



Inside this Issue:

President's Message	p 2
Musings from Co-President	p 3
Fundrai\$ing News	p 3
Recap of the Summer Social	p 4
2021-2022 Branch Program Schedule	p 5
Office Depot Discount	p 5
Budget Worksheet	p 6
New Interest Group Chair Announced	p 7
Contemporary Literature Invitation	p 7
September Interest Groups	p 8-10
Member CONNECT	p 11
Become a VDR	p 11
STEM	p 12
Mainspring Schools	p 12
Women & their Work	p 13
Georgetown Ducks	p 13
AAUW National UT Fellows	p 14
In Memoriam-Connie Levy	P 14

AAUW Austin Branch September Luncheon



When: Saturday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Norris Conference Center [2525 W Anderson Ln.](#)
Speaker: Amy Simmons, founder of Amy's Ice Cream
Topic: Premed to Ice Cream: The Making of an Entrepreneur
Cost: \$30.00
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Amy Simmons founded the super-premium retail ice cream company Amy's Ice Creams in 1984 with a winning concept focused on employee education, exemplary service and award-winning product quality. Amy's currently has 15 stores in Austin, Houston and San Antonio with annual sales of 10 million dollars.

Amy Simmons will share the story of her journey from her plans of becoming a doctor to becoming an entrepreneur selling ice cream in Austin.



Be on the lookout for your personal EVITE to our first program of the year and the most delicious presentation by Amy Simmons, the founder and CEO of Amy's Ice Cream. Amy may not be a doctor but her remarks will make you feel better.

Items for October Newsletter

DUE September 20, 2021

pwatson1925@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As members of AAUW, we recognize the importance of education. It appears in our mission statement as a reminder of its role in our advancement of gender equity. As women we especially note at this time of the year the traditional start of schools all over our country. Education has often been seen in our society as the solution to major issues. Our education system touches all our lives at different stages as a societal road to a better quality of life. You may remember a time several years ago when technology was emerging as a new tool in our success box. Americans were concerned that often other countries were producing young workers who seemed to outperform our own workers on the job scene. Our educators received word from our Department of Labor that an analysis showed that our young people indeed had the ability to perform extremely well as individuals, but sometimes fell short in skills related to working with others in team settings and when working to accomplish a joint goal. "Cooperative learning skills" were introduced in our teacher training and in our classroom activities. Fast forward with me to our Annual Summer Social. What an inspiration to see cooperative skills and teamwork at an impressive level among our members.



"Let's get together to make some important decisions about whether to meet in person in light of the surge in virus complications as they might affect the well-being of our members in a group gathering."

"Let's meet together on Zoom and review our goals for our social."

"I'll work on our script before our meeting."

"I'll do the technology hook up for us."

"I'll share some games I have."

"I'll share some emergency backing to be sure that our online hookup goes smoothly" (as an unexpected thunder storm comes on the scene).

"I'll email everybody to be sure this is covered."

Members came from all sides to share time, talent, expertise, materials, love, support, communication skills and concern for the branch members. Members came forward from recent physical challenges and treatment to help ensure success of the event. It has been said that it is amazing to see what can be accomplished if you don't mind who gets the credit. Congratulations to all who worked on our 2021 Summer Social - a grand and successful event. Thank you for all your gifts as we celebrate our back to school season in AAUW.

You are truly the Queens of Cooperative Learning. 👑

Evelyn Farmer, Co-President

Musings from Co-President Larayne Dallas

For those of you who have been following the story of how voting changed for women in my hometown of Tuscola, Illinois, after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, I have more.

Each week the Tuscola Review gives highlights from the newspaper's files of 100 years ago. We have learned (or been reminded) that women in Illinois had already been voting in some elections. However, by the time ratification was certified on August 26, 1920, Election Day (November 2) was close. Some states — but not all — waived missed registration deadlines. In Illinois, the Secretary of State sent word to the county clerks that, as before, separate ballots and ballot boxes were required for men and women. He felt that unresolved issues remained.

However, text in the newspaper was encouraging and reassured female readers not to worry about embarrassment over being turned away at the polling place. Officials had taken steps to register all known voters and if anyone had been missed, she could vote by affidavit.

