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 will not be considered for publication.

Please be on the lookout for EVITES, which is the branch's official email invitation method for upcoming events.



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Calendar

Women in Action

Branch & Community BUZZzzz

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

If you have not yet received your 2019-2020 yearbook, please contact Roberta Coffin or Suellen Myers, Membership Co-VPs. Thanks!



October is a wonderful month for wellness! It is not only National Breast Cancer Awareness month, it is also National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Women's Disability Employment Awareness Month, and SIDS, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Months, among others?

These are women's causes that may directly impact you or the women you love. Keep living your healthiest lives and find out about more ways we can all support one another by visiting the Wellness Council of America's observances by month calendars at:

www.welcoa.org/healthobservances/

Hello friends and happy fall, y'all!



The next AAUW branch meeting will be:
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm
at Chateau Bellevue/Austin Woman's Club
(parking lot on Nueces Street between 7th and 8th streets)

Look forward to 2 presentations!

The first will be given by recipients of the University of Texas Fellowship. The second will highlight work by Jill Gonzalez E.D., of the Women's Storybook Project of Texas and Work of the Women's Storybook Project of Texas.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

Oct. 5: 11:00 AM
Driftwood Estate Winery
Hostess: Linda Welsh

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (usually 1st MONDAY)

Oct. 7: The Wife
Author: Meg Wolitzer
Facilitator: Marian Wernike

HIKING GROUP

Oct. 10: Barton Creek Hike and Bike Trail https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/texas/barton-

creek-greenbelt

10 am Hike to be led by an Eco Tour Guide.

Cost - \$15 per person Leader: Kate DiPronio

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

Oct. 14: Where the Crawdads Sing

Author: Della Owens Facilitator: Eugenie Whelan

OUT TO LUNCH (3RD TUESDAY)

Oct. 15: County Line on the Hill

6500 Bee Cave Rd (RR 2244), 512-327-1742

Hostess: Milli Stecker

CREATIVE STITCHERY

Oct. 16: 10:00 AM

Host: Elaine Penn Co-Host: Jackie Hardee

CULTURE AND CUISINE

Oct. 17: Oaxaca, Mexico - Day of the Dead Co-hosts: Shirlene Justice and Fern Chester

SW BOOK GROUP

Oct. 21: The Alice Network

Author: Kate Quinn

Hostess: Maria-Inés Garcia Facilitator: Sylvia Garcia

MYSTERY GROUP (4th TUESDAY)

Oct. 22: 11:00 AM

BJ's Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk Military Mystery – WWI, WWII, etc.

ART TOURS (4TH WEDNESDAY)

Oct. 23: Zilker Botanical Gardens

10:00 AM 2222 Barton Springs Rd., 512-477-8672

Fee: \$3-\$6, Free parking

Lunch: Shady Grove 1624 Barton Springs Rd.

Planner: Louise Jordan

Co-Planner: Marsha Endahl Kramer

HIKING GROUP - 2

Oct. 26: Walnut Creek

https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/texas/walnut-

<u>creek</u>

Leader: Roberta Coffin

See yearbook to contact Chairs, or check Evites to confirm times and logistics.

Other things to do in October

Oct. 16: "The Vision & Future of the Botanical

11-1:00 Garden for Austin"

Lunch & program by the Austin Woman's Federated Club at Zilker Botanical Garden

Go to Eventbrite for tickets.

Oct. 29: Girlstart Game Changers Annual Luncheon

11-1:00 JW Marriott Austin (Fundraiser)

Keynote by Melanie Mitchell, Author of Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans

https://give.girlstart.org/event/2019-game-changers-

austin-annual-luncheon/e226245

Women in Action





Work Smart Online

AAUW hit a milestone in our partnership with the Coca-Cola Foundation to teach women everywhere to negotiate effectively. As of August 23, we've trained **102,656** women to ask for the salary they deserve, either through Work Smart Online or in-person workshops.

We knew our goal of reaching 100,000 women through Work Smart in less than a year would be ambitious, but we did it!

Now AAUW is expanding its program. Through your support, we've engaged 500 professional organizations and state and local commissions through our outreach.

Thank you to all who helped us spread the word about Work Smart Online. For those who haven't, we still need your help! Please continue to share by visiting: https://salary.aauw.org/



SHARE:

Supporting Hardworking Affiliates Rising to Empower
What's Up for 2019-2020?
Message from Marina Rivers, District Rep, AAUW-TX

Have you heard of the **SHARE** program? It is an initiative that the Texas Board elected to offer for this Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The State Treasury has some extra monies and voted to give each of the Texas branches the opportunity to collaborate with community partners to expand the work and highlight the goals of the organization. EACH BRANCH MUST APPLY by 1October. Use the Form on the TX WEBSITE.

