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**Newsletter Editor:**  
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Items for November  
Newsletter DUE  
OCTOBER 21, 2020

## October Branch Meeting

**Topic:** Engaging Voters in the General Election:  
What, Where, When and How  
**Date:** Saturday, October 10  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Contact:** Roberta Coffin, [rwc@scriptacommunicates.com](mailto:rwc@scriptacommunicates.com)

No voter should have to choose between their safety and casting a ballot. Today there seems to be more questions than answers. Find out the facts from the people in the know.

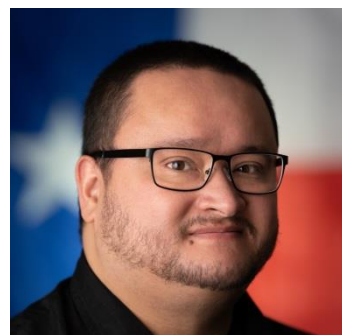
A presentation by the League of Women Voters Austin Area



**Moriah Powers,**  
President



**Pam Bixby,**  
VP Voter Services



**Michael Keller,**  
Voter Registration &  
Turnout Director

Join us for a refresher on voter requirements and to learn more about how to get involved with voter education and advocacy during the pandemic.

RSVP today via the Evite sent from [aauw-atxprograms@aauw.net](mailto:aauw-atxprograms@aauw.net) or contact Phyllis Folarin, Program VP at [phyllis.folarin@aol.com](mailto:phyllis.folarin@aol.com).

There'll be an Action Item follow-up and, for those who want to stay after the business meeting, time to exchange ideas and talk.

Together we can **Get Out the Vote!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thankfulness is again the first thing to mention in this column. Our members continue to contribute a huge amount of time and devotion. Additionally, even when we think that we have addressed all the challenges of the “time-of-the-virus”, something else comes up. Our volunteers figure out what to do. Other devoted volunteers will visit with us at the Branch meeting in October. Be sure to join us to hear speakers from the League of Women Voters discussing voter engagement. No travel is required; just be sure to get the Zoom meeting information when the invitation goes out.

At our September Branch meeting, members approved the 2020-2021 budget and the Strategic Plan & 2020-2021 Goals. We have set a course to: achieve more diversity among our branch membership, focus on an AAUW-related community project, more effectively work with partners, set a public-policy action plan, develop AAUW leaders, and increase the visibility of AAUW.

Concerning our leadership, we are always looking for those willing to stand for an elected position within the Branch. Our AAUW calendar indicates that it is time to form the nominating committee. These members will be looking for new officers, including in the position of co-president. Volunteers are welcome for the nominating committee and I hope that you will be ready to say, “Yes,” when the call goes out for officer nominees.

In previous columns, I have mentioned the short one hundred years since the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Since the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG), news commentators reflecting on her legacy have reminded us of how recently other barriers have moved. Also, we have heard how RBG made her case by showing that the old ways disadvantaged men, as well as women. I know that I am “preaching to the choir” but these are such important reminders.

Thank you for being part of AAUW and for working to advance equity for all.

**Larayne Dallas**

Austin Branch CO-President

[ldallas@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ldallas@austin.utexas.edu)



## AAUW Member Spotlight- FERN CHESTER

Fern Chester has been a member of AAUW since 1989 and at the young age of 92 is a shining example of how to live a life of purpose and meaning. She calls herself a *Dust Bowl Child*. Growing up in Amarillo, Texas she has vivid memories of sitting on her front porch watching the monstrous, engulfing clouds of dust roll in. She knew that Jesus must be arriving since her preacher had taught that He is “coming with the clouds”!



Fern's father was a college graduate who taught secondary math in public schools. When he earned his Master's degree his thesis topic was *Girls can Learn Math as Well as Boys!* Fern's mother earned a teaching certificate as well. Both parents were involved in volunteerism and were twice invited to the White House by two presidents to receive acknowledgement for their work.

Fern's parents had two requirements for her: to go to college and to marry a preacher. She accomplished both! She graduated in 1950 with a degree in Home Economics from Abilene Christian College and married Ray Chester, an up and coming new minister. She began her career working for the electric utility company as a Home Economist. She taught women how to cook on electric and later gas stoves, making healthy food choices and using other electrical appliances. She and a co-worker developed a cooking program for Girl Scouts, teaching the girls on six electric ranges and providing a special cookbook for each Scout.

