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Items for February Newsletter

DUE January 19, 2022

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

AAUW Austin Branch January Meeting & Luncheon

When: Saturday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Norris Conference Center, 2525 W Anderson Ln.
Speaker: Matthew Dugan, Division Manager, City of Austin Housing and Planning Department
Topic: **Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan**
Cost: \$30.00 for buffet lunch
Contact: Anita Knight, dbasknight@aol.com



Come share a timely and timeless topic for all of us in one of the fastest growing cities in the USA, with concerns about affordability, diversity, education, environment, etc.

As the City of Austin attracts more residents and entices more business, it looks to a comprehensive plan that in turn, looks years-out in hopes of maintaining quality of life, adequate infrastructure and equality of opportunity. The plan involves much more than just parks and sidewalks and bike lanes, and is the product of the City's urban planning department. Matthew Dugan is one of the chief architects of Imagine Austin, a 30-year plan for guiding and prioritizing city growth. Dugan, Division Manager of Long Range Planning for Austin, will present the concept behind the plan, highlights of the plan itself, define the principles that formed the plan, and discuss whether or not we are with staying on track.

Matt Dugan takes a comprehensive approach to developing plans and codes by analyzing economic, social and infrastructure issues regarding the built and natural environments. Matt has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Commonwealth University and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

To download the plan, click [Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the time of year when we look at three important questions:



I. **What Was? - “How did we do?”**

What did our Branch accomplish in this past year? We are fortunate to have an excellent strategic plan for our Branch. We have monitored this plan and find that we have made excellent and continuing progress on achieving our goals.

II. **What Is? - “How are we doing now?”**

Are there present challenges as we work on our areas of focus? Our members, as part of a larger and global society have worked through and often have overcome serious obstacles as they face challenges brought about by the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic. A few of many examples include:

1. Fear about a deadly virus we are learning to manage as we go.
2. Isolation.
3. Limits on travel.
4. Decisions about and sometimes loss of loved ones.
5. Keeping children at home and schooling them.
6. Making job decisions related to family needs.
7. Postponement of family celebrations and visits.
8. Cautious shopping in crowds and shortage of essentials.
9. Permanent closing of favorite businesses, restaurants and limited dining out.
10. Postponement of vital medical visits and other important services or accessing online or by telephone.
11. Learning and acquiring new technology skills.

III. **What will be? - “How might we change to be even better?”**

What does the future promise? We are continually impressed with the ability and willingness of our members as they adjust and carry on in spite of obstacles. Hopes for a more normal life are continually dashed by yet new virus variations and accompanying rules, regulations and decisions. We are encouraged by positive attitudes, new solutions, and innovative ideas from our members as they proceed with Branch activities. Recent successes include beautiful and successful winter social activities. We appreciate all the efforts of each member who helped make this possible, including those who served as hostesses to both in-person and on-line events. If the actions evidenced by “what was” in 2021 and “what is” as we proceed, there is no doubt that what “will be” in 2022 has great promise.

***We can't go back and change the beginning,
but we can start where we are and affect the ending.***

Adapted from C.S. Lewis

Evelyn Farmer, Co-President

Editor's Note: The topic of this month's meeting is particularly relevant as we think about the future of our Branch. Please don't miss this interesting and informative meeting. You will leave with a better understanding of the issues and decisions that impact our community today and in the future.



Winter Social Recap



The Austin Branch Winter Socials for 2021 were held on a beautiful fall day, December 5. We began the festivities with an in-person event where we gathered at the home of member Larayne Dallas and her husband, Tim DeFries. About thirty attended this part of the dual Social. We followed the in-person party with a Zoom Social, hosted by Anita Knight. Approximately ten of our members joined Anita for the online Social.

Austin Branch past-presidents hosted both events. For the in-person event, the past-presidents brought or sent savory and sweet treats, drinks, and supplies. Plus, other members added their contributions and volunteered time. Whether in-person or by Zoom, we enjoyed seeing each other, having a chance to visit and being part of the community of members.

Thanks to everyone who worked to make these events successful!

Submitted by Larayne Dallas



Named Gifts Nominations are Open for 2022

Each year, members of the Austin Branch are selected to be honored as recipients of "Named Gifts." This reflects the great work of our Funds Committee and their helpers. The more money they raise, the more Named Gifts awards we are able to give. The fund-raisers have been busy, so we need to identify many deserving recipients.

