

AAUW Austin, TX Branch

DO YOU ZOOM?

Let's all get together
on a ZOOM meeting,
May 9th, 10:00 AM.

Instructions to follow.
Stay Safe & Healthy!



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BUZzzzzzzz

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Things to do

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

Our MAY 9th Branch meeting will be on ZOOM – stay tuned for more info. Come join us for a coffee break!

Meet the five 2020-21 UT Fellows (who will present their research in the fall)

(THANKS to Jean Bessent, Joyce Pulich, Elizabeth Newell, Mary Ellen Scribner

and Janet Widoff, who met via ZOOM to do the final selection of these 5 shown below.)

**Congratulations to them and also
our Named Gift Honorees for 2019 Funds contributions!**

Lucy Le Blanc is a PhD candidate in Microbiology at the Institute of Cellular and Molecular Biology. Her research on the regulation of embryonic stem cell regulation focuses on the effects of physical cell-cell contact on differentiation.

Sierra Mendez is a fourth year doctoral student in Rhetoric & Writing, and she teaches "Rhetoric of Texas" for undergraduate students and acts as Assistant Director for the Digital Writing and Research Lab, as well as being the mother of Amelia. Her dissertation is "Inherent Remains: Performative (B)ordering Practices in San Antonio".

Williamena Granger is in the Department of Architecture. By way of connection to the Kirkland, WA corona virus crisis as it manifested itself at a care center for the elderly, her dissertation tentatively entitled "The Silent Center: A Material History of the American Home for the Aged, 1870-1965" uses the lens of architecture to "illustrate the imbrication* of aging and architecture."

Caroline Johnson is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at the University of Texas. Her dissertation topic is "Clouds Like Glass: The Gendering of Airline Pilots, 1973-2001" in which she focuses on the personal history of women airline transport pilots in the United States.

Maro Youssef, born in Egypt, now in the Department of Sociology, is but a dissertation away from a PhD in sociology at UT with her research and writing project, "Women's Movements During Democratic Transitions: The Case of Tunisia". She plans to turn her dissertation into a book on "women's rights and activism during democratic transitions—with a focus on Muslim majority countries, including Tunisia, Turkey, and Indonesia."

* Do you know what imbrication means?
Overlapping like this page & your face masks!

MAY CALENDAR – CANCELLATIONS, Virtual Events

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE (usually 1st MONDAY)
May 4, 7:00 PM via ZOOM with **Mary Ellen Scribner**
Discussing Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*

FIRST FRIDAY BOOK GROUP

SW BOOK GROUP

CENTRAL BOOK GROUP

HIKING

TEARS

NEW AAUW WINE TASTERS

OUT TO LUNCH (3RD TUESDAY, 11:15 AM)

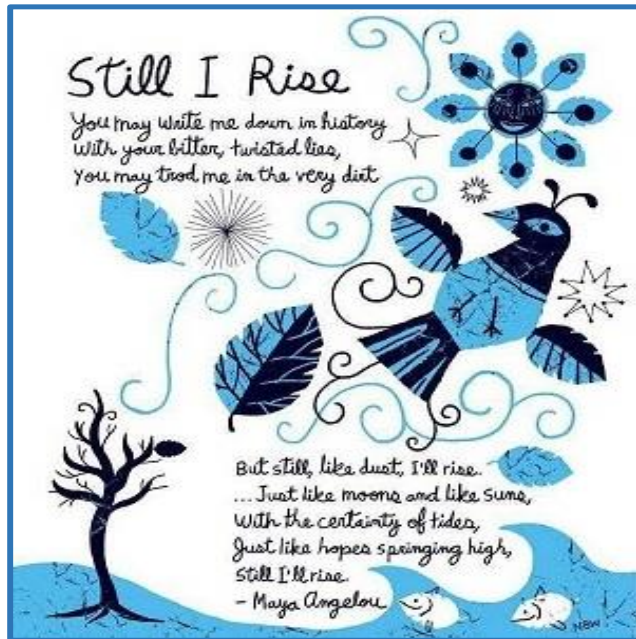
CREATIVE STITCHERY

CULTURE & CUISINE

MYSTERY GROUP (4th TUESDAY)

ART TOURS (4TH OR 5TH WEDNESDAY)

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



THINGS TO DO IN YOUR "SPARE TIME"

RENEW your membership (best online)

Thank Kendra Scott

Submit ideas for programs for '20-21

Help your Interest Group Chairs

NWHA 2020 Virtual Book Club

"Valiant Women of the Vote" - See page 6.