She traveled with Ray to several cities as he preached, Washington, DC; Searcy, Arkansas; and Austin, raising three children along the way. Her daughter is Director of Bereavement for Hospice Austin, one son is a musician and another son is a lawyer. Fern also has six grandchildren.

For twenty-one years, Fern worked at the Presbyterian Seminary in their Doctor of Ministry program in Feminist Theology. Fern says she has always been a feminist and strong supporter of women's rights. She refers to her late husband, Ray, as a “forward thinking man in the church.” He was in the crowd in Washington to hear, in person, Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech.

Fern is currently an active participant in three AAUW interest groups: Culture and Cuisine, Contemporary Literature Book Club and Creative Stitchery. She is also involved with various activities with her church.

What is her secret to being such a lively 92-year-old? Fern says to stay active. Her grandmother “lived until she died” even having a piano recital at age 80. Her dad lived to be 95 and was always busy. She has not enjoyed quarantining with Covid-19, but her kids make her abide by all the rules! She still stays in contact with others through Zoom meetings.

When asked what she would share with the young women of today, Fern said that they should realize and appreciate that the women's liberation that they enjoy today was hard fought. Their voting rights and job opportunities should not be taken for granted.

# VOTING by Mail 2020

**Vote-By-Mail Checklist-** Click on the picture to the right to see the entire checklist for Travis, Williamson and Hays counties:

## Drop Off Mail-In Ballots-

If you are going to receive a vote-by-mail ballot and are concerned about the United States Postal Service's ability to deliver your ballot properly and on time, you have the option to do an in-person turn-in at your County Election Office.

You can only turn in your own ballot and you must bring proper photo ID. Don't forget to wear your mask bring your own pen and practice safe distancing.

A special thanks to **Debbie Starr** for contacting each office and compiling all of this information.  
[dbbstarr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstarr@gmail.com)

VOTE BY MAIL CHECKLIST			
	Travis County	Williamson Cty	Hays Coun
Drop Off Location	5501 Airport Blvd Austin, TX 78751	Inner Loop Annex 301 SE Inner Loop, Ste. 104 Georgetown, TX 78626	712 S. Stagecoach Trl Ste. 1012 San Marcos, TX 778
Phone	512-854-4996	512-943-1630	512-993-7310
Websites w/ Helpful Voter Info	<a href="https://www.votetravis.com">https://www.votetravis.com</a>	<a href="https://www.willco.org/departments/elections/">https://www.willco.org/departments/elections/</a>	<a href="https://hayscountys.gov/departments/elections/">https://hayscountys.gov/departments/elections/</a>
Drop Offs Before 10/13	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm
Drop Offs 10/13-10/25	7am-7pm	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm*	Weekdays: 10am-7pm Sat: 7am-7pm and 1-6pm
Drop Offs 10/26-10/30	7am-7pm	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm*	7am-7pm
Drop Offs 11/3 Election Day	7am-7pm	Bus. Hrs. Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm*	7am-7pm
What is Essential to Bring	Completed Ballot, Photo ID**, mask/face-covering	Completed Ballot, Photo ID**, mask/face-covering	Completed Ballot, ID**, mask/face-covering
Recommended to Bring	Your own Pen; Hand sanitizer	Your own Pen; Hand sanitizer	Your own Pen; Hand sanitizer
Must I Personally Drop Off My Own Ballot?	YES	YES	YES
Can I drop off completed ballots for others if I bring their IDs?	NO	NO	NO
		*drop off hours may expand; call the phone # provided for updates	
**Valid Photo IDs at all Locations	Drivers License, TX Personal ID, Handgun License, Military ID, Citizenship Certificate w/photo Passport	Drivers License, TX Personal ID, Handgun License, Military ID, Citizenship Certificate w/photo Passport	Drivers License, TX Personal ID, Handgun License, Military ID, Citizenship Certificate w/photo Passport
NOTE: Vote-By-Mail Ballots are expected to be mailed on 9/18. You may begin drop-offs immediately. The sooner, the better!			
FOR IN PERSON VOTING: Early voting is from 10/13-10/30. Election Day is Tuesday, 11/3. See website for more information on voting and vote times.			

