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### Items for November Newsletter

**DUE October 19 2022**

[shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)

## October Membership Meeting

featuring

**Jorge Babot**



**When:** Wednesday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Unity Church of Austin, [5501 West US Hwy 290](#)

**Cost:** \$30.00

**Contact:** Brenda Hahne, [bwhahne@gmail.com](mailto:bwhahne@gmail.com)

Our guest speaker will be **Jorge Babot**, husband of branch member Sharon Babot. Jorge has spent over forty years in the petroleum, energy and construction industries. After retiring from his corporate career in California, he came to Texas where he designed and then served as general contractor for his and Sharon's beautiful home in Dripping Springs.

Jorge will be sharing his own personal story with us in his presentation: *Cuba, the Peter Pan Airlift: Then and Now*. He will give a summary of his family's life under Batista, then under Castro, both dictators in Cuba. This will include the story of his and his family's journey to freedom. He will also be sharing his perspective on Cuba's politics, its economy and the daily life of those remaining in Cuba, who are not high-ranking officials of the military or the communist party, including some of the heroic efforts by groups like the Damas de Blanco (Ladies in White).

In keeping with the theme of the day's presentation, the meal will be a Cubano sandwich (shredded pork, ham and cheese). As an alternative, a chicken sandwich can be requested by selecting the optional meal in your RSVP. **Beverages Only** - Coffee, Water and Iced tea will be available for \$5, but only if your RSVP indicates **Beverages Only**; otherwise, a meal will be ordered for you and \$30 will be required. Payment for the meal/beverages is acceptable by check or cash at the meeting.

**SAVE the DATE: Winter Social**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our September meeting was a great kick-off to our new program year with its message of bringing together folks from across the political divide to support a thriving democracy. A big thanks to Anita Knight for our replacement speaker, Steve Saltwick of [Braver Angels Central Texas](#). Steve shared how his organization brings together people with opposing viewpoints on a contentious issue through a structured communication process to break apart assumptions and find common ground. Now, more than ever, finding common ground across the political divide is vital to our democracy.



iACT (Interfaith Action of Central Texas) has a similar goal of improving understanding across diverse groups through its [Red Bench](#) program to improve interfaith understanding and civil discourse through a structured process of dialogue.

At the core of both programs is respectful listening through a process of thoughtful dialogue. Understanding the perspectives of different views on issues central to AAUW can help us craft our messages more strategically and effectively as we advocate for needed changes at the local, state, and federal level.

Kudos to Program Co-VPs **Brenda Hahne** and **Jackie Hardee** for smoothing the way for a successful meeting and luncheon at a new venue, the Balcones Country Club. It was great fun to see everyone and visit. A heartfelt thanks to Soon Merz for having our 2022-23 directory ready for the September meeting – it is much appreciated as a treasured resource for all of us!

Two important actions were taken at the business meeting. First, **Cathy Werner**, Treasurer, presented the 2022-23 budget which was approved. Second, the branch voted to move the Mainspring Endowment to a Mainspring Agency Fund at the Austin Community Foundation. AAUW Austin will no longer be actively engaged in managing the endowment.

**Pam Wolfe**, the Centennial Committee Chair, treated us to a look back at November 1923 when our branch was founded as we “Countdown to the Centennial.” **Ruth Subramanian**, Co-VP membership, gave a membership update.

As we approach the upcoming elections in November and the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in January, each of you is encouraged to do what actions you can to better the circumstances for women and girls. Make sure you are registered to vote, learn the issues and candidates’ views, and vote. Our friends, the League of Women Voters, offers a non-partisan guide to learn more about the candidates and issues on the ballot in your community. All voices are welcomed to join our Public Policy Committee, so ably led by **Mary Ellen Scribner**.

Hope to see you at our October program at the Unity Church. It will be outstanding!! Jorge Babot brings a fascinating look, past and present, at a historic event of our time – the Peter Pan Airlift from Cuba.

As always, feel free to contact me at [lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com). I welcome your suggestions and ideas.

In sisterhood,

Linda A. Welsh, Ph. D.

# September Meeting Recap

## “Equations of Hope for a Democracy in Distress”

Steve Saltwick, Braver Angels

Submitted by Anita Knight

Since Steve Saltwick was a last-minute substitute for the scheduled speaker who had COVID, you did not see his bio in the last newsletter. We are including it after the fact.