AAUW TEXAS CONVENING ON ZOOM & Emails

April 18 AAUW-TX had 2 "virtual events":

- ❖ a live state of the union message on Facebook by President **Malinda Gaul**, viewed by 500,
- ❖ where we heard from Austin Mayor *Pro Tem* Delia Garza (her message is still available on our Facebook page)
- ❖ and a Happy Hour via ZOOM with >75 attending to learn about awards.....
- ❖ Then the awards were announced through Constant Contact email, Facebook, and the website throughout the day.
- ❖ Refunds are being issued – thanks, **Roberta Coffin**, Convening Finance Officer!!
- ❖ See page 5 for more information and award summaries.

###

Please respect the following deadlines for the Yearbook, per **Pam Wolfe**:

- ✓ **June 5:** board of directors members, committee members (standing, other)
- ✓ **June 25:** interest group schedules (please limit to one page unless you meet more than once a month)
- ✓ **July 15:** branch program & meeting schedule and any planned fundraisers (TBA ok if you do not have information or dates)
- ✓ **Day of Fall Membership Event:** Please renew your membership before this day (TBA) And please give any changes to your membership information when you renew to the Co-Membership VPs.

We are travelers on a cosmic journey, stardust, swirling and dancing in the eddies and whirlpools of infinity. Life is eternal. We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment. It is a little parenthesis in eternity.

Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

WOMEN IN ACTION



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

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING: Girlstart has been closely monitoring the situation with COVID-19 and postponed all events in April. Four of our members donated 9 hours to Girlstart doing data entry in March before we were shut down. Girlstart reports that their virtual programs are strong and serving lots of children and families; and here are some virtual volunteer opportunities:

- ✓ If any of you are currently working in a STEM field, please fill out the form at their website to become a Woman in STEM and be featured online on blogs or videos. www.girlstart.org/volunteer-opportunities
- ✓ If you would like to help prepare items for summer camp and/or after school, please contact them for instructions (volunteers@girlstart.org). These are things you can do at home with supplies you have, such as cardboard, yarn, trash bags, and ribbons. These projects must be completed by May 8th.

Girlstart is committed to supporting girls and their families this summer; and your gift today will help empower girls to be brave, creative, and curious about STEM during these uncertain times.

Join Girlstart for hands-on STEM fun at home! Visit stemathome.org for engaging activities, engineering challenges, virtual Starry Nights, and other STEM experiences to be done at home with the whole family.

Latinitas had their Purple Stay-at-Home Party for Chica Power on April 25. Latinitas is also promoting STEM activities at home using things found around the house. This is on their YouTube channel, Latinitas.

FUND\$\$ - Jan Rooker, FUNDS Chair, 203-613-8060

You read in April newsletter that the Funds Committee had scheduled another fun shopping night at Kendra Scott's Jewelry Store, Wednesday, April 22, 2020. Well, it turned into 48 hours of fun, online (VIRTUAL) shopping (with free mailing & gift wrapping), during which 20% of proceeds benefited AAUW. Did you enjoy our group Zoom meeting with your AAUW friends and Brittany, Sr. Store Manager, at 4pm on the 22nd? If you wanted to support this fund raiser, but don't need jewelry, you can still donate any amount of money to www.AAUW.org using the donate button.

THANKS, Kendra Scott, a really special entrepreneur and philanthropist with a history of supporting women and children's causes! The purpose of her **SHOP FOR GOOD** program is to thoughtfully and joyfully connect through beautiful jewelry that gives back to the causes and people you care about most, including 50% of proceeds from Everlyne bracelets to support Feeding America®. In September 2019, Scott donated \$1 million to UT at Austin to launch the Kendra Scott Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute (WEL), a program "uniquely built to address the challenges women often face in business." In April 2020, Governor Abbott named her to the Strike Force to Open Texas – a group "tasked with finding safe and effective ways to slowly reopen the state" amid the COVID pandemic.

