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Items for April Newsletter

DUE March 22, 2023

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

March Membership Meeting

featuring

Lindsey Derrington

Executive Director, Preservation Austin



When: Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Balcones Country Club, [8600 Balcones Club Dr.](#)

Cost: \$30.00

Contact: Cathy Werner, cathy.werner3586@gmail.com

With more than fifteen years of professional preservation work and advocacy experience, **Lindsey Derrington** has served as the Executive Director of Preservation Austin since 2019. During this time, she has led the organization through its first strategic planning process in seven years and helped shape a new, more inclusive mission and vision to guide its work.

Her career choice was a natural outcome of her love for the red bricks and Victorian parks of her hometown of St. Louis, MO. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Washington University in St. Louis and a master's degree in preservation studies from the Tulane School of Architecture. Her passion for mid-century design has led to leadership roles on the nonprofit boards of Modern STL and Mid Tex Mod. Her advocacy efforts, in partnership with so many amazing friends and colleagues, have been honored with advocacy awards from Missouri Preservation and Docomomo US.

Lindsey will speak on her experiences working in historic preservation and about how Preservation Austin is helping to build a more inclusive and impactful preservation movement in this community for the current and coming years.

The lunch menu will include chicken alfredo, salad, garlic bread and assorted mini desserts, tea and coffee. There is a vegetarian option. Drinks only is \$5.00. Please indicate your meal preference on the Evite.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March! It's the only month that is a command. There is an urgency about it as we see the Texas Legislature kick into high gear and our Public Policy committee spring into action.

At our January Board meeting, each member of the board, standing committees and appointed officers, and the off-board positions shared their Word of the Year for AAUW. It's a word to guide us as we approach our 100th birthday. What valuable words were offered and are shared here with you for your consideration.



A **Century!!** of **Dedication** and service to our community is an amazing testament to our **Resilience**, since not many organizations **Survive** this long. What a time to come together in **Camaraderie** to **Celebrate** and have **Fun** as we commemorate our many accomplishments and the **Compassion** and **Connection** we share with one another through the friendship gained in AAUW.

Why is this milestone important? This anniversary gives us **Visibility** to honor the work we have done, build **Eminence**, and recognize that the work continues. **Equality** and **Equity** still are missing in many sectors for women and girls. As we **Revive** and **Reawaken** our **Advocacy** in **Collaboration** with sister organizations, we build valuable partnerships to further our mission and promote the **Growth** needed to sustain AAUW Austin for another 100 years.

The **Stimulation** by Chris Kennedy's fascinating and insightful presentation at the February branch meeting left us all with food for thought and a reminder of how engaging our branch meetings are. At the business meeting, each member was given three opportunities to vote on their AAUW Word of the Year. The results from this initial vote of branch members are illustrated in the Word Cloud below.

You will have another opportunity to vote at the March meeting for your favorite words. Please join us on March 11th at the Balcones Country Club to learn about the important work of Preservation Austin from the Executive Director, **Lindsey Derrington**. I look forward to seeing you!

In Sisterhood,

Linda Welsh, Ph.D.



February Meeting Recap

Christopher Kennedy's presentation at the February branch meeting was very informative and eye opening on what makes Austin "tick" and how individuals are motivated (or not) today in civic action, employment options, and social environments. He talked about how our governance has shaped our city and has had an impact on individual actions, like voter turnout.

It's no surprise that the Austin area is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, but this growth is prompting new business strategies. Christopher discussed how a business' culture can influence hiring potential staff as well as affect consumer selection. Case in point: we didn't have UBER ten years ago. And, even this "new" company has evolved through several business models in response to impacts like COVID-19 and growing/diminishing consumer demand. Another example, working at home, and not in the office, is changing the business environment and management's leadership roles. This trend was triggered by the pandemic, and now looks like it's here to stay.

Altogether, this is creating new challenges for organizations to plan for the future. Suffice it to say, it's not business as usual.

During his presentation, Christopher cited several resources that he would like to share with our members. They are listed below:

- The [Annette Strauss Institute](#) for Civic Life's mission is to educate, inspire, and connect the next generation of Texas civic leaders.
- [10 Won: Austin's New Voice Pt.1](#), a documentary exploring Austin's first election under a new form of city government.
- [Austin Demographer Data](#)
- [Generational Studies Information](#)

WOMEN'S MARCH

Representing the Austin branch, **Linda Welsh, Shirlene Justice, and Anita Knight** joined hundreds of women at the Texas State Capital on Saturday, February 11 to support women's rights in Texas.



Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

Public Policy Committee: We are on a mission—or a few!

The Public Policy Committee has a couple of significant missions underway which would greatly benefit from your help. The first you probably already know about from the recent [AAUW Washington Update](#). Let's get the ERA embedded in the Constitution before a partisan Congress derails it completely!



Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

It's hard to believe the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced into Congress 100 years ago, with the goal of guaranteeing equal legal rights for men and women under the U.S. Constitution. By 1977, the ERA was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states. However, because Congress imposed an arbitrary deadline to complete ratification by 1982, the ERA could not become law when the final three states ratified it years later (Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018, and finally Virginia in 2020). With your help, we can change that. On January 24, Sen. Cardin filed [S.J. Res. 4](#) to remove the ratification deadline. The Senate used a procedural move called Rule XIV to allow the bill to be added to the Senate calendar and brought for a vote, bypassing the Committee process. Soon after, on January 31, Rep. Pressley introduced a similar bill in the House ([H.J. Res. 25](#)). If passed, these measures would allow Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count toward ratification, and the ERA would finally become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Women cannot wait for equality any longer. [Urge Congress to support S.J. Res. 4/H.J. Res. 25!](#)

Our Texas senators are not going to be in favor of this legislation, but let's persist by first using the link in the Washington update and then turn to making more personal and direct contact by calling and emailing. Advocacy training and accountability workshops show that direct contact is more effective. Last month's newsletter contained a [phone script](#) that you can adapt for any cause; use it to call both the senators' local and Washington offices. Personalize your emails so that they tell your own story and why getting this done is so important to you.

John Cornyn

<https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/>

517 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-2934

[Contact](#)

Ted Cruz

<https://www.cruz.senate.gov/>

127A Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-5922

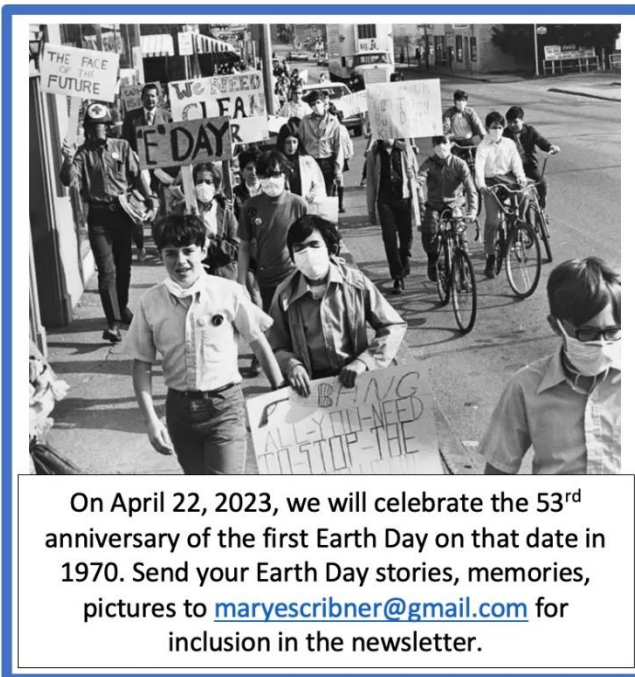
[Contact](#)

Policy Update Continued.....

Our second urgent mission is to get every potential voter in Texas registered, and then like Scarlett, we will worry about getting them to actually go to the polls and vote! Texas is controlled by a team of politicians that makes the rules that allow it to remain in control. It is to its advantage to keep voter registration and voter turnout low. Branch President **Linda Welsh** has challenged every branch member who is physically able to become a VDR (Volunteer Deputy Registrar). With such a large pool of VDRs, we would be able to respond to calls for VDRs at public events and perhaps even sponsor a registration event or two of our own. Training and certification can be done online or in person. The training registration link and everything you need to know can be found on the Travis County Elections website <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters>.

When you receive your certification, please email maryescribner@gmail.com so that a list can be compiled. If you are interested in becoming a VDR in a surrounding county such as Williamson, Bastrop, or Hayes, you can email **Jackie Hardee** at jshtxtx@yahoo.com for more information. There is some reciprocity.

Eleanor Roosevelt is credited with saying, "A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Ladies, the public policy/politics kettle in Texas is always boiling; let's show the world just how strong we are!



AAUW Austin Branch – Centennial Celebration

The Start of the Austin Branch

In the *Austin Statesman* on October 28, 1923 (Sunday), readers saw an invitation, “New Club To Be Organized.” It was a news note on the first page of the newspaper’s second section, *Chronicles of the Social World*. The new organization was to be a part of a national group, the American Association of University Women and College Alumnae. The first meeting was set for the Driskill Hotel on November 1 at “3:30 o’clock.”

According to the announcement, this would be the seventh Texas chapter of the American Association of University Women. El Paso, Dallas, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Georgetown, and Cuero had led the way.

Readers additionally learned that local organizational efforts were headed by Mrs. G. N. Abbott (district organizer) and Miss Lucy Newton, dean of women at the University of Texas. They were assisted by “Mmes. Walter Fisher, H. P. Bybee, E. J. Villavaso, Clara May Parker and Miss Annie Blanton.”