Since my last update, the May 26, 2021 Tuscola Review (page 4) published this note from the newspaper on the same day in 1921:

At the judicial election to be held June 6, the newly enacted law providing that no distinction be made between men and women voters will first be in effect. Heretofore, separate ballots have been prepared for women, also separate ballot boxes were provided and the ballots were kept separate, counted separately, and recorded separately.

Beginning June 6, the women will vote the same ballot as the men and their ballots will be placed in the same ballot box.

As always, the big story is made up of many interesting small stories.



Fundrai\$ing News

The fundraising team for 2021-22 includes **Sharon Babot, Jan Rooker, Debbie Starr, Brenda Hahne, Berta Lloyd, Maggie Kadlecek, Cathy Werner, Pam Wolfe** and **Joyce Pulich**. We are looking for interesting and fun ways to raise money to support the national organization goals.

Members who have suggestions can email them to joycepulich@sbcglobal.net. As mentioned at the summer social, several members have pledged a monthly recurring donation since the beginning of the pandemic. Others have made one-time donations. You can use this link to make a donation to support our work. <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>

Special thanks to everyone who has helped raise funds to advance equity for women and girls



RECAP OF THE SUMMER SOCIAL

Sunday afternoon, August 15th, we Zoomed once again...

Around 50 Branch members, including a couple guests, gathered to learn about upcoming programs, interest groups, and other involvement opportunities.

Only a few days earlier, some of us were concerned about obtaining round tablecloths, but by Saturday afternoon, two days after Austin Travis County moved to Stage 5, Membership Co-Chair, **Milli Stecker** and I consulted and made the decision to “pull the plug” on the long-awaited and highly anticipated in-person gathering. It was also within the seven-day cancellation period stipulated in the contract with the church.

Then the scramble began to move to a virtual format. Fortunately **Roberta Coffin** and **Gayle Kanies** had left comprehensive documentation from last year’s Summer Social in Dropbox, so we didn’t have to “reinvent the wheel.” So a couple Zoom planning meetings last week put together the event that we experienced on Sunday.

Thanks to **Gayle Kanies** for updating last year’s slide deck, which **Linda Welsh** managed behind the scenes, while **Brenda Hahne** narrated, aided and abetted by **Evelyn Farmer**, **Joyce Pulich**, **Judy Reinhart** and **Nancy Andren**. **Pam Wolfe** set up the Zoom call and served as background tech support. The interactive format allowed Q & A with interest group leaders, as well as gave **Beverly Locklin** the opportunity to display some of Creative Stitchery’s creations. **Cathy Werner** book-ended the event with her “Puzzling Time” and “Sharing Time” fun segments. Three of our four new members were also on the call including (thanks to Zoom) one from Seattle, WA. Look for their bios in a future newsletter.

We hope not too many of you missed out because of that mid-afternoon thunderstorm which knocked out the internet for me a half hour before the meeting was to start. Fortunately it came back on in time. We’ve also recruited five new members in response to the [Shape the Future](#) promotion from National AAUW.

Article submitted by Ruth Subramanian, Membership Co-Chair, ruthsindia@yahoo.com

2020-2021 Branch Programs and Events

Date	Day	Topic	Contact
September 11	Saturday	Amy's Ice Cream: Amy Simmons, Founder, Amy's Ice Cream	Judy Reinhart
October 9	Saturday	Educational Trends in Central Texas: Susan Dawson, President and Executive Director, E3 Alliance, 80 th Birthday Celebration for Mainspring Schools	Linda Welsh
November 13	Saturday	Austin Community College Planning for the Future: Mary Harris, Ph.D	Larayne Dallas
December TBA	Saturday	Winter Social	Past Presidents
January 8	Saturday	Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan: Matthew Dugan	Anita Knight
February 12	Saturday	Russian Society and Culture: Dr. Elizabeth Richmond Garza and Dr. Thomas Garza	Joyce Pulich
March 5	Saturday	Austin's Green Identity: Karen Kocher	Anita Knight
April 9	Saturday	Austin Theatre Alliance (Paramount and Stateside Theatres): Jim Ritts	Judy Reinhart
May 14	Saturday	Presentations by the University of Texas Fellowship Recipients	Joyce Pulich

All meetings start at 10:00 a.m. and are held at [Morris Conference Center](#)
For further updates, check the [AAUW Austin website](#):

Office Depot Discount

As an AAUW member, you have access to discounted pricing at **Office Depot** and **Office Max**. To obtain a Purchasing Card so that you can take advantage of this offer, visit: [AAUW Discounts](#). Or you may Text AAUWSPC to (833) 344-0228 and save your free store discount card on your phone. Your card may be used for business, school and personal purchases such as paper, ink and toner, cleaning and classroom supplies.