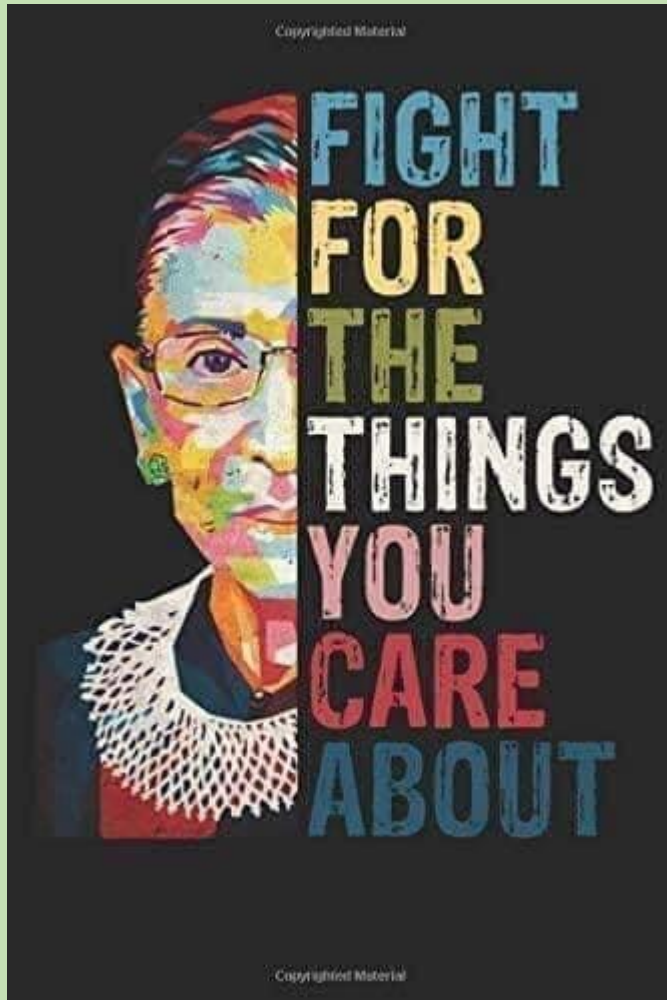
Get angry, but vote.  
 Grieve, but vote.  
 Be outraged, but vote.  
 Speak out, but vote.  
 Protest, but vote.

Be heard in the one way nobody  
 can deny. Stand up and VOTE.

--Anonymous

# RBG

## In Memoriam- Ruth Bader Ginsberg



Rest now You Giant  
You Warrior  
You Brilliant Brave Soul  
You who gave Us Courage  
And Hope  
Rest now  
More than a Trail Blazer  
You didn't make history  
You changed it  
Reshaped it  
Course corrected  
You who gave Us all of You  
Fought for Us with all of You  
With every moment God gave You  
With every Breath  
Rest now  
It's Our turn  
To take up Your mantle  
To not lose sight  
To push on  
You taught Us how to fight  
You made Us more than soldiers  
You leave an Army in your wake  
You taught Us what legacy is  
To give more than we take  
Rest now  
You Champion  
You Queen  
You Glorious  
Forever #RBG  
Forever Our Hero  
Notorious

By Chicago poet Leslé Honoré



# September Meeting - Meet the Fellows-Recap

The September Branch Meeting was a smashing success. It was a special treat to hear from our fellowship recipients, an incredible group of talented and brilliant young women! It is inspiring to know that AAUW Austin supports women who are making such a difference in their fields.

## Meet the Fellows



After the presentations, we conducted the business portion of the meeting. The Budget was presented by Treasure **Jackie Hardee**. The vote was taken electronically and the budget was passed unanimously by the members present.

The [Strategic Plan & 2020-2021 Goals](#) were presented by Co-President **Evelyn Farmer**. Special thanks to **Roberta Coffin** and her team for putting together the recommendations for the plan and goals. The strategic plan and the goals were approved by a unanimous vote.

**Linda Welsh** reported that Mainspring School continues to operate but experienced a financial blow due to the COVID related suspension of services. Now that they are again up and running, the school is requesting donations of masks to fit three and four year old children and also for adults.

