



Inside this Issue:

President's Message	p 2
February Meeting Recap	p 3
International Women's Day	p 4
Accessing Branch Archives	p 4
AAUW State Conference	p 5
Policy Update	p 6
Named Gifts Nominations	p 6
Branch Fundraising Update	p 7
Member Highlight Peggy Drake Holland	p 8
In Memoriam Kay Elaine Keys	p 9
Mainspring Schools	p 10
Interest Groups	p 11-14

Items for April Newsletter

DUE March 16, 2022

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

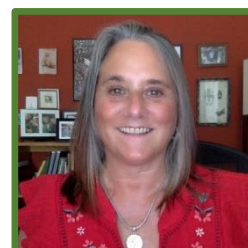
AAUW Austin Branch March Meeting

When: Saturday March 5, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: Austin's Green Identity

Speaker: Karen Kocher



Karen is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Radio-Television-Film in the Moody College of Communication at University of Texas in Austin. She is an Austin-based media producer. For over two decades, she has been creating media work for digital platforms, broadcast and physical installations. Most recently she completed the film *Origins of a Green Identity*, an hour-long historical documentary exploring the origins of Austin's environmental movement, which debuted on the Austin PBS station in 2021. Over the past decade she has also been producing an on-going series, *Living Springs*, about the culture, history and science of Barton Springs pool.

In recognition of her work on the Living Springs, the Lonestar Chapter of the Sierra Club awarded Kocher with their 2020 "Art in Service of the Environment" award. In 2015 her work netted the SXSW Interactive "Community Service Award" for outstanding use of digital media in commitment to the community. More information about her interest in fusing digital technology with culture and the natural world can be found here: <https://moody.utexas.edu/faculty/karen-kocher>.

As a professor as well as a media producer, Karen Kocher will tell us about her exploration of the origins of Austin's environmental movement. Having also studied and shared the culture, history and science of Barton Springs pool and other iconic parts of Austin's environment, she will also tell us about the various media that she has used to foster a greater understanding of the ways that the natural environment interacts with human culture.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In 1987, the United States Congress declared March as The National Women's History Month. Until that time, women's history was relatively unknown. The 2022 Women's History theme is "Women Providing Healing, Providing Hope." This theme was influenced by the contributions made by women in facing the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Women are able to face these challenges because of the progress made through prior years. A study of women's history brings evidence of this progress.



A Pulitzer Prize winner finalist, Heather Clark in "*Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath*" offered a slice of 1955 Women's History by quoting Adlai Stevenson's commencement address at Smith College, where Plath was graduating that year. Stevenson, a presidential candidate, gave his speech the title of "A Purpose for the Modern Woman." In it he said that the way the brilliant women graduates could contribute to the nation was to embrace the humble role of the housewife, which statistically most of them would be whether they liked it or not. The assignment he gave the graduates was that of wives and mothers. He told them that this role had a great advantage. According to Stevenson, they could practice their art in the kitchen with a can opener in their hands or, if they were really clever, they could practice their art on the unsuspecting man while he was watching television. Instead of writing poetry, they could write the laundry list. Women were hoping to play a critical role in solving the crisis of the ages, but what they do instead is wash diapers. Stevenson told them that women never had it so good as in 1955, but what Sylvia Plath and her generation of women had was discrimination where it was impossible for a woman to get a mortgage, a loan, or a credit card of their own. Want ads said, "attractive please" and the word *pregnant* was banned from networks, television, government, finance, law, movies, media, academia, medicine, and technology. Sciences were controlled by men. Women were internalized from a lifetime of messages that achievement and autonomy were incompatible with love and family. Plath sought to evade the poem not written, the life not lived and the love not realized. Autonomy meant loneliness. Women spread their wings over and over at a time when women were not supposed to fly. Hermione Lee, professor at Oxford University and biographer of Virginia Woolf wrote that women were seen as victims or psychological case histories first, and professional women second.

Before Adlai Stevenson gave his commencement address, women such as Carrie Chapman Catt helped pass the 19th Amendment so that women could vote. Dorothea Dix (1841) spent 40 years crusading for indigent women with mental illness, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross. Later, Sarah Weddington in Texas helped argue Roe vs. Wade so that women could make decisions about their own bodies, and at our AAUW Texas State Conference this year, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Title IX enacted to prohibit sexual discrimination. Wherever women are, there will be progress made in human rights.

Man's work is from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done.

-- **Jean Little**, Canadian writer of children's books, 1932 --

Evelyn Farmer
Co-President

February Meeting Recap

Submitted by Joyce Pulich

At the February 12th branch meeting, two distinguished professors from the University of Texas at Austin presented an enlightening and entertaining talk about women in Russian history. Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza is an Associate Professor of English at the university who is affiliated faculty in the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian studies. Her husband, Dr. Thomas Jesus Garza, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies. They speak fluent Russian (along with at least 8 other languages) and have conducted research projects and taught in Russia for many years.