ACT NOW! Pick a goal as the first deadline is 1 October 2019. You can focus on **Special Projects**, **Work Smart/Start Smart**, or **NCCWSL** grants. Go to the current UWT or contact me for more information and details.

Update on the Work Smart/Start Smart program. The goal is to train 1000 people in Texas by 2020. If you are currently working with a university or company to co-sponsor this program, meet with your local branch board and SHARE!

Conference calls first kicked off last October and the response has been very enthusiastic. Check with the current NL for new dates of the ongoing conference calls, phone number and access code number. The response level of the number of participants continues to increase. Ideas are being "shared".

Last year questions were raised concerning the role of the District Rep and the TX State Board. I serve as your DR for a 2-year term and act as a "Go-To" person for ideas, answers, info and general help. In the Central District, I have 8 branches and joined each of them as a dual member in order to enable me to know schedules and goals of the branches. One of my key goals each fiscal year is to visit each branch at least once a year. I can work with your boards for strategic planning, brainstorming, and ideas. My strategy is to provide local communication about best practices and give feedback from the State level.

USE ME! CALL ME! SHARE ME!

I'm available from now to visit with you.

Phone: 512-386-1905 or marinarivers@gmail.com

Branch & Community BUZZZzzzzzz





STEM NEWS per new Chair, Nancy Andren:

Thanks to the new STEM team: Roberta Coffin, Jackie Hardee, Janani Janakiraman, Anita Knight, Rosemary Morrow, Elizabeth Newell, and Ginny Tannebring.

Our branch actively supports two organizations in Austin that promote STEM for young girls: **Girlstart** and **Latinitas**. Three of our members have already volunteered 25 hours at Latinitas summer camps; **Anita Knight, Mercy Sosanya** and **Nancy Andren**. Thank you, ladies! Each of these organizations ask volunteers to sign up via their websites. Please visit **volunteer@girlstart.org** for Girlstart and **latinitasmagazine.org/get-involved/volunteer/** for Latinitas.

Some of our members contributed funds to Girlstart and we have spent them by buying ingredients to make SLIME! I can tell you it is a big hit as I volunteered at their recent Back to School STEM Extravaganza, made Slime and explained polymers for 3 hours! It was fun. Here are some upcoming volunteer opportunities:

Girlstart reports they are not in need of more toilet paper rolls or corks at present. They will let us know when to start saving again. Thanks!

October 25th, Spooktacular at Bullock Museum, 4:15 – 8:30pm

October 29th, Game Changers Luncheon at the J. W. Marriott, various shifts

December 7th, DeSTEMber Extravaganza, 9am – 12:30pm

FUND\$\$ Announcements

New FUNDS committee: Jan Rooker, Chair (rookerj@msn.com) plus Sharon Babot, Brenda Hahne, Maggie Kadlecek, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Berta Lloyd, Debbie Starr and Cathy Werner

Jan writes: "I am really looking forward to heading up the Funds Committee, getting to know the women in the group, and furthering the goals of AAUW. I am also excited to be able to learn more about the Austin Community which I have found to be very warm and welcoming, but about which I am woefully uninformed. To start I am eagerly looking forward to hearing about any old and new fund-raising ideas that folks have heard about or used, and like. All ideas welcome!"



Collin Street Bakery info — We have contracted with this FAMOUS Texas Fruitcake company since 1989, receiving commissions from about \$100 to >\$300. We qualified for the top 100 award four times. Remember, fruitcakes are NOT JUST FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS, but they are offering their Deluxe Fruitcake, Apricot Pecan Cake, and Pineapple Pecan Cake at phenomenally low prices. Brochures showing their wide variety of products and order forms will be available at branch meetings — use our branch account C012 if ordering online or on the phone or visit:

www.collinstreet.com/online_bakery/all_deluxe_fruitcake

At our October meeting, the Funds Committee will offer free samples of the Collin St. Bakery fruit cake, as well as a chance to take home one of their Triple Chocolate Cakes.

Also folks will have an opportunity to sign up for a Wine Tasting Event, November 2, Saturday, 3-6pm, the Wines of Navarro Vineyards, \$25/each person, 370 Cattle Trail Drive, Dripping Springs.