**AAUW Austin 2021-2022
Budget Worksheet
8/3/2021**

Income	Budget 2020-21	Actuals 2020-21	Budget 2021-22	Notes
Branch Dues	2,140.00	2,611.00	2,400.00	150 members
Meetings, Lunches	5,125.00	-	9,760.00	Norris Center
Branch Contributions	500.00	778.00	500.00	
Interest on Checking	7.00	3.82	4.20	\$0.35/Month
Use of existing accts	1,510.00	-	2,042.80	Savings
Total Branch Income	9,282.00	3,392.82	14,707.00	
Expenses				
President	190.00	-	-	
Programs	6,130.00	325.00	10,690.00	Lunch, speakers
Membership	530.00	223.79	1,055.00	Social,
Treasurer	25.00	-	25.00	Paper, ink
Past Presidents	10.00	-	400.00	Winter social
Subtotal Officer Expenses	6,885.00	548.79	12,170.00	
Funds Committee	50.00	-	50.00	Fundraising
STEM	250.00	-	-	In transition
MainSpring Schools	200.00	-	-	Other funds
Public Policy	300.00	-	25.00	Materials
NCCWSL	-	250.00	250.00	Reimbursable
Memorials	140.00	-	140.00	4 Books @\$35
Subtotal - Committees	940.00	250.00	465.00	
Newsletter	120.00	518.08	576.00	ConstantContact
Yearbook	1,000.00	966.58	1,150.00	Printing, postage
Misc. Operating Expense	337.00	319.00	346.00	Insurance, P.O.
Subtotal Operations	1,457.00	1,803.66	2,072.00	
Total Expenses	9,282.00	2,602.45	14,707.00	

New Interest Group Chair Announced

Berta Lloyd has agreed to serve as the 2021-22 Interest Group Chair and the Executive Board has approved her appointment.

Berta's background includes over 20 years of leadership experience in both California and Washington State Community College systems as college administrator, program developer, career counselor and in industry partnerships. Her responsibilities have included Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Director, Grant Writer, Manager, Program Coordinator and Career Counselor. Berta's passion continues to be building programs that prepare first generation high school students with the skills to access college.

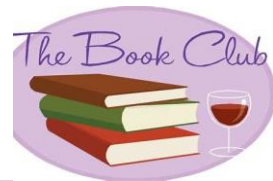
After retiring in 2018, Berta and her husband moved to Austin from Benicia, California. She is currently developing a business to get high school kids into college - **Lloyd's College**

Admissions. www.lloydcollegeadmissions.com Berta is excited to be the Austin AAUW Interest Group Coordinator.

We also want to thank **Brenda Hahne** who has served in this role for several years. The interest groups are such an important aspect of the Branch and kudos to the women who keep the groups up and running.



Is this Interest Group for You?



- ✓ Do you like to read an eclectic assortment of fiction, nonfiction, and biography?
- ✓ Do you like to talk about what you just read?
- ✓ Do you like to hang out with smart, informed women?
- ✓ Do you need or want to meet in the evening?

If you answered "yes" to all the above, then quite likely Contemporary Literature, which meets on the first Monday evening of the month (September–May) at 7 p.m. on Zoom, is the book group for you. It is definitely for you if you don't or prefer not to drive at night — or like to sharpen your insights and opinions, but not your driving, while sipping a couple of glasses of wine. To add your name to the participant list, email or text Mary Ellen Scribner at maryescribner@gmail.com or (512) 698-5539.

September Interest Groups

Art Tours:



When: Wednesday, September 22, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Central Library of Austin
What: Current exhibit: Rakhee Jain Desai is an interdisciplinary artist whose work creates dialogue about immigrant identity and belonging. Her current body of work utilizes the centuries-old, wax-resist textile technique, Batik. At the Central Library, you may also visit the Cookbook Bar and Café, gift shop, rooftop garden with the largest solar installation in downtown Austin and six floors of books and lounging space. Come and enjoy the award winning architecture and lighting and the spectacular views of downtown Austin.
Planner: Sharon Babot
To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKSpirit66@gmail.com, (512) 906-6566

Bridge Groups:

No meetings planned for September.