Please download or copy the [Nomination Form](#) and submit your nominations by April 1, 2022 to **Larayne Dallas** at ldallas@austin.utexas.edu or by mail at 8118 Cardin Drive; Austin, TX 78759-8737.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

Elections and everything related to them are of critical importance in 2022. Second in importance only to the quadrennial presidential election in the United States, the midterm elections are the general elections that are held near the midpoint of a president's four-year term of office, on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year that date is November 8, 2022, when a total of 469 seats in the U.S. Congress (34 Senate seats and all 435 House seats) are up for election. In Texas, March primary elections are held to select the candidate that will be a political party's candidate for



elected office. The primary election is March 1 with the runoff scheduled for May 24, 2022. Mark your calendar with all these dates and prepare to vote by checking your voter registration, by registering others to vote, and by encouraging all eligible voters to go to the polls on March 1 and November 8. So many of our current political leaders are actively working to make voting more difficult and exclusionary; the only way to change that is to vote new leaders into office.

Voter registration training and certification can easily be done online—takes less than an hour. In Travis County, the link is <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters/volunteer-deputy-registrars>. Certification done now is valid through December 31, 2022.

If you are eligible and interested in voting by mail or are acquainted with someone who is, January is also the time to request your county to send all or any ballots for 2022 elections in which you wish to vote. Most common qualifications for mail-in voting are age 65 or over, disabled in some way, or will be out of the area on election dates. An application for a ballot by mail may be downloaded at https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/wp-content/uploads/elections/pdfs/ballot_by_mail/ABBM-APP-11-30.pdf. This request must be made every year beginning in January. The application form contains detailed instructions for filling out and submitting the request; read it carefully to make sure that you receive ballots for all or only the elections in which you want to vote. The helpful person at the county clerk's office asked me to remind you that you must specify Democratic or Republican for primary elections only, so that they know which ballot to send to you!

Lastly, you are welcome to join the branch public policy committee for its first meeting of the year at 10 a.m. on January 6; the ZOOM link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5079011164?pwd=bTBaNmRpRkdMY3RkL0Ftbm1BeIRWZz09>.



Silent Auction – A Big Success!

The Branch auction ran from December 6 through December 9. \$1,666 was raised from selling items and \$65 from donations for a total of \$1,731. Net proceeds after fees are deducted should be \$1,585. We raised about \$400 less than last year. The lower amount raised this year is understandable given that more of us are shopping in person in spite of the ongoing pandemic and there were no big-ticket items on the auction block. All the proceeds will go to the [AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund](#).



The funds team appreciates everyone who donated items and thanks members who participated in the auction. The auction cannot happen without you.

Special thanks to Funds Co-chair **Debbie Starr** who worked tirelessly to solicit many gift cards and passes. The funds team encourages you to patronize these generous vendors:

- Casa Garcia
- Jason's Deli
- The Thinkery
- Maudie's
- Tony C's Pizza & Beer Garden
- League Kitchen & Tavern
- Zachary Scott Theater
- Thundercloud Subs
- Mighty Fine Burgers
- Tony C's Coal Fired Pizza
- Book People

Branch Treasurer and funds team member **Cathy Werner** truly made the auction happen. She spent many hours doing the newsletter and email advertising, setting up the items on Charity Auctions, and notifying winners and donors about the results. Kudos and thanks to Cathy.

The funds team wishes you happy holidays and reminds you to keep putting coins in your Change for Change jars.

Change for Change Challenge



This year, your AAUW Funds committee has several fund-raising opportunities. Please start collecting your loose change. We handed out decorated jars at the October and November branch meetings, but please use any size vessel you have available.

We will collect the change at the **January Branch Program**. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact **Joyce Pulich** (south) joycepulich@sbcglobal.net or **Pam Wolfe** (north) piwolfe@yahoo.com and we will pick up your change.

Keep your jars because we are going to ask you to fill up your jar again for the **May Branch Program**.