PROGRAMS - Dr. Phyllis Folarin, Program VP, p.folarin@att.net,

Phyllis wrote to the program committee: "I am looking forward to another enriching program year with Austin AAUW and I am evermore excited about being a member of this team. As we move along this untrodden path, due to the many unknowns brought about by this coronavirus, let us focus our attention on the first order of business which is to submit program dates and venues and identify activities to the yearbook committee no later than July 15.

Meeting dates will mirror last year's schedule as closely as possible and we are hoping the current venues will be available, of course negotiations are needed and depending on the committee's desire. If anyone sees a need to change dates, time or venue, please communicate with program committee ASAP.

Our charge is to provide interesting, inspiring, and entertaining programs for our members." Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit an idea for a program presentation.

Branch BUZZzzzzz

**CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE - Joyce Pulich**

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as co-president these past two years— in the first year with **Elaine Penn** and in the second year with **Larayne Dallas**.

At the beginning of the calendar year, we were all looking forward to exciting programs, book club meetings, wine tastings, bridge games, and other interest group events. Then in mid-March we hit the wall of a pandemic.

I miss seeing you at branch meetings. I miss my bridge buddies and my wine tasting friends and the hiking group. One of the good things about staying at home is that I have learned to use my sewing machine (unused for many years) to make face masks for family and friends. Another positive thing is that I attend church more than ever albeit virtually (not the same but it is what we have). Another good thing is that I walk 3+ miles every day - definitely good for mental health. I have spent more time at home with my husband in the past months than I have at any time since I retired at the end of 2007 and we still like each other (most days).

The downside mostly involves my concern for others – those in nursing and retirement homes, those in prison, the homeless, the young children, the poor, the unemployed – to name only a few of the many impacted people.

I have received many thoughtful and humorous emails during the past month, as most of you have, but I want to share this poem for a Pandemic with you.

Virtual hugs,
Joyce



We are pleased to report the results of our virtual election for the AAUW Austin branch officers. The officers elected by acclamation to serve from 2020-2022 are:

Co-president:	Evelyn Farmer, Ph.D.
VP for programs:	Phyllis Folarin, Ed.D.
Membership Co-VP:	Gayle Kanies
Secretary:	Marian Wernicke

We look forward to the time when we can meet together in person again.

Until then, please renew!

Stay safe!
Joyce and Larayne



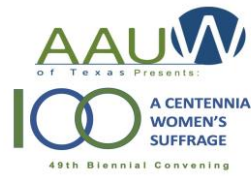
Prayer for a Pandemic

- ❖ May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
- ❖ May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.
- ❖ May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
- ❖ May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
- ❖ May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.
- ❖ May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.
- ❖ May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
- ❖ As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen

MORE Branch, State & National BUZZzzzzz



CONVENING REPORTS:

Congratulations to the newly elected 2020-2022 AAUW Texas Board!

(Voting was conducted by a survey through Constant Contact or by paper ballot. There were 287 electronic votes and 2 votes by mail.)

President Gloria Long, Program VP Melodia Gutierrez, Fund VP Margie Poole, Membership VP Barbara Cager, Finance Officer Diane Roberts, Secretary Mary Smith, and our Central District Rep Marsi Liddell

Over 70 members of AAUW-TX branches, including about 15 Austin members, donated \$100 or more to the AAUW greatest needs fund this year to be named "AAUW-TX Sister Suffragists".

Austin branch is one of 11 that has achieved the MAP award for Membership, Advocacy and Philanthropy. We are also one of the top 10 branches for Funds contributions both by dollar amount (#3) and per capita (#10) in 2018, and also #3 by dollar amount in 2019. Thanks everyone!

Our **Cathy Werner** was recognized as one of 7 outstanding new member nominees. And **Anita Knight** was one of 8 outstanding member nominees. Cathy sent her thanks and said: *"I love being a member of this wonderful group of board members and this enthusiastic branch."* Pam Wolfe commented that *"a branch can only survive when it gets new members like her!"*

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Y'all should have received an email asking members to vote on 4 candidates to join AAUW's 15-person board of directors. You can read more about them and the election on the **National Election page** of our newly redesigned website. You are encouraged to vote online to ensure your ballot will be received and counted immediately, but National will also accept paper ballots that have been postmarked by Friday, May 1, 2020, but the deadline to request paper ballots is past.