Steve is a Senior Fellow of Braver Angels focusing on key strategic initiatives for advancing its mission. He is also the founding conservative co-chair of the [Braver Angels of Central Texas](#) Alliance. The Alliance is the fastest growing field unit of [Braver Angels](#) - expanding from eleven founding members in 2018 to 1500 subscribers and members in 2022. Steve also co-founded the National Office of Field Operations for Braver Angels. The office supports the growth and impact of all grassroots local Alliances as well as State Coordinators in all fifty states.

Steve has been profiled on Braver Angels in the Wall Street Journal, and Fox News in Austin. Steve began his career as a neuroscientist and has academic publications in *Science* and book chapters in Academic Press. His business career specialized in solution engineering on six continents for a variety of high-tech companies. He serves on the boards of Modius and Partner One.

The four elements of the Braver Angel Way are as follows, with the focus on finding common values without necessarily changing each other's minds:

1. Practicing Good Civic habits - We strive to continually build our skills in depolarization, to balance our media diet, and to respectfully interact with those whose viewpoints we may not agree with.
2. Getting all stakeholders involved, honoring different viewpoints with no winners/losers
3. Focusing on the method best for the community – Action not Advocacy
4. Sharing success, positive results – **THE END RESULT IS GOVERNMENT OF “WE THE PEOPLE”**

Braver Angels is confident that citizens of Good Faith, including elected representatives, using the Braver Angel Way, have the power to revitalize the American Experiment and restore hope and trust in both our politics and ourselves.

After describing the various workshops, Steve invited us to explore the equation of hope directly. He shared the QR code for the website of Braver Angels of Central Texas, the local Alliance of Braver Angels. You can check out the activities that Braver Angels offers in Central Texas, and you can click the “join now” button to subscribe to the newsletter. Steve hopes to see each of us at an event in the near future. He also suggested the book *The Politics Industry*, by Harvard's Michael Porter.



Although Steve had excellent slides, we had an A/V issue that precluded the viewing and advancement. You may view the slides by clicking on the picture to your left.

# Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

"You won't know how you really feel until you discuss the issue." I don't usually pay attention to horoscopes in the newspaper, but I never miss the comics, so when right next to one of my 'must read' comic strips, there was my Gemini horoscope, it was hard to miss. Hardly profound, but definitely thought-provoking. It set me thinking of the public policy committee meeting from a few days before when there had been wide-ranging, thoughtful discussion on many of the political and social issues that concern us and our AAUW sisters. Carrying that level of civil discourse into the various social circles and communities we inhabit is something we can all do in these last critical weeks leading up to one of the most significant midterm elections in American history. We want to discuss, perhaps debate, but not preach! We must be informed and be willing to listen as well as to speak.

Before we can influence how people vote, they must be persuaded to vote! If you aren't a VDR (Volunteer Deputy Registrar) yourself, you know a bunch of branch members who are — we love referrals! The [election calendar](#) from the Travis County Clerk has all the deadlines you need to know until you cast your ballot:

## ELECTION CALENDAR FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022, GENERAL ELECTION

First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Saturday, January 1, 2022
Last Day to Register to Vote	Tuesday, October 11, 2022
First Day of Early Voting in Person	Monday, October 24, 2022
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (received, not postmarked)	Friday, October 28, 2022
Last Day of Early Voting in Person	Friday, November 4, 2022

Learn all you can about who and what to vote for by listening to the candidates, the people around you, and the media, but don't believe everything you hear! Read and research for yourself from a variety of sources! *"The League of Women Voters is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public."* Their voting guides will soon be available online and in libraries. A good place to start is their [Vote411 LINK](#). By voting for and electing the best-qualified candidates at every level from congressional representative to local school board member, you can address the most pressing issues from gun safety, climate change, healthcare issues, down to what school children are being taught and what books are in our school and public libraries. The public policy committee has decided to hold regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. The Zoom link is sent a few days in advance, and we'd love for you to join us. The next meeting is on October 5. Among other actions and advocacy, we'll be getting ready for the 88th Texas Legislature which convenes at noon on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, and for which bills are already being filed.

## Branch Fundrai\$ing Update

Submitted by Joyce Pulich



The **Change for Change Challenge** continues and proceeds will go to address the branch budget deficit. At the September branch meeting we collected \$152! Thanks to everyone who contributed. You can use the jars provided last year or any container to collect change to support the branch. The Funds team will be collecting change at every branch meeting.

A cooking class on Israeli and Mediterranean food for twelve people will be offered in early November. More information on that will come in the November newsletter.