Mainspring Schools in the News

Mainspring Schools continues to be a leader in supporting children and families who have experienced poverty and trauma. And the last two years have traumatized us all! An article in the *New Republic* about the impact of the pandemic on children cites the good work being done by Mainspring. About midway through the article **Hope Bell**, a lead teacher in a 3-year-old classroom, and **Colleen Maher Turner**, the family services director, offer their thoughts on how to support children and families through the stresses of the pandemic:

<https://newrepublic.com/article/163953/covid-pandemic-children-brains-trauma>

It's great to see how AAUW's investment in the professional development of Mainspring teachers and staff benefits the children and families that Mainspring serves.

Thanks Donors!

Thanks to the generous donations of AAUW members **Resa Dunn, Anita Knight, Janie Maldonado, Soon Flynn Merz, Joyce Pulich, Milli Stecker, Linda Welsh** and an anonymous donor, **\$540** was raised for Mainspring's 80th Anniversary Celebration.

If you have things to donate, contact **Carol Ann Wilhite** at philanthropy@mainspringchools.org or (512) 442-2301.



NCNW Scholarship Opportunities

The Greater Austin Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) is offering scholarship opportunities to young women who are eligible to apply. Please help spread the word to those you know who may be interested in this opportunity. For more information about Greater Austin NCNW and the scholarship opportunities, contact AAUW member and Greater Austin NCNW Section President Rashaanne Lewis, NCNWaustinScholarship@gmail.com.

NCNW Website: <https://www.ncnwaustin.org/>

To apply: [Greater Austin NCNW Scholarship Opportunities](#)



TRANSFORMING GENERATIONS THROUGH STRONG COLLABORATIONS

NCNW GREATER AUSTIN'S 2022 SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Application Link:
<https://bit.ly/Scholarships2022NCNWaustin>

Email Address:
NCNWaustinScholarship@gmail.com

Contact Information:
Dr. Rashaanne N. Lewis, Section President
Cell Phone: 737-346-2917



\$6,000

In Scholarship Funds

Graduating High School Scholars

\$	GPA
\$3,000	3.5 - 4.0
Two (2) \$1,000	2.5 - 3.4
Two (2) \$500	

Grade Point Average (GPA)
4.0 grading scale

Adults*
\$3,000

One (1) \$400	Freshman
Two (2) \$300	Sophomore Junior
Four (4) \$500	Senior (2)
Grad. School (2)	

- Requirements**
- Women of African descent
 - Graduating HS Seniors
 - Adults Returning to College (age 25 and older)*
 - An Official Transcript/Min. Cumulative GPA of 2.5
 - Two Brief Essays (max. 300 words per essay)
 - Three (3) Letters of Recommendations

Apply Dates

Monday, Dec. 6, 2021
to
Monday, Feb. 21, 2022

Deadline Date

Monday, Feb. 21, 2022
5pm (CST)

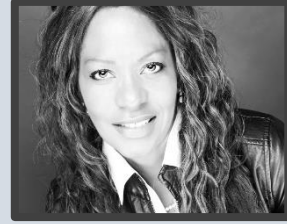
Location

Reside in the greater Austin areas

- City of Austin
- Kyle, Buda, Dripping Springs
- Del Valle, Bastrop, Manor, Elgin
- Leander, Cedar Park
- Pflugerville, Hutto, Taylor, Round Rock, & Georgetown



Member Highlight Gigi Edwards Bryant



Congratulations to AAUW Austin Branch member Gigi Edwards Bryant who was recently elected to the Muny Conservancy Board of Directors. Here is an excerpt about Gigi and her work quoted from a Muny email announcing her board membership.

Gigi Edwards Bryant brings a passion for community, diversity, equity, and access to the Save Muny Conservancy. As a fifth generation Austinite, she has seen major changes throughout Central Texas and especially Austin. She believes that the history of golf in Austin, like everything else that faces color barriers requires questioning our own comfort zone and reaching past the obvious.

“Muny has a recorded place in the history as the first desegregated public golf course in our Nation. I am excited be a part of the mission to preserve that history indelibly on the course and to keep this course accessible to the public,” said Bryant. “When I listened to the stories of my friend and mentor General Marshall and other trail blazers in the civil rights movements speak of their passion for Muny, I knew, my love of golf and the ability for me to be the benefactor of *'let them play'* came at a price.”