To introduce their presentation, “Mother Russia is Calling: Russian Women from Catherine the Great to Ksenia Sobchak,” Dr. Richmond-Garza started with a recording of a famous Russian woman singing a popular love song – a fitting beginning right before Valentine’s Day. She noted that there is a persistent image of Russia as very masculine. At the same time, women have played a crucial role in determining the culture and destiny of Russia. The presentation focused on a selected gallery of Russian women and the impact that have always had.

Dr. Tom Garza had planned to present synchronously but the time for a prior commitment running a federal workshop for Arabic at the Texas Language Center was moved from Friday afternoon to Saturday morning to accommodate participants in Beirut. Dr. Richmond-Garza’s multi-media teaching skills ensured a smooth transition from her synchronous introduction to Dr. Garza’s pre-recorded virtual one.

Dr. Garza focused on early Russian women. Of particular interest was the story of St. Olga of Kiev. She was the first recorded female ruler in Russia and the first member to adopt Christianity. She was canonized as the first Russian saint of the Orthodox Church.

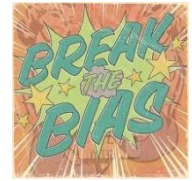
Dr. Richmond-Garza played some clips from an HBO series on the reign of Catherine the Great starring Helen Mirren and explained Catherine’s important role as a Czarina. She went on to share some recent Russian television series that showcase strong women, *Ballad of a Soldier* and *The Brigade*. While Russian women have moved into positions of political and corporate power, they are still expected to be the nurturers who make sure the home and children are cared for. Dr. Richmond-Garza also noted the critical role that the babushka or grandmother plays in Russian family life.

Because the potential Russian invasion of Ukraine has been dominating the news cycle, many of the questions following the talk dealt with that topic. It was interesting to learn that racism and LGBTQ-phobia are very part of the current Russian culture. Several AAUW members voiced appreciation for this timely presentation.

To learn more about Catherine the Great, St. Olga of Kiev and the role of the Russian Babushka, click on the images below.



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.



Observed annually on **March 8th**, International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for [female-focused charities](#)



The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2022 is [#BreakTheBias](#). Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough. Action is needed to level the playing field.

International Women's Day has occurred for well over a century with the first gathering held in 1911. Learn more about the day's [timeline](#).

The above logo, graphics and information are from the International Women's Day website. To learn more about how you can be involved, visit and explore at <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>.

The United Nations Association, Austin Chapter will be releasing a list of IWD events and celebrations occurring in and around Austin. Stay tuned.

Accessing Branch Archives: An Update from the History Center

Submitted by Branch Archivist, Larayne Dallas

If you were planning to use the Austin Branch Archives in what has been the usual way at the Austin History Center, please take note.

In January, we have received a message from Kelly Hanus Harrell at the History Center warning that our records have gone to storage. This is due to renovations scheduled for the John Henry Faulk Building. Faulk is the old central library location and is the usual storage facility for History Center materials.

Kelly wrote:

"We can always request boxes for access, but the storage company only delivers boxes to us once per week (at this time due to pandemic and lack of drivers). If you ever need to request boxes, please give us 1-2 week notice and we will get them pulled and you can make a Reading Room appointment."

I advise calling ahead (512-974-7480) or using this [Contact Form](#) to check on details and to begin a request.

Though I understand that this is a temporary arrangement, no estimate was given for the return to normal.



SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 30, 2022



50th AAUW Texas Conference and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX Is Now Virtual

Your AAUW Texas Board of Directors, the Conference Planning Committee, and the Local Arrangements Committee have worked to make sure the April 30th **Golden Opportunity** will be a meaningful experience for everyone who attends.

The current plan is to display the conference webinar from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There will be a detailed Schedule of Events that informs you of all the presentations and activities of the day, including the times of the outstanding guest speakers.

Featured Speakers

Jackie Littleton

Author of the book-in-progress, *The Lady and the Letters*. Featured in the book is Esther Brunauer, one of our AAUW national staff who worked to get women academics out of Nazi-occupied countries prior to World War II. Brunauer was one of the speakers at the National Convention held in Dallas/Fort Worth in 1945, the first in-person convention after the war.

Kevin Stewart

AAUW Texas Legislative Counsel: *How Does the Texas Legislature Work?*

Malinda Gaul

Former AAUW Texas President, practicing Labor and Employment Lawyer, and AAUW Board Vice Chair: *Update on AAUW*.

Raegan Pebley

TCU Women's Basketball Coach: *Go for the Gold: Title IX Tribute*.

Dr. Taharee Jackson

Founder and Tonesetter-in-Chief of DrTaharee Consulting and Equal Opportunity Manager in Strategy and Innovation at the Department of Defense in Washington, DC: *The Time is NOW: Allyship, Urgency, and Solidarity in the Struggle for Equity and Social Justice*.

Your state board has approved having AAUW Texas fund all the costs associated with this virtual conference. Registration **will be required** to receive the Zoom Webinar link, but **there will not be a fee to attend**.

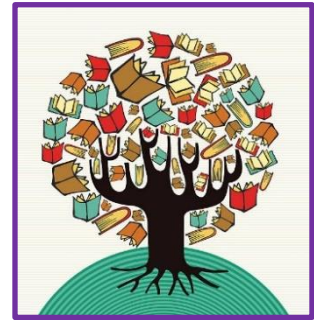
Planners are anticipating a record number of participants from across the state since there is no travel, no hotel expense, and no risk of exposure to Covid-19. More information about registration and activities will be coming to you from AAUW Texas in March.