Yearbook editor **Pam Wolfe** reported that the Yearbook was taken to the printer on September 9th. Pam thanked everyone who helped put the Yearbook together, especially those who searched for old pictures of Branch activities to be added this year. You should have received your Yearbook in the mail.

**Nancy Andren** noted that Girlstart is not having their Game Changer fund raising luncheon this year, but if anyone wishes to donate to the organization, you can go to the website [HERE](#).

Co-President **Evelyn Farmer** announced that Savannah Wenzel at Austin Community College is seeking mentors for students. More details about this opportunity will be released soon. In the meantime, contact Co-President Evelyn Farmer, [efarmertx@gmail.com](mailto:efarmertx@gmail.com) if you are interested in mentoring an ACC student.

# Membership Update

Special thanks to **Roberta Coffin** and her team. We currently have 176 members, seven of whom are new to AAUW Branch this year. Three new members are featured here. If you have an opportunity, please give them a big AAUW Austin welcome.

**Margene Beckham** received her BA from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa and her MBA from UT Austin. She has worked as a Medical Technologist (Microbiology), Auditor with the Texas State Auditor's Office and as a Real Estate Broker. Margene has numerous volunteer interests. Her interest in Children's literacy drew her to the Women's Storybook Project. She has also volunteered for the Settlement Club of Austin, Junior League, and Les Amis de Hospice, BookSpring, Austin Child Guidance Center and Travis County Medical Alliance. Traveling, reading, and hiking are some of Margene's favorite activities, as well as spending time with family. Her husband is one of the founders of Austin Smiles and their lives have centered on many mission trips to Mexico and Central America over the last 30+ years.

**Gayle Kanies** earned a BS in Accounting and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky. She also received a Certificate of Organization Development from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has worked in the Information Technology field performing Consulting, Auditing, Outsourcing and Service Management at Accenture, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nortel Networks and IBM. Her major purpose for joining AAUW was to take action to advance equity for women and girls after starting a career and being the only woman in the room. Gayle wants to make a difference for women going forward. An extra benefit of joining is getting to know so many talented ladies and take advantage of the interest groups. Gayle moved to Austin in 2005 and met her husband Jim on her first house hunting trip. She is a proud Charter Member of the American Indian Museum which is part of the Smithsonian.

**Linda Jones** attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where she received a Master's degree in Public Health. She attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and the University of Illinois in Chicago. Ask her how she almost got a Ph.D., but not quite - long story! Linda loves DOGS! She has two, a pug and a Benji dog, and volunteers at the Austin Humane Society because she loves dogs so much! She has two wonderful grown sons who fortunately live in Austin. Linda has been a sewist all her life and recently remodeled her house to better accommodate this hobby. Currently, she is into modern quilting and has fond memories of the last large event she attended before COVID - QuiltCon 2020 - the annual convention of the Modern Quilt Guild held here in Austin in late February - right before things shut down.

# NEW YEARBOOK

AAUW Austin members should have received the new yearbooks for 2020-2021. Please thank the committee members who provided expert help in the editing of the yearbook. Committee members are **Nancy Andren, Roberta Coffin, Resa Dunn, Soon Flynn** (assistant chair), **Brenda Hahne, Maggie Kadlecek, Anita Knight, and Debbie Starr**.

Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to look through the yearbook and have noticed the back pages with the Past Leaders of the Branch. These two pages were possible by the hard work done a few years ago by **Dr. Kay Keys** and **Janani Janakiraman** to move our branch history to our website.

In this strange year we are having, please read the newsletter for updates for all meetings.

Submitted by  
**Pam Wolfe**, Yearbook Editor  
[piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

*Thank you Pam and the Newsletter Team for your herculean effort to get the Yearbook out to each and every member. And, I hope you all noticed that this year, it is BLUE! Now we can easily distinguish it from previous years.*

## Legacy Circle –

## Linda Welch, New Member

Congratulations and a big thank you to **Linda Welsh** for becoming a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle. By joining the Legacy Circle, Linda is demonstrating her long-term commitment to women and girls and supporting AAUW's ability to make meaningful strides in our work to advance education, leadership and economic security. Linda's generous legacy gift will help enable AAUW to achieve its bold vision: equity for all. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle, please check out the information by clicking [AAUW Legacy Circle Information](#).



