIKIING

Nov. 14: **Volente Park**
 This is a guided tour.
 Leader: Rolinda

OUT TO LUNCH (3RD TUESDAY of each month)

NO meeting

CREATIVE STITCHERY

Nov. 20
 Host: Fern Chester
 Co-Host: Beverly Locklin

ART TOURS (4TH WEDNESDAY)

No tour – Happy Thanksgiving!

Culture & Cuisine

Nov. 21: Thanksgiving
 Co-hosts: Lynn Cooksey and Anita Knight

MYSTERY GROUP (4th TUESDAY)

Nov. 26: 11:00 AM
 BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk
 Holiday Mystery



UPCOMING DATES

November 15: AWFC Luncheon with Dr. Judith Knotts, Austin Woman's Club or visit: [Eventbrite](#)

December 7: GirlsStart's DeSTEMber Extravaganza Saturday, December 7th, from 9am-12:30pm

December 7: Junior League of Austin, Coats for Kids Volunteer Opportunity, 8am-3:00pm, Palmer Events

Women in Action

New Member Bio:

Lisa L. Kirkpatrick, PhD, holds a BS in Journalism and a Master’s in Education from Ohio University and received her PhD in Education from Texas State University. She has worked at SEU for 25 years , currently, as Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator. Responsibilities include a number of areas, including Athletics, Recreation & Wellness, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Activities, Student Transitions and Family Engagement, Residence Life, Dean of Students Office and Health and Counseling Center.

Organic gardening is of particular interest. Lisa and her spouse enjoy raising organic veggies, raising bees and being outdoors as much as possible. Her son attends college in Colorado.

Lisa became interested in AAUW-Austin after attending a workshop that was very helpful in terms of content and relationships/ networking and is interested in further understanding how students might benefit from having a direct connection to this organization.

Another New Member Bio:

Abby Turner was inspired to join AAUW-Austin after hearing about our mission and great book clubs from a friend who invited her to attend the summer social. She has always worked with books, having first received a BA in English and History from West Texas State University and a MSIS in Library Science from UT Austin.

Abby has worked as a public librarian in San Antonio and in several school libraries in the Round Rock area. She works in the library at Cedar Valley Middle School.

Married for almost 30 years, Abby’s family was built through adoption. She has 3 adult children; a daughter in medical school, a son planning a wedding, and one perfect granddaughter!

Submitted by **Mary Ellen Scribner:**

The 2020 Census, Redistricting and YOU!

About 55 members and guests turned out for a Saturday, September 7 overview of the 2020 census and its significance in just about every aspect of our lives. The heartbeat of American democracy is the use of the national census data for the decadal redistricting for congressional and legislative representation.

Stephanie Swanson, Issue Chair of Redistricting & Census for the League of Women Voters of Texas, delivered a passionate plea for everyone to get involved and presented us with the necessary tools. Putting a spotlight on “what you can do to influence the redistricting maps”, Stephanie urged everyone to take part in the public input hearings being held by the Texas House Committee on Redistricting over the coming months. You may contact Stephanie at **Steph.Swanson.lwvtx@gmail.com**.

There is a comprehensive “Redistricting Tool Box” link on the League of Women Voters of Texas website: **<https://my.lwv.org/texas/public-input-hearings>** that provides the how, when and where to do so. More information is available at **<https://www.fairmapstexas.org>**, the website of Fair Maps Texas, “a nonpartisan reform effort aimed at fixing the broken redistricting system in Texas”. And even more information at: **<https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov>** .



Public hearings, speaking, and writing not your thing? You can help simply by joining the local league <**<https://lwvaustin.org>**> or making a donation (tax-deductible 501(c)3 organization). **Donate at: <https://lwvtexas.kindful.com/?campaign=262282>** .

The League is a grassroots organization! By donating to the League of Women Voters of Texas, you are helping our volunteers to empower voters and defend democracy at the state level and to grow the number of local Leagues in Texas.

Branch & Community BUZZZZzzzzzz



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

The STEM committee met in September to fill goody bags for the Latinitas Start-up Chica Conference, held September 28th at the McCombs Business School on the UT campus. The girls enjoyed the snack we provided, and while at the conference they learned how to identify a problem and come up with a solution that could become a business. This conference was for girls from ages 8-18.

Volunteer opportunities with Latinitas in the next few months are with their Code Chica Cohort, their afterschool clubs [Club Latinitas] and with Digital Parents. The latter is for the parents of the girls enrolled to help them gain or enhance computer skills. Volunteers for the latter requires someone who is bilingual. Club Chica requires a semester-long commitment of one afternoon a week and for Code Chica they are looking for people who can teach coding.