The organization’s goals, as described, were to support the building of connections with university women around the world and serving humanity through its work. Additionally, AAUW was noted as having formed in 1882, with separate entities for southern and northern schools coming together in 1921.

Membership for the Austin chapter was said to be of “three kinds” and then five different groups were invited. As written, anyone who attended college was eligible to join and alumnae of the University of Texas were specifically mentioned. Also, specifically noted as eligible were “college women in the public schools,” wives of members of the University of Texas faculty, and “any college women residing in Austin.”

In the November 8, 1923 issue (p.4) of the *Austin Statesman*, readers learned that, following the first meeting, members met for a second time the very next week - on the 8th. The full report of that meeting came on the first page of *Chronicles of the Social World*, in the *Austin Statesman* on November 11, 1923 (Sunday). This article had the heading, “The American Association of University Women,” and told readers that the “temporary organization of a week ago was made permanent on Thursday, when about fifty women eligible to membership met at the Driskill Hotel.”

These officers were reported as elected:

- Vice-presidents: Mrs. E.J. Villavaso and Mrs. Ireland Graves
- Secretary: Miss Goldie P. Horton
- Treasurer: Mrs. Powell
- Directors: Mrs. Walter Fisher, Miss Lucy Newton, Mrs. Rhomberg, Mrs. M.W. Graham, Mrs. Marvin Chariton, Mrs. M.B. Porter
- (the position of president was not filled)

“The plan was to meet monthly at 4:00 p.m. on the second Friday at a place not yet set. However, arrangements had already been made to host Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt at “the service of the Austin branch Wednesday evening, Nov.21, and Thursday, Nov.22.” Dr Reinhardt was president of both Mills College and of AAUW national.

Branch History Continued....

This article is clearer than the October 28th article in stating the intended work of AAUW and its membership requirements.

- Graduates of AAUW approved colleges were eligible for **National** membership
- Graduates of colleges not yet approved by AAUW but approved by the "Committee on Recognition of Colleges" could be **Local (not National)** members
- **Associate** membership was a category for an individual who had completed at least a year at a college on one of the approved lists from above. Associate members could not be **National** members.

Concluding our look at the first two weeks of the branch is this prophetic quote from the November 11 newspaper report: "The particular work to be done by the Austin branch of the association has not been decided upon but Austin with college spirit upon which it prides itself affords a particularly interesting field of adventure."

Prepared by **Larayne Dallas** and submitted on behalf of the members of the Centennial Committee. Thanks to Austin Public Library's *ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman*

AAUW GEORGETOWN STYLE SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION RETURNS



The Georgetown Branch of the American Association of University Women will present our annual **Style Show Luncheon and Silent Auction** at Berry Creek Country Club on Saturday, March 25. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend this upcoming event.

TICKETS ARE \$35

Please call or text (512) 731-6627 to RSVP

The silent auction is for random goodies inside slightly used purses. This is fundraiser for AAUW Funds. Most information can be found at <https://georgetown-tx.aauw.net/>.

Branch Fundrai\$ing Update

Delicious See's candy bars are available for purchase. This is perfect timing for Easter bunny treats or just because. The fundraising team hopes that all members will purchase some of these treats while supporting AAUW national goals. The price for milk chocolate and dark chocolate bars is \$3 for one or \$5 for two. Members who order \$25 worth – 10 bars – can have them delivered to their homes. Place your order with **Joyce Pulich** at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net or **Debbie Starr** at dbbstrr@gmail.com



Save the Date for a Kentucky Derby Fund Raiser

Come and enjoy exceptional southern food, mint julips and wine while watching and speculating on the winner.



When: Saturday, May 6, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Home of Berta Lloyd, 633 Cerezo Drive, Leander

Cost: \$40 per person

Participation is limited to 24 people. All proceeds will support AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund

The **Change for Change Challenge** was very successful and helped to reduce the projected deficit in the branch budget. We are suspending the challenge for the rest of the branch fiscal year and hope you will use your change to buy candy bars instead.



Yearbook Additions

Newly Joined Members

Kathleen Higgins
1803 Basin Ledge
West Lake Hills, TX 78746
kmhiggins@austin.utexas.edu

Dorothy Shelley
1308 Blakeney Lane
Austin, TX 78753
wisteriavine12@yahoo.com
707-227-6592

Also, please review your contact information in the Yearbook and report any updates to Milli Stecker at milli1251@gmail.com.

Nominations Welcome for Named Gifts

Each year, members of the Austin Branch honor fellow members as recipients of "Named Gifts." We think of our colleagues who have, for example:

- Held a position for the branch and completed duties in an exceptional manner,
- Led a project,
- Served over time in multiple roles,
- Represented the branch to other groups in an outstanding manner,
- or
- Always said, "Yes."