# The Mom Project

The Mom Project has launched an initiative to provide technology certificate scholarships to [10,000 women of color over](#) the next three years to address what it calls a “dramatic backslide” in workplace equality due to Covid-19.

The RISE initiative will offer women of color the opportunity to earn certification in Salesforce Administrator, Google IT Support or Microsoft Learn to boost their earning potential while continuing to work and support their families.

Recent findings show Black women were [twice as likely as white men](#) to be out of work or furloughed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Black women are [paid just 66 cents](#) to a white man’s dollar, per the Economic Policy Institute. Another estimate from the National Women’s Law Center puts it even lower, at 62 cents.

"Women of color are in the fight of their lives and we can't sit on the sidelines," said Allison Robinson, founder and CEO of The Mom Project. "We know moms are the backbone of the family and investing in her development has the opportunity to transform the trajectory of her family's life for decades to come."

The Mom Project will partner with technology upskilling providers including Career Circle to provide candidates with one-on-one program support and guidance through the curriculum and future job search, the organization said.

RISE also will offer mentoring and pro bono coaching through The Mom Project's RALLY and Unity programs, along with educational resources for children.

Participants will have all upskilling and mentoring expenses covered, including fully funded technology certificate programs for both entry- and mid-level professionals. Graduating candidates will receive job placement assistance through The Mom Project and its network of program and corporate partners.

To learn more about this opportunity, sign up [HERE](#).

**THE MOM PROJECT**

# **\* \* S T E M \* \***

STEM news from your STEM liaison and committee: **Nancy Andren**, Liaison; **Roberta Coffin**, **Anita Knight**, **Elizabeth Newell**, **Rosemary Morrow**, **Jackie Hardee**, **Lilac Bauer** and **Ginny Tannebring**.

Total volunteer hours for August: 22

**Latinitas:** annual Start-up Chica Conference will take place virtually on October 10th. Girls from 9-18 will learn business skills, invent a company or product idea and work with real tech mentors.

Club Latinitas, their free after school program, is online for now. This is available to girls ages 9-14 in schools in the Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Manor and Del Valle school districts.

Latinitas has launched a new donation-based shop called La Tienda Violeta on their website. It has T-shirts, hats and other items with the Latinitas brand for sale. Click [SHOP HERE](#) to check it out. All proceeds go towards funding programs at Latinitas.

For volunteer opportunities, please click on [Volunteer with Latinitas](#). They are currently looking for help with curriculum development, people for their online planning committee, web designers and PR/Marketing strategists.

**Girlstart** will not be holding their annual Game Changers Luncheon this year. Instead they are hosting a fall season of STEM events (Fall into STEM), leading up to their annual DeSTEMber program. Keynote speakers include Dr. Lisa Damour, Dr. Kate Biberdorf and Phyllis Fagell. Throughout the fall there will be 45+ virtual events. The events will benefit Girlstart After-School (At Home for now). To register for an event go to [REGISTER](#). Signature Speaker Event tickets are \$40. The last event is October 20 with Phyllis Fagell.

To participate in their trivia nights the price is \$40/team. Those dates are Oct. 26, Nov. 8 and Nov. 23rd. For more information on trivia nights go to: [TRIVIA NIGHTS](#). If you would like to create an AAUW Austin team please contact Nancy Andren at [texasnancy@austin.rr.com](mailto:texasnancy@austin.rr.com). The teams can be up to 7 people.

Girlstart After-School At Home is taking applications from 4th and 5th grade girls to participate. They will receive the Girlstart After School at Home kit which includes some materials prepared by our own members! They also will receive an engineering journal that was developed for the recent summer camps and some Girlstart swag, so they feel connected. The girls will also have access to a digital library and be encouraged to meet up and stay in contact with fellow participants and Girlstart staff. This program will run Mondays from 4-5 pm September 28th to December 7th.

Girlstart is providing many more opportunities that includes their famous Starry nights (from home on) Thursday nights. Go to the Girlstart website [HERE](#) for more details.

As far as volunteer opportunities, at present there is only the guest speaker slots for the after-school program. They are requesting 50 women in STEM to apply now.