Group A

When: Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Contact: Elaine Penn, elpenn9915@gmail.com, 512-579-4545

Group B

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Lynn Cooksey, lcCooksey@austin.rr.com, 512-477-2774

Group C

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, 512-633-6178

Central Book Club:



When: Monday, September 13, 10:30 a.m.
Where: To Be Determined
Book: *Code Breaker*
Author: Walter Isaacson
Facilitator: Anita Knight
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com, (512) 940-6480

Contemporary Literature:



When: Monday, September 6, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *Greenlights*
Author: Matthew McConaughey
Leader: Louise Jordan
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryscribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Creative Stitchery:



When: Wednesday, September 15, 10:00 a.m.
Hostess: Beverly Locklin
Co-Host: Suellen Mills
Where: 7507 Long Point Dr.
Project: Embroidery
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Culture and Cuisine:



No September Meeting

When: Third Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Friday Book Review:



No September Meeting

When: Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Contact: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net, (512) 345-5936

Hiking Group:

Although most of us are fully vaccinated, the Hiking Group follows all CDC and Austin Public Health guidelines. Social distancing and masks are advised if and when it is appropriate.

Hike 1

When: Thursday, September 9, 10:00 a.m.
What: Segment of the Violet Crown/Barton Spring green belt.
Where: Spyglass Entrance at intersection of Barton Skyway and Spyglass Dr. across from Taco Deli.
Leader: Kate DiPronio
NOTE: Moderate Hike with uneven surfaces.



Hike 2

When: Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.
What: Purgatory Creek Nature Area in San Marcos
Where: 2102 Hunter Road, (just off HWY 12/Wonder World Dr) San Marcos
Leader: Jackie Hardee
To RSVP: Evite will be sent approximately two weeks prior to the hike. To be added to the Evite list, contact Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

Mystery Book Club:



When: Tuesday, September 28, 11:00 a.m.
Where: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy, or Zoom, depending on CDC Protocol
Topic: What I Read Last Summer
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Out-to-Lunch:



When: Tuesday, September 21, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Bar and Grill Westgate, 4521 West Gate Blvd
Planner: Sharon Babot
To RSVP: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:



No September Meeting

When: Varies
To RSVP: Milli Stecker: milli1251@gmail.com, (512) 512-468-1088

Southwest Book Club:

This group is currently closed to new members.



When: Monday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Home of Janice Goodsell, 4200 Hofman Drive
Book: *Personal History*
Author: Katharine Graham
Facilitator: Sylvia Garcia
Host: Janice Goodsell
To RSVP: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317

STEM:

No September Meeting



What: The purpose of the STEM group is to bring STEM into the lives of our members through education and volunteering.
Contact: Nancy Andren, texasnancy@austin.rr.com, (909) 709-7616

Wine Tasters:



When: Saturday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Elaine Penn, 912 Dartmoor Drive
Theme: Sangiovese and Planning
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Member CONNECT

Member Connect (formerly the Sunshine Committee) is seeking your help! In an effort to stay connected to each other, especially in this time of pandemic and social distancing, this team of AAUW members will touch base with those in the branch who have experienced illness or loss, or who just might need to hear a friendly voice on the phone. We will be contacting those referred to us through notes, cards, emails and occasional phone calls.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a connection by our team, please contact: **Suellen Myers** or **Judy Bergman**, Co-Chairs of the Member CONNECT committee.

Suellen Myers, sfmyers7@hotmail.com, (262) 325-0112

Judy Bergman, judy.bergman@yahoo.com, (847)302-1316

We are also seeking additional members to be a part of the Member Connect Team. Please let us know if you are interested in being a part of the team! And, of course, each of us is encouraged to connect with other members at any time. Please stay well and safe!

Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR)

Texas is one of the hardest states in which to register to vote and cast a ballot, which helps to explain why Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country.

By becoming a **Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR)**, you can register voters in your community — the first step toward getting people to the polls to make their voices heard in our democracy. Volunteer Deputy Registrars are entrusted with the responsibility of officially registering voters in the State of Texas.