The funds team is sponsoring an on-line silent auction as we have the past two years. The event will take place December 5-8 and is open to anyone in our branch as well as to friends and family. Please think about any articles you may have that you are willing to contribute – wine, quilts, artwork, jewelry, apparel, etc. You may have a property, boat, camper you are willing to offer for a weekend or a specialty dish that could be offered to winning bidder. We welcome any and all contributions. You can bid on the items without leaving home. Winners will be notified on December 10.

To contribute items or if you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Werner** at [cathy.werner3586@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.werner3586@gmail.com), **Elaine Penn** at [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com) or **Joyce Pulich** at [joycepulich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycepulich@sbcglobal.net). Please include a photo(s) of your item(s) and a suggested minimum bid. **Deadline for contributions is November 30.**

### Spring Fundraising Plans

The fundraising team is planning several events in the spring:

- See's Candy Sale in February
- New Orleans cooking class in February
- Driftwood Winery tasting and appetizers in March
- Italian cooking class in April
- Kentucky Derby Party in May



Details and costs on all these events will be coming in future newsletters. As you can tell, the team likes to have fun while raising money for AAUW programs goals and we hope you will join us. Thanks in advance for your support.

### We Respect your Privacy

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# New Member Profiles

Submitted by Ruth Subramanian

## Millie Segal

Millie Segal was born and raised in McAllen, Texas, a second-generation Texan. After obtaining a BS in education at the University of Texas, she taught school for two years before her three sons were born in 1961, 62 and 65. After a fifteen-year marriage to her high school sweetheart ended, she married Howie Segal and moved with her three sons from Houston to start a new life with him in Minneapolis. It was a roll-of-the-dice move, and she remained there for 46 wonderful years. She moved to Austin with Howie in October 2020. She is happy to be here with her family, but sadly, Howie died in March 2021.

In Minneapolis, Millie resumed her career as her children got older. Initially she returned to education as a teacher. She received an MS in education from the University of Minnesota when she was 42 years old, an event celebrated with her six children (three step) cheering her on! Later, she became a business woman, marketing business to business telemarketing. She was the first to enroll a bank in Minnesota to do a promotion using their client's phone contacts, unheard of at that time. She ended her business career as the business manager of a small software computer company where she worked eleven years, resigning in 2004 to spend more time visiting six children and fourteen grandchildren; ten grandchildren are Texans. Her grandchildren include triplets and twins! Millie loves to stay active and has many hobbies and passions including volunteering, fishing, traveling, reading, enjoying movies, and iGaming (Bridge, Scrabble and Mahjong!). Every morning you will find her in her apartment pool walking and exercising. Last year, she won a silver medal in table tennis at the Senior Games in San Antonio.

Millie looks forward to staying active at 85, making new friends and doing meaningful work with AAUW.

## Amy Ryder

Amy was primarily raised near New Orleans on the sleepy Northshore of Lake Pontchartrain and graduated from Louisiana State University with a BA in Art History. Shortly after graduation, a friend convinced her to join her at a fledgling software company in Baton Rouge that was developing back-office solutions for the Home Health Care industry. In those early days, she traveled to agencies across Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico, helping them become more efficient and able to focus less on paperwork and more on patient care. Since then, her career has continued on the path of customer success, training, and content development for a number of software companies in Austin and Seattle.

Amy met and married her husband in Louisiana and soon after moved to Austin in 2000. They currently reside in Travis Heights in a home built in 1929. They spend a lot of time keeping an old house going and love doing it. Currently, they both work from home for SiteOwl, a software start-up building cloud-based solutions for the security integration industry. Amy is excited to be working remotely for a month in Mexico City later this year. Amy enjoys the arts, hiking, sewing, baking and watching (way too much) television. Together, Amy and her husband thrive on travel, live music and discovering great food often served from a trailer. They contribute to a wide range of organizations, locally and nationally, particularly those providing food, healthcare, nature conservation, and public media services. Amy was introduced to AAUW by her dear friend Angie Rose.