## **Other STEM opportunities:**

The Texas Girls Collaborative Project provides digital resources for both teachers and families on their website at [TXGCP](#). In their monthly newsletter contain many science, technology, engineering and math resources and educational opportunities in Texas. They provide 30-minute webinars. The next one is Oct. 20 at 12:30 p.m. on Texas Women and Girls in STEM.

**Latinitas**

**girlstart**



# Mainspring Schools Update:



Mainspring Schools Executive Director **Jason Gindele** reported that the school reopened on September 8, aligning with Austin ISD. While the school's financial situation is not good, they are stable. Fundraising and grants will be important this year.

Kudos to **Terry Whaley** and **Anita Knight**! When it was reported during our September meeting that the school needed masks for children and adults, these two immediately stepped up. Terry Whaley, a Georgetown dual member donated leftover masks from her daughter's recent Covid-19 wedding and Anita Knight was able to get masks from her colleague, **Aditi Joshi**. The school could still use masks for 3 and 4-year-old children and their older siblings. Please contact **Linda Welsh** ([lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)) if you want to make or donate some much needed masks.

## Mainspring Challenge:

Our branch's historic approach to community problems is to study the issue and identify solutions. We did just that nearly 80 years ago in the summer of 1941 when our branch voted to start a nursery school. That school started long ago eventually became Mainspring School. Now, during this most troubling time, the challenges of Mainspring Schools, an institution we continue to support, reveals to us how fragile our childcare system is. This is a systemic community-wide problem that disproportionately impacts women, particularly women of color. This issue could benefit from our study.

A recent group of early childhood educators from across the country issued a manifesto demanding changes to a system that exploits Black and Brown women. The introduction says it well:

Human capital constitutes a nation's most important natural resource. Therefore, those who nurture young children are of fundamental importance to America's welfare. Nevertheless, for centuries, there has been a wrongful devaluation of the work performed by Americans who contribute significantly to the full range of children's development from birth through age 8. Recently, the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic underscored the reality that early childhood educators, most of whom are women, are quintessential essential workers providing childcare so that parents may work without worry or distraction. Ironically, they are among the lowest paid education professionals and, within their ranks, there are salary disparities according to race with Black women being paid the least. Unfortunately, this is in keeping with the fight for equality and justice during the ongoing Racism Pandemic that plagues our nation.

Join the Mainspring Schools Committee to learn more about the challenges facing the school and the childcare system. Now, more than ever, the school needs our best thinking and support to weather these uncertain waters. Contact Mainspring Schools Advocacy Chair, **Linda Welsh** ([lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)) to get involved.

# INTEREST GROUPS

## Art Tour

When: Wednesday October 28, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Umlauf Sculpture Gardens and Museum, 605 Azie Morton Road  
Lunch: Loro, 2115 South Lamar Blvd  
Organizer: Sharon Babot  
To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, [MEKSpirit66@gmail.com](mailto:MEKSpirit66@gmail.com) or text (512) 906-6566

## Bridge Groups

No October meetings

## Contemporary Literature

When: Monday October 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Zoom  
Book: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett  
Leader: Karen Jordahl  
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, [maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com) or 512.698.5539



## Central Book Club

When: Monday October 12, 10:30 a.m.  
Where: Zoom  
Book: *The Moment of Lift: Empowering Women Changes the World* by Melinda Gates  
Facilitator: Anita Knight  
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, [maryloubell@gmail.com](mailto:maryloubell@gmail.com)

## Creative Stitchery

When: Wednesday October 21, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: To Be Determined  
Hostess: Beverly Locklin  
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, [blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com)

## Culture & Cuisine

When: Thursday October 22, 6:30 p.m. **NOTICE DATE CHANGE**  
Where: Zoom  
Theme: A Taste of Spain – Sharing Recipes, Tips & Experiences  
Co Hosts: Ann Gibbs and Roberta Coffin  
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)



### First Friday Book Review

When: Friday October 2, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd and Avenue B.  
Book: *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*  
(by Linda R. Hirshman)  
Reviewer: Carol Fritz  
Host: Delia Quintanilla  
To RSVP: Contact Judy Reinhart, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net),  
512-345-5936

### Hiking Group

#### Hike 1

When: Thursday October 8, 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge  
Location: TBD - Check EVITE for details  
Leader: Cathy Werner  
To RSVP: Linda Welsh, [lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)