PRESIDENT'S SECTION

Our AAUW Austin branch year is off to a wonderful start! Membership Co-Vice Presidents **Roberta Coffin** and **Suellen Myers**, along with their team of dedicated volunteers, launched the year with the annual Summer Social at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, August 18. Seventy-seven women attended and 10 joined as new members. Congratulations to the co-VPs and team on a job well-done!

Many members and potential members attended the first branch meeting on September 7 at the Norris Conference Center. Stephanie Swanson, Issue Chair of Redistricting for the Austin Chapter of the League of Women Voters, gave an informative and timely presentation on the 2020 census and the history and future of redistricting efforts in Texas.

Occasionally, members ask executive board members to forward information about non-AAUW events via the member email distribution list. The branch networking policy states "AAUW business, including newsletter distribution, emergency information such as cancellation of a meeting, and death notices, may be distributed via the branch e-mail tree. No member may use/share membership emails addresses for any purpose other than AAUW BRANCH business." Our practice is to share information about non-AAUW events that support our goals and policies in the newsletter and/or in the announcement section of branch meeting agendas.

Three new members are stepping in to appointed positions with the help of their predecessors. Cathy Werner has taken on the branch historian position and has been learning the job from long time historian Kay Keys. Jan Rooker accepted the funds chair position. Retiring funds chair Debbie Starr is helping her by sharing her experience and assembling a team of volunteers. Minden Pletsch is producing the newsletter with training from long time editor Anita Knight. It is a joy to see intelligent, strong women working together for the good of the branch.

Happy branch new year, *Joyce*



PUBLIC POLICY CORNER

On November 5, Travis County residents will vote on 10 Texas Constitutional changes and local referendums from counties and cities in which they live. You must register to vote no later than October 7 to be eligible to vote in this election. For more information please visit: https://tax-office.traviscountytx.gov/voters/links







Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR)

Each month, Travis County hosts several one-hour VDR training sessions:

When?: Third Thursday of each month: 10:30am, 12:30pm, 6:30 pm

<u>Where?</u>: Travis County Voter Registrar's office at either: 4705 Heflin Ln, Austin, TX 78721 or 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78751

<u>Is it really that easy?</u> Yes! When you sign up, email Minden Pletsch at **AAUW-ATXnewsletter@aauw.net** and let us know so we can report on the progress.

Stay tuned for more info!

Two-Minute Activist:

Fight Workplace Harassment!

Workplace harassment hurts everyone, but women, people of color, and those working in low-paid jobs are among the most vulnerable. The Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination (Be HEARD) in the Workplace Act (H.R. 2148/S. 1082) would build on existing civil rights laws to provide new protections against harassment, while also safeguarding existing discrimination laws.

Act now to support this important legislation.

Making AAUW National Headlines this Month:



ECONOMIC SECURITY

Two Cents on the New Pay Gap
Data

Last week the U.S. Census Bureau released new data that tell an old story: Women still make 82 cents on the dollar compared to men, which is not statistically different from last year's data after accounting for a recent change in methodology. "Based on historic rates, the gap won't close for 75 years — until 2093. And that's just too long," says AAUW CEO Kim Churches. "It's time we all stand up and demand basic fairness."

Native Women's Equal Pay Day

September 23, 2019, marks the day that the wages of American Indian and Alaska Native women catch up to the money white men were paid in 2018. It took about 21 months for these women to earn what white men were paid in 12 months alone — that's nine extra months. Native Women's Equal Pay Day is also an occasion to recognize the pay gap that Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander women face.









All On The Line is the grassroots advocacy campaign supported by the National Redistricting Action Fund.

They are launching **Redistricting U**, a fair map movement training with the goal to empower people with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to participate in and impact redistricting.

Fall trainings begin soon. Find a local training or suggest a spring training location. This is your chance to help craft the plan for fair maps.

Reach out to <u>Linda Welsh</u> for more information or **www.allontheline.org**



IN LOVING MEMORY

Arnold V. Lesikar, husband of AAUW member **Sharon Lesikar**, died August 8 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, of a sudden massive heart attack. He was 81. Arnold died at their timeshare condo in Santa Fe, which Sharon shares was truly his happy place.

Sharon and Arnold moved from Minnesota to Sun City Texas in Georgetown in 2012. Arnold was a professor of physics at St. Cloud State University for 38 years. Arnold entered Rice University in Houston, his home town, at age 16. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. In physics at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Arnold and Sharon celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary last May in Fredericksburg, Texas.