At this location you may copy a: [Nomination Form](#). You don't have to use the form; it is fine to make nominations by explaining your support of the nominee. Please send submissions by April 1, 2023 to **Larayne Dallas** at ldallas@austin.utexas.edu or by mail at 8118 Cardin Drive; Austin, TX 78759-8737.

Deadline Extended!

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LOGO CONTEST

As you probably know, we will be celebrating our Branch 100th Anniversary/Centennial in November 2023. One thing we need is a logo for our promotion and celebration.

The committee has decided to hold a contest for the best logo!!! Do you have to be a great artist? No, just someone with imagination.

What should the LOGO look like? It can be a drawing, collection of words, photo, whatever. It can be generated on a computer, drawn on the back of a napkin, sketched with crayons, pasted together with construction paper. The committee is soliciting ideas presented through any medium or from a medium. Graphic art skills are not a requirement to enter your ideas.

It can include topics like *Service, Education, Equity, Scholarships, Friendship, 100 Years, etc.* If you draw, paste or simply envision your submission, just take a photo of it and send it to Pam.

Please send your submission to **Pam Wolfe**, piwolfe@yahoo.com no later than March 15, 2023. Your name will be in the event program plus you will enjoy the gratitude of all branch members.

For Inspiration

Check out this article by Crowdspring on the ten essential elements of a good logo.

<https://www.crowdspring.com/blog/create-a-successful-logo-with-these-10-essential-elements/>



**International Women's Day 2023 campaign theme:
#EmbraceEquity**

March 8 is **International Women's Day** (IWD), a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

In Austin, the United Nations Association Austin is hosting an IWD event. You are invited to attend and join others celebrating International Women's Day in Austin.

UNA Austin cordially invites you to our 2023
International Women's Day Celebration

Meet our Panelists



Hema Chugh
Senior Director
Strategy, Operations & Sales
Transformation
Dell Technologies



Shane Woods
Executive Director
Girl Start



Bee Moorhead
Executive Director
Texas Impact

**"DigitALL: Innovation and technology
for gender equality"**

**March 8th, 2023 | 6:30 to 8:30pm
Chateau Bellevue, Austin, TX
Complimentary Parking on Nueces St.**

[Register Here](#)

To learn more about this year's theme, events, and how you can get involved, visit the IWD website, [#EmbraceEquity](#).

March Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

When: Wednesday, March 29, 10:00 a.m.
What: Lampasas Murals and Sculpture Garden Tour and Bobby Starr Studio
Where: Meeting place TBD.
Planner: Debbie Starr
Contact: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317
Note: Eatery suggestions will be distributed the day of the tour.

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, March 15, time TBD
Project: Field Trip
Location: Buda, Texas
Contact: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Bridge Groups

Group A:

When: Weekly Bridge on Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 579-4545

Group B:

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Varies
Contact: Lynn Cooksey: cooksey@austin.rr.com, (512) 477-2774

Group C:

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, (512) 633-6178

Book Clubs and Literary Exploration

Central Book Club:

When: Monday, March 13 10:30 a.m.
Book: *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner
IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Location: Janet Lawson and Shelley Bjorkman
Facilitators: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525
Contact:

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.
Book: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles
Location: Zoom
Leader: Joyce Pulich
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, March 3, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street
Book: *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* by Gish Jen
Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer
Host: Evelyn Boyer
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, March 28, 11:00 a.m.
Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.
Theme: Texas Author or Setting
Contact: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *You, Happier: The 7 Neuroscience Secrets of Feeling Good Based on Your Brain Type*
by Daniel Amen
Location: Barnes and Noble Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie Ln #300
Host: Ginny Tannebring
Facilitator: Susan James
Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbstrr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497

Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.
Theme: Louisiana, Its Culture and Its Food
Location: Home of Shirlene Justice, 2408 Tom Miller Street
Hosts: Angie Rose and Amy Ryder
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, March 21, 11:30 a.m.
Location: County Line on the Hill, 6500 Bee Caves Rd
Planner: Milli Stecker
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

Please contact Milli Stecker if you are interested in joining this group. Milli Stecker, mstecker@austin.rr.com, (512) 468-1088.

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, March 26, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Theme: French Wines
Location: Home of Brenda Hahne, 6202 Tasajillo Trail, Austin
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

Contact: Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

Hike #1

When: Thursday, March 2, 10:00 a.m.
Location: Doeskin Ranch/Balcones Canyonlands (South of Bertram)
Leader: Cathy Werner

Hike #2

When: Friday, March 17 – Sunday, March 19
What: Historic Pictography at White Shaman Preserve & Seminole Canyon State Park
Location: Comstock, Texas
Leader: Jackie Hardee