## **Katie Campbell**

A long-time Austinite, Katie was born in Illinois and then spent a year of her childhood living in England before her family settled in Austin in 1966. Katie attended the University of Texas and graduated with her BA in 1979. After a “gap year” in England and traveling in Europe, Katie began her career working with children and families at what was then called Austin Community Nursery Schools (now Mainspring Schools) which was founded by AAUW in 1941! Katie continued working in Early Childhood settings and in positions supporting children and families - specifically low-income, working families - while raising her own children. For the past sixteen years, Katie was coordinator of the Hays CISD program providing services for pregnant and parenting teens attending school, and it was during this time that Katie earned her MA Ed from Goddard College in 2017. Katie is an active member of the Texas Association Concerned with School-Age At-Risk and Parenting (TACSAP), and has worked with her own school district and other organizations in support of comprehensive sexuality education for young people. Having retired from the school district in June 2022, Katie is currently working as adjunct faculty for both Texas State University and Austin Community College. Katie enjoys swimming, cycling, hiking and walking, and is an avid reader. Travel plans include visits to her mom who returned to live in her homeland of England; to her daughter who is completing a PhD program in Baltimore; and to Alsace-Lorraine as part of her family genealogical work.

## **Norma Williams**

Norma Williams grew up in San Antonio, and moved to Austin to attend UT. She majored in Plan II Liberal Arts and received a BA with honors. She attended the UT School of Law and served on the Texas Law Review. After receiving her JD, Norma clerked for the Honorable Jerre S Williams, on the Fifth Circuit Court of Federal Appeals. She then practiced law with a general civil practice firm in Austin. After marrying her husband Roger, she moved to Washington DC. They settled in Arlington, Virginia. She and Roger eventually moved back to Austin, Roger’s home town, where they raised two children. Norma volunteered in schools, sports, and progressive politics. She is active in St. James Episcopal Church. Norma is a beginning birder.

## **Jeannette Okur**

Jeannette Okur grew up mostly in Asheville, North Carolina, but also spent a few years of her childhood in Wiesbaden, Germany, which sparked her interest in language learning. She later studied American Literature and German at Middlebury College in Vermont, then worked overseas in Graz, Austria, returning to the U.S. to complete her teaching degree. After several years of teaching high school, she decided to pursue her doctoral degree in German Language and Literature, which led her on a roundabout route to further studies in Turkish Language and Literature; and in 2007, she completed her doctorate at Ankara University in Ankara, Turkey. She now coordinates the Turkish Studies program in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at UT Austin, and teaches a variety of courses in language, literature, film and cultural studies. She is interested in approaches to teaching ‘culture’ and ‘society’ in the foreign language classroom, approaches to teaching critical reading and writing skills, and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of literature and film. Her Turkish textbook and online materials for Intermediate level students of Turkish, titled *Her Şey Bir Merhaba ile Başlar!* (Everything Begins with a Hello!), were published this past year by the Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning. She enjoys hiking, swimming, travelling, meeting new people, and eating out.

# October Interest Groups

## Creative Arts

### Art Tours:

When: Wednesday, October 26, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: [Women and Their Work](#), 1311 E Cesar Chavez Street  
Planner: Brenda Hahne  
Contact: Sharon Babot, [sharonbabot@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbabot@gmail.com), (707) 373-1317  
Note: Eatery suggestions will be distributed the day of the tour.

### Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.  
Project: Beading  
Location: Home of Zosia Hunt, 6309 Big Cat Cove  
Host: Zosia Hunt  
Contact: Beverly Locklin, [bklocklin@outlook.com](mailto: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, 29<sup>th</sup> and Lamar  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512) 579-4545

### Group B:

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Varies  
Contact: Lynn Cooksey: [cooksey@austin.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:slezell@aol.com), (512) 633-6178



# Book Clubs and Literary Exploration

## Central Book Club:

When: Monday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.  
Book: *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe  
Facilitator: Randi Carter  
Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway  
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, [quintalin@gmail.com](mailto:quintalin@gmail.com), (713) 202-8525

## Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Book: *Matrix* by Lauren Groff  
Location: Zoom  
Leader: Marian Wernicke  
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, [maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com), (512) 698-5539

## Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street  
Book: *Band of Sisters* by Lauren Willig  
Reviewer: Carol Fritz  
Contact: Judy Reinhart, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)

## Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, October 25, 11:00 a.m.  
Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.  
Theme: First Book in a Series  
Contact: Pam Wolfe, [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com), (512) 925-7865

## Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.  
Book: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig  
Location: Home of Elaine Leggett  
Facilitator: Janice Gooding  
Contact: Debbie Starr, [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com), (512) 771-4497