**VDRs distribute and accept voter registration applications,
making the process easier for unregistered voters.**

To become a VDR, you must be trained and appointed by your county elections office. Follow these steps to become a VDR:

1. [Visit the Texas Secretary of State's website](#) to see if you are eligible to become a VDR.
2. [Look for your county name here](#), and follow the instructions to attend your VDR training. Becoming a volunteer deputy registrar is easy. The state requires you attend a one-hour training session. Travis County is currently offering training sessions online.
3. If you don't see your county on the list, don't worry! You [can sign up here](#) to attend a virtual training with Powered by People.
4. Attend and complete your training, and receive your VDR certificate.
5. You may be appointed a volunteer deputy registrar at any time. However, your term expires on December 31 of the even-numbered year.

It's that easy!



Upcoming virtual event:

[Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem Quarterly Networking Forum](#)

Thursday, Oct 21, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

The Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem invites organizations and individuals engaged in STEM outreach, education, workforce development, educational technology, volunteering and advocacy to connect, network and share. You may register [HERE](#).

[Million Women Mentors](#) announced their [Stand up for Stem](#) awards. They are currently taking nominations. These awards are to recognize and elevate the work of incredible mentors, companies and organizations within Texas. Applications are due by September 30.

The **Girlstart** Game Changers Annual Luncheon will be held in person on Friday, October 8 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the new Marriott Downtown or you can attend virtually. The keynote speaker is Krys Marshall. This event is a special celebration honoring women who have made a significant impact in STEM. The Game Changers Annual Luncheon supports STEM education for girls and raises vital funds to support Girlstart's core initiative, **Girlstart After School**. Tickets are \$100 for an individual. Register by clicking on [Game Changers Annual Luncheon](#).

Mainspring Schools Update

Since 1941 AAUW Austin has supported Mainspring Schools, beginning with its establishment in October of 1941 as a project of our branch. The Mainspring Schools Advocacy Committee invites you to join our group. Our purpose is to build on our history through continued support and partnership with Mainspring Schools.

Mainspring Schools is changing the lives of the children and families they serve. As a model early childhood program of the highest level of quality, our branch is proud of our longstanding partnership with a Mainspring Schools.

During the pandemic, it became painfully obvious that child care is an essential service. Mothers left the workforce in droves due to lack of child care; this affects women's long-term earnings, careers and future retirement. But child care is more than just a support for parents to work. Good early childhood programs like Mainspring Schools offers an inviting, play-based learning environment that sets all children on a trajectory for success.

If you want to join our committee in this important work, please contact Linda Welsh at lawelsh@gmail.com.



Special Invitation from Women & Their Work



Women & Their Work welcome all AAUW Austin members to visit their new space at 1311 E. Cesar Chavez for their inaugural exhibition, **We Know Who We Are. We Know What We Want.** Education is an integral part of Women & Their Work, and they are eager to share this work with our members.

Women & Their Work are offering both in-person and virtual tours for their inaugural exhibition now through September 21st. The curated exhibition features work from nine women artists who are working in all parts of Texas. Here is a link to learn more about our current exhibit:

<https://womenandtheirwork.org/current/inaugural-exhibition/>

Admission is free, with hour-long tours available Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. For more information, please visit their website at womenandtheirwork.org/education, give them a call at (512) 477-1064 or email them at intern@womenandtheirwork.org.

Women & Their Work want to thank you for letting them share their passion for being bold about art. They believe that groups like ours help them to continue growing and improving their programs.

Support the Georgetown Branch!

AAUW Georgetown - 6th Annual Duck Race

Make way for the ducks! The 6th Annual AAUW Duck Race will be held on the San Gabriel River on **Saturday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m.**

There will be 300 tickets available and the proceeds will fund scholarships for graduating senior girls at Georgetown ISD High Schools. The tickets to sponsor a duck are \$10.00 each. First, second and third prizes will be awarded, including a cash gift card, restaurant gift cards, and cards for merchandise at other local businesses.

Tickets are now on sale. For more information send an email to georgetown.aauw.duck.race@gmail.com.



AAUW National UT Fellows

Name: [Kara Carmack](#)

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: University of Texas, Austin

Discipline: Modern and contemporary art and visual culture

Degree and Specialization: Publication, Modern and contemporary art and visual culture

Project Name: "A Box of Candy for Candy Darling: Multimedia Mourning and Merrymaking"

Kara Carmack specializes in modern and contemporary art and visual culture with a particular emphasis on creative communities, gender and sexuality, media and technology, and archives.