FROM National:

Please be assured we at AAUW are with you and there for you during this time. As part of our ongoing work, AAUW is pleased to announce the launch of our new website, and we hope it will help us to stay more connected than ever.

AAUW has a new website. Check it out.

Our team is thrilled to showcase our important work together towards advancing gender equity. The site is the result of many months of hard work and close collaboration with design experts, staff at all levels and many of you.

It is intended to get you the information you need quickly — whether that's the latest statistics on the gender pay gap or advice on how to stay connected with your community through the coronavirus crisis. I hope you will take some time to look around and peruse the striking images, at-a-glance stats and inspiring stories about the world-changing women AAUW supports.

Thank you to the many AAUW members who gave us vital input to guide our approach. You are an integral part of AAUW's rich history, and, because of you, we can now also communicate to a new generation of women and men why equity is as critical today as it was when AAUW was founded 140 years ago.

The Membership section of the website puts important member resources at your fingertips, including information on:

- Why membership matters.
- Tools for effective governance and advocacy.
- Timely initiatives like the 5-star recognition program and our board election, which opened April 8.
- How to support AAUW through fundraising.

The Member Services Database that many of you rely on will get an upgrade later this year, but meanwhile you can still access it on the new site. And your branch and state websites haven't changed.

As proud as I am of the new site, I'm also committed to continuous improvement and eager to hear your feedback. Websites are never truly finished, but I hope you'll agree that we're off to a very strong start with the new AAUW.org.

Thanks, as always, for your commitment to AAUW. Be safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Laura M. Segal
Senior VP, Communications & External Relations

THINGS TO DO in your "spare time"

Virtual Book Club Details, thanks to Myrtle Bell

This book club is a wonderful way to join together and celebrate our love for women's voting rights history. Purchase your book from your favorite retailer or from the NWA store and join us on social media as we read together.

For example, April's book was *Persisted: How American Women Won the Right to Vote*.



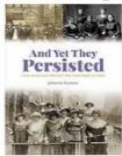
VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

LET'S READ TOGETHER

Join the National Women's History Alliance for our first Virtual Book Club series!

From March through November 2020, the NWA invites you to join in a shared reading experience spotlighting the history of the women's suffrage movement and women's voting rights.

March-April



"Yet They Persisted" with Johanna Neuman

A history of the women's suffrage movement in the United States, from 1776 to 1965

Author is confirmed for Virtual Meet Up

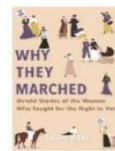
May-June



The Vote: Women's Fierce Fight, by Penny Colman

Tells the gripping story of the battle of woman suffrage using many new sources.

June-July

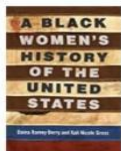


Why They Marched with author, Susan Ware

A tribute to the many women who worked tirelessly on their right to full citizenship.

Author is confirmed for Virtual Meet Up

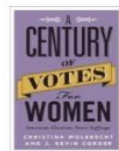
July-Aug.



A Black Women's History of the United States by Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross

Offers an examination and celebration of Black womanhood.

Aug.-Sept.



A Century of Votes for Women, by Christina Wolbrecht

Provides unique insight into how women's turnout and vote choice evolved across a century.

Author is confirmed for Virtual Meet Up

Sept.-Oct.



Sisters in the Struggle, Edited by Bettye Collier-Thomas

Tells the stories of unsung heroes of the civil rights movements

Oct.-Nov.



One (Wo)man, One Vote, by Julie Powell

Tells the story of what it took for women, African Americans, and young people to be able to vote.

Author is confirmed for Virtual Meet Up

Book Club Steps:

- Get the book(s) you want to read.
- Read & stay connected via the NWA Book Club newsletter and NWA social media.
- At the end of the book's reading period, join the Virtual Meeting by phone or internet via Zoom, to discuss the book with fellow book club members.
- Virtual Book Club meetings will be moderated by NWA staff.
- See schedule to find out which authors will join us for Virtual Meetings.
- Virtual Meeting Dates will be announced soon.

TO REGISTER

Go to the NWA store at to register for the Virtual Book Club you would like to join.

You will be sent a meeting code the week of the Virtual Meeting Event.

* Books must be purchased separately.

We have 100 person capacity for each virtual book club meeting. We recommend registering early to secure your spot.