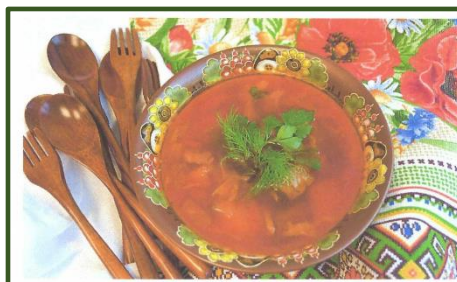
# Friends, Food and Conversation

## Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Theme: Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting with beer connoisseur Gerald Averill  
Location: Home of Pam Watson, 11124 Sea Hero Lane  
Hosts: Pam Watson and Cindy Darilek  
Contact: Shirlene Justice, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com), (512) 507-1003



Anita Knight and Sarah Averill  
Food and Culture of Ukraine in September



Borsch Recipes – Click the Photo

Olga Koutseridi is from Ukraine. She is the senior graduate student coordinator for global mobility at the University of Texas. She has been selling an assortment of baked goods through a newsletter and Instagram for a few years. She decided to devote her baking time to making her trademark burnt Basque cheesecakes and selling them to raise money for the UNICEF relief efforts in her home country. To order a cheesecake, click [ORDER CHEESECAKE](#).

## Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, October 18, 11:15 a.m.  
Location: Juliet Italian Kitchen, 1500 Barton Springs Road  
Planner: Nancy Ennis  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512) 970-5051

## Pears:

When: Saturday, October 15, 5:30 p.m.  
Location: To Be Determined  
Contact: Milli Stecker, [mstecker@austin.rr.com](mailto:mstecker@austin.rr.com), (512) 468-1088  
Please contact Milli if you are interested in being a part of this group.

## Wine Tasters:

When: Saturday, October 22, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Theme: Portuguese Wine with a guest sommelier to enhance the experience.  
Location: Home of Joyce Pulich, 2300 Westway Circle  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512) 970-5051

## **The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group**

### **Hike #1**

When: Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Buescher State Park, Smithville  
Leader: Linda Welsh

### **Hike #2**

When: Thursday, October 13, 10:00 a.m.  
Location: To Be Determined  
Leader: Jackie Hardee

### **Hike #3**

When: Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.  
Location: Tejas Park/Goodwater Trail/North Fork of the San Gabriel River  
County Road 258, Liberty Hill  
Leader: Roberta Coffin

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

## **Austin Woman's Federation Club - October Program Meeting**

Topic: Beekeeping in collaboration with United Nations of Austin for "Bees Beyond Borders", a local beekeeping talk with a global perspective on sustainability that is consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).  
Speaker: Gulay Akkus, beekeeper, farmer and business woman  
When: Friday, October 21, 11:00 a.m.  
Where: Zilker Botanical Gardens Clubhouse, 2220 Barton Springs Road  
Lunch: \$20.00 for honey and Mediterranean food  
RSVP: Carol Blanchard, [blanchardc56@gmail.com](mailto:blanchardc56@gmail.com)

## **Georgetown Branch October Meeting**

Topic: [BIG](#) in Georgetown. BIG is an innovative community for adults with special needs where everything they make, they sell in a beautiful high end gift shop, cafe and the online store.  
Speaker: Conni Thomas, BIG Ambassador  
When: Wednesday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Bear Creek County Club in the Card Room, [30500 Berry Creek Drive](#)  
RSVP: Judy Reinhart, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)

## In Memoriam – Jan Rooker

Janet “Jan” Rooker passed away on August 24, 2022, after persevering through protracted illness. Jan was the mother of Tyler, Amy, and Griffin, grandmother of Dean, Lily, Everett, Mia, and Ryan, dog mom to Charlie, and the beloved life partner of Robert Cahn. Jan was a gifted educator, nurturing hundreds of students throughout her career. She started her career as a high school teacher in Ridgewood, New Jersey, later starting her own company in New Canaan, Connecticut to guide students through the college admissions process, helping them find their academic homes. Jan graduated from Cornell University (BA), Stanford University (MA) and Columbia University (MA) and earned numerous professional awards. She actively supported her students up until her final days. Jan had countless passions. She was an avid tennis player, lover of literature, enthusiastic gardener, and lifelong learner, always remaining as much the student as the teacher. Jan was a champion of women’s rights, volunteering for the Austin branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the League of Women Voters. Jan was a resident of Austin, Texas, and spent her final days in Cape Cod, one of her favorite places to garden and walk on the beach. A memorial is scheduled for 11am on September 24, 2022, at Harding Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the AAUW or League of Women Voters on Jan’s behalf.