Name: [Katherine Grover](#)

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: American Fellowship

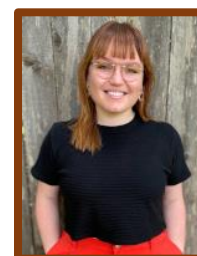
Institution: University of Texas, Austin

Discipline: American studies

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Women's and gender studies

Project Name: Amplified Activists: Feminist Responses to the Modern American Music Industry

Kate Grover examines gender and feminism in American popular music. Her current dissertation historicizes women musicians' responses to sexism in the music industry and situates women musicians as critical figures in activist movements.



Name: [Blanca Pacheco](#)

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: University of Texas, Austin

Discipline: Interdisciplinary programs

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Latin American studies and Indigenous studies

Project Name: Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism and Public Health: Xinka Medicine as an Everyday Practice of Resurgence

Blanca-Azucena Pacheco's current work centers on a community-based documentation project of the Indigenous Xinka system of medicine. In this work she utilizes an intersectional approach to analyze the complex relationship between Indigenous peoples and public-health systems



Name: [Stefanie Shackleton](#)

Award Year: 2021-22

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: University of Texas, Austin

Discipline: History

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Class, labor and gender in the British Empire

Project Name: "For the Education and Improvement of the People": Working-Class Knowledge And Respectability in the 19th-Century British World

Stefanie Shackleton's current research explores the informal learning activities of British working-class men and women within the culture of "improvement," arguing that laborers were able to exercise agency in their learning choices and autonomy in the creation of a unique form of respectability, molded to fit within their local cultural environments.



In Memoriam – Connie Levy

Sadly, we lost another AAUW member this past year. Connie Levy was an active participant in AAUW activities. Her fellow Book Club member, Marsha Endahl Kramer states "Her Spirit remains alive and her amazing legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of the countless people whose lives were touched by her wisdom, inspiration, courage and nurture." Her son, Joseph Levy remembers that "She loved people and would talk to anyone. There's nowhere we could go, no city or even country where we could go, where she didn't encounter a past student from her 37 years as a teacher." His take away was that not only did Connie love people, they loved her back. One of her former students writes "Every child should have at least one teacher that touches their heart and soul and impacts their life such that it shapes them. Every child. Connie Levy was that teacher for me."



Cornelia "Connie" Levy was born in Matamoros, Mexico. She attended St. Augustine High School in Laredo, Texas, where she graduated salutatorian in 1958. In 1961, Connie received a bachelor's degree in English and Literature from Texas Women's University. She then earned a master's degree in English and Speech at Texas A&I in 1966. After graduating with honors, Connie moved to Corpus Christi. While attending an evening of international folk dancing, she met her husband-to-be, Dr. Leon Levy, a research chemist from New York who had also recently moved to Corpus Christi. They married on February 17, 1968. Connie's teaching career spanned 37 years, most of which were spent in Corpus Christi, first at Incarnate Word Academy and then at Mary Carroll High School where she taught English and Creative Writing for 14 years. While at Carroll, she also coached Academic Decathlon and produced the school's illustrious Creative Writing Magazine which received awards from the High School Press Association and the National Council of Teachers of English. In 1991, Connie was selected as Outstanding Humanities Teacher by the Texas Committee for the Humanities. That same year, she was honored as a Distinguished Teacher by the Corpus Christi Caller Times. In 1995, she was named Most Influential Teacher by Texas Scholar Seniors. These were only some of the accolades marking her distinguished career as an educator. A ballet dancer as a young girl and the daughter of an opera singer, Connie always had a passion for the stage. Over the years, she acted in numerous productions at Corpus Christi's Ritz Theater and Harbor Playhouse. Connie spent four years leading a monthly creative writing group for adults, publishing a Writers Circle magazine each of those years. She and her husband then moved to Austin where Connie turned her attention to writing a book. Three years later, her manuscript would be published as a novel, *Puerto Bagdad: Shipwrecked Dreams*.

Connie died in Austin of complications from Covid-19. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leon, her two sisters, Genoveva Edmonia (Roberto) Montes and Crisanta Garcia, and her niece, Elisa Garcia. She is survived by two children, Dr. Elizabeth (Aqueel Darbar) Levy and Joseph (Lisa) Levy, three grandchildren, Aaron, Sarah and Sammy, and generations of students on whose lives she made an indelible impression. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](#). Please share your fond memories and watch a recording of this service online at AustinNaturalFunerals.com