Ms. Edwards started GMSA Management Services in 1993 after more than 12 years in Information Systems as a programmer and project manager. GMSA is one of Austin’s most innovative minority-owned and operated consulting firms. She is dedicated to her community and has served more than fifteen years through multiple gubernatorial appointments. She currently serves on the Austin Community College District Board of Trustees, Texas Book Festival, Austin Chapter of the Links Incorporated, Douglass Club of Austin, and is a Founder of the Write To Me Foundation.

Gigi is a graduate of St. Edwards University: BS, Minor Computer Science; University of Texas at Dallas: Global Leadership MBA, Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Governance; Leadership Austin, African American Leadership Institute Inaugural Cohort (AALI) 2021.

January Interest Groups

Art Tours:

What: Artist Studio Tour and Demonstration – Rita Marie Ross
Woven Metal Sculpture and Fine Art Jewelry

When: Wednesday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Thornton Road Studios, 2309 Thornton Road, Unit L

Planner: Susan James, susan@jaycurlee.com

To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKSpirit66@gmail.com , (512) 906-6566



Because of studio size (and the fact that she works with a torch!), space is limited to 20 participants. Parking is on the street so please carpool if possible. Masks are required in the studio. Lunch options will be announced later. Visit the website for a sneak preview. <https://www.ritamarieross.com>



Georgetown Art Tour, December 2021

Bridge Groups:

Please call first to check with the hostess and the location for Bridge Group B. Groups A and C are full but are accepting substitutes.

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, lcooksey@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:



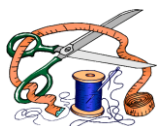
When: Monday, January 10, 10:30 a.m.
Where: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Book: *Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City*
Editor: Javier Auyero
Facilitator: Ann Marie Ellis
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com, (512) 940-6480

Contemporary Literature:



When: Monday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *A Promised Land*
Author: Barack Obama
Leader: Karen Jordahl
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryscribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Creative Stitchery:



When: Wednesday, January 19, 11:30 a.m.
Where: Home of Mary Ann Leitz, 312 Mediterra Point
Hosts: Mary Ann Leitz and Zosia Hunt
Project: Needlepoint
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Culture and Cuisine:



When: Thursday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Home of Phyllis Folarin, 3300 Daufuskie Island Road, Round Rock
Theme: West Indies
Co-Hosts: Phyllis Folarin, Pam Wolfe and Myrtle Bell
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003



Holiday Cookie Exchange and International Dinner 2021

Friday Book Review:



When: Friday, January 7, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 310 W 43rd Street
Book: *The Birth of Blue Satan*
Author: Patricia Wynn
Reviewer: Carol Fritz
Hostess: Mary Frances Rogerson
Contact: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net, (512) 345-5936

Hiking Group:

Hike 1

When: Thursday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.
What: Jester King Brewery Nature Trail
Where: Jester King Brewery, 13187 Fitzhugh Road
Leader: Nancy Andren
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697



Hike 2

When: Saturday, January 15, 10:00 a.m.
What: [Blue Hole in Wimberley](#)
Where: 100 Blue Hole Lane, Wimberley
Co-Leaders: Ginny Tannebring and Jackie Hardee
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

Mystery Book Club:



When: Tuesday, January 25, 11:00 a.m.
Where: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac
Topic: Reader's Choice
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Out-to-Lunch:



When: Tuesday, January 18, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Sala and Betty, 5201 Airport Blvd
Planner: Suellen Mills
To RSVP: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051



Pears:

Pears will not meet in January.

Southwest Book Club:

This group is currently closed to new members.



When: Monday, January 10, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Sharon's Home, 370 Cattle Trail Drive, Dripping Springs – Gate Code 1925
Book: *Mani/Pedi: A True Life Rags to Riches Story*
Author: Krista Beth Driver
Facilitator: Susan James
Host: Ginny Tannebring
To RSVP: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317

STEM:



The purpose of the STEM group is to bring STEM into the lives of our members through education and volunteering.

STEM will not meet in January.

Wine Tasters:



When: Saturday, January 22, 4:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Cathy Werner, 2714 Grand Oaks Loop, Cedar Park
Theme: Pacific Northwest Wines
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