The next volunteer opportunity for Girlstart is on December 7th, a Saturday, from 9-12:30 for their DeSTEMber Extravaganza. At this community event designed for the total family, volunteers help with the various activities provided. Sample activities include making slime and learning about polymers, making a spacecraft and learning about careers in the space industry and many others all with a purpose of teaching the girls and their parents about the various opportunities for women and girls in STEM careers.

Each of these organizations request that their volunteers sign up via their web site. Please go to volunteer@girlstart.org for Girlstart and <http://latinitasmagazine.org/get-involved/volunteer/> for Latinitas to do so. Or just contact me and I will give the volunteer coordinator for each organization your contact information.

Please note: If you sign up to volunteer come to the event or notify the volunteer coordinator for the organization, or me, that you will be unable to fulfill your commitment. **Girstart** reports that they are not in need of any more toilet paper rolls or corks at present. They will let us know when to start saving again.



Calling! Hello all you artistic package wrappers and those who just love to wrap packages!

The Funds Committee is giving you a heads up to start thinking about volunteering to wrap gifts in early December at Barnes and Noble South Brodie and Barnes and Noble Arboretum. You will need to have a 2- and 1/2-hour block of time to devote. It is great fun to talk to the gift-givers and delight others with your package wrapping skills - all the while earning tips toward our AAUW causes, such as women's education and women's equal pay! Please follow up with **Jan Rooker** – Funds Committee, rookerj@msn.com.

Congratulations! The **AAUW Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship** has been awarded to two bright students at ACC! Ms. **Jessica Choate**, a student of Business Administration and Ms. **Clessie Hilliard**, a student of Nursing, were awarded \$2,100 each for the 2019-20 academic year. Both ladies' notes of thanks and profiles are included for review.



AAUW Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship



Clessie Hilliard **Major: Nursing**

A Note of Thanks...

This scholarship is completely unexpected and will help out immensely. I've had to significantly reduce my work hours to focus on school, it has been quite stressful and a complete life adjustment. This award is an amazing surprise. I don't think I can express my gratitude enough. I will continue with my education and continue to strive for that glorious 4.0 GPA! Thank you very much!

In Her Own Words...

This is my first semester of nursing school at ACC. The past year I have worked on my pre-requisites for the nursing program while juggling work and working towards my brown belt in jiu-jitsu. Now that I have been accepted and in the early stages of my associate degree in nursing, my whole focus is on this new career. I plan on continuing onto a bridge program to obtain my bachelors in nursing while working in a hospital to become a full registered nurse. My long term goal is to practice as a forensic nurse. In this role, I will be working almost exclusively with victims of abuse. From my years of martial arts and self defense training I have discovered my passion for helping those who have been taken advantage of and unjustly injured. As a forensic nurse I will be able to work with those who have been or are currently in dangerous situations and help them find a way out and a way to regain their strength. I will also be able to work with law enforcement to help provide evidence and act as an expert witness in order to prosecute assailants.

This is all a new path, it is exciting as well as daunting. I'm at the very beginning but keeping a focus on my goals will help take things one step at a time.



Jessica Choate

Major: Business Administration

A Note of Thanks...

Dear American Association of University Women
Thank you for the Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$2100. I am happy and very appreciative to

learn I was selected as a recipient of this scholarship award. Thanks to your generous award, I am able to focus on my studies, and worry less about finance issues. As a full time student, wife, mother and part-time worker this means a lot to me.

In Her Own Words...

Hello, I'm Jessica Choate and I started my second year at Austin Community College. I am majoring in Business Administration and my goal is to complete my associate of Science degree in Business by the end of the 2020 Summer Semester. Then I plan to transfer to Texas State for the McCoy College of Business. I am currently taking 15 college credit hours for the 2019 Fall semester, I also work part-time at Hyde Park Christian Church as an administration assistant and a Children's Church youth leader. I am currently married, 11 years strong, and we have a thirteen year old daughter. Most nights my daughter and I sit and do homework together, this is our bonding time (ha ha). I hope that my future will show that I am a part of an organization that is beneficial to the community. When I graduate college, I see myself a part of a church or nonprofit. I have really enjoyed all the classes I have taken so far. I feel very confident that I will complete the goals I have set for myself.



Photo from the October 9th Branch Meeting featuring:
Jill Gonzalez, (fourth from left),
speaker from the Woman's
Storybook Project.