#### Hike 2

When: Thursday October 22, 9:00 a.m.  
Where: Greenway Primitive Trails at Bee Cave, 16109 Rockies Run Summit  
Leader: Nancy Andren  
To RSVP: Linda Welsh, [lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)

### Mystery Book Club

When: Tuesday October 27, 11:00 a.m.  
Where: Zoom  
Topic: Seasonal/Holiday Mystery  
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

### Out to Lunch

No October Meeting

### Pears

When: Saturday October 24, 6:00 p.m.  
Where: The home of Soon Merz and Brian Flynn – pot-luck by the pool  
To RSVP: Milli Stecker, [milli1251@gmail.com](mailto:milli1251@gmail.com)

### Southwest Book Club

When: Monday October 5, 10:30 a.m.  
Where: Online via Zoom; see email for evite  
Book: *The Light of the World* by Elizabeth Alexander  
Facilitator: Mary Kate Fredriksen  
Online Host: Debbie Starr, [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com)  
Members, please RSVP promptly to the evite.

### Wine Tasters

No October Meeting





# OTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## Austin Women's Federated Club Program Invitation

You are invited to attend a program sponsored by the Austin Woman's Federated Club (AWFC). **Jenna Cooper**, the Records Analyst for Austin Public Library at the Austin History Center, will present a program about voting during the Spanish Flu pandemic after WWI, using real artifacts like photos and documents live from the Austin History Center. There is so much overlap with suffrage activities at that very time, which is all in focus now with voting issues during our current Coronavirus pandemic, as well as the celebration of the centennial of the (White) women's suffrage amendment.

Topic: "Voting and Suffrage during the Spanish Flu Pandemic"

Speaker: Jenna Cooper, Records Analyst for Austin History Center

When: Friday, October 9, 10:45 a.m.

Where: Click on [Zoom Link](#) if you wish to join the meeting

For more information, contact:

[blanchardc56@gmail.com](mailto:blanchardc56@gmail.com)



Jenna Cooper was born and raised in San Antonio and has lived in Austin for the past 15 years. She has a B.A. in English and a Master of Science in Information Studies from UT Austin. She's currently the Records Analyst for Austin Public Library at the Austin History Center. Prior to working at the Austin History Center, Jenna was Curator of Collections at the O. Henry and Susanna Dickinson Museums. Outside of work, she writes, does comedy and is a mom to a 6-year-old and a rescue cat.

## Every Texan presents "The Legislative Path Forward"

Every Texan is pleased to invite you to a policy solutions discussion. The policy experts at Every Texan will discuss the policy priorities Texas needs for an equitable recovery. Every Texan is honored to be joined by Representative **Donna Howard** and Representative **Diego Bernal** for this important conversation.

Texas' 87th Legislative Session is just around the corner and we've got a lot of work to do. We all recognize that COVID-19 has revealed longstanding inequities in our system. Join Every Texan for a focused conversation on policy solutions as you prepare for the 87th Legislative Session.

Topic: "The Legislative Path Forward: A Roadmap for an Equitable Recovery for Texans"

When: Wednesday October, 2:00 p.m.

Where: On-line event

To Register: [Register here!](#)

Registration is free.



This October, to celebrate **International Day of the Girl**, thousands of people around the world will come together to learn about critical issues affecting women and girls through ConnectHER's global film screenings. This is an opportunity where anyone, anywhere can support and share authentic stories about women & girls.

ConnectHER invites you to their flagship event, streamed from Austin, Texas on Thursday, October 8 at 4 p.m. The theme of our event is **"Centering the Voices of Black Women and Girls."**

Click here for more information about the [Flagship Event](#)

### Georgetown Branch Meeting

AAUW Georgetown Branch invites you to attend their October meeting. The speaker will be **Dr. Laura Skandera Trombley**, Southwestern University's first woman and 16th President. Dr. Skandera will discuss equity and women's issues with a focus on the underrepresentation of women and people of color in academia.

Topic: "Equity and Women's Issues: The Underrepresentation of Women and People of Color in Academia"

Speaker: Laura Skandera Trombley

When: Monday October 19, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom

To RSVP: Contact **Terry Whaley**, [whaleyterry@gmail.com](mailto:whaleyterry@gmail.com), to receive a link to join the meeting.