Stay well and mark your calendar as "busy" on April 30th.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

No matter what method you chose, thank you for voting in the Texas March Primary Election. We especially thank **Anita Knight, Brenda Hahne, and Debbie Starr** for taking on the task of poll worker. Thanks too to all Branch members who are VDRs (Volunteer Deputy Registrars) but remind them and any of the rest of you who want to become one, that the job of registering voters is never done. It is fair to say that we probably already know who will be at the top of the ballot for the statewide offices in Texas for the **November 8** election. Because of continued gerrymandering and other measures put in place to restrict voting rights, there is only one way we will ever effect change and that is for everyone of voting age and citizenship status to vote. Mark your calendar and get busy making it possible for all eligible voters to do so.



Maya Angelou wrote, "Won't it be wonderful when black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history." Texas has the opportunity to move closer to that goal this year as its State Board of Education (SBOE) engages in the review and revision of the Social Studies TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)—only happens every eight years. It is no exaggeration to say that Texas's social studies curriculum impacts all of us, and each of us has a role in making it effective, accurate, and morally sound. Here are some bare-bones steps you can follow:

- A. Inform yourself <https://tea.texas.gov> & <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/leadership/state-board-of-education>;
- B. Pay attention at all times (listen, read, ask questions); and
- C. Take action as needed (write, telephone, speak up to board members, legislators, newspapers and other media). To become more fully involved in this process, please email the public policy committee chair maryescribner@gmail.com.

Reminder: Named Gifts Nominations are Open for 2022

Time is running out to nominate a sister member for a Named Gifts award. Each year, members of the Austin Branch are selected to be honored as recipients of "Named Gifts." This award reflects the generosity and hard work of our members because the number of recipients is linked to the amount of money we raise as a branch. The more money we raise, the more Named Gifts awards we are able to give. We have been fortunate to honor many stellar individuals in the past. 2022 will be no exception.

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.

Branch Fundraising Update

Delicious See's candy bars are here!

The fundraising team hopes that all AAUW members will purchase some of these treats while supporting AAUW national goals...a tasty way to support a good cause! The price for milk chocolate and dark chocolate bars is \$3 for one or \$5 for two.



Members who order \$20 worth (8 bars) can have them delivered to their homes. Place your order with **Sharon Babot**, sharonbabot@gmail.com or **Joyce Pulich**, joycepulich@sbcglobal.net. The candy bars are a perfect addition to your Easter basket on April 17. The bars will be available at the next in-person branch meeting - hopefully in April. In the meantime, the team plans to sell candy bars and accept donations at [Suds Monkey Brewing Company](#) on Hwy 290 near Nutty Brown Road the last weekend of March.



Please continue to fill those **Change for Change Challenge** jars. They will be collected at the next in-person branch meeting or you can give them to **Pam Wolfe** or **Joyce Pulich** at an in-person event (hiking group, book club, out to lunch, etc.). Remember the top two collectors will receive a prize. No donation is too small as all the change will be donated to AAUW National.

The Spring Fling Concert with music, appetizers and beverages is scheduled for May 15 at Sharon and Jorge Babot's home in Dripping Springs. Details about registering for this event will be available in the April newsletter.



Member Highlight

Peggy Drake Holland



Peggy Holland, who began attending the University of Texas at Austin in 1958, was the first African American woman to receive an undergraduate degree from UT's College of Business (later named the McCombs School of Business); and later she was honored as a BBA star at the college's 100th anniversary celebration. On February 22, the McCombs School of Business dedicated the Peggy Drake Holland Student Lounge in her honor.

During her journey, she encountered contempt and kindness, isolation and kinship. Throughout it all, Peggy Drake showed resolve and grace, graduating in 1963 with Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She forged a path for Black students, four years after Brown vs. Board of Education and two years after UT opened its doors to African American students. Peggy and her husband Leon have been members of Precursors, the group of some of the first African American students to attend UT.

As an AAUW member, Peggy was honored numerous times by the Branch with a Named Gift to AAUW Funds for her service to the branch and once with a named gift to the AAUW Barbara Charlene Jordan American Fellowship. AAUW Texas named her a Woman of Distinction in 2008, and she served as branch treasurer for two years and as membership vice president for a year. She was also active in bridge and PEARS.

To learn more about Peggy's remarkable story, read the 2014 article about her published in the Daily Texan. [UT's first Black Students.....The Long Road to Integration](#)

- Article submitted by Anita Knight.

In Memoriam

Kay Elaine Keys

December 9, 1947 – January 13, 2022

A lifelong Texan, Kay Elaine Keys was born in San Angelo, Texas, on December 9, 1947. She died in Austin, Texas, a place she dearly loved, on January 13, 2022. As she wished, Kay is now resting with her parents in Wall, Texas, the small town where she grew up.



Kay taught high school in Odessa, Texas before continuing her love of learning in graduate study at the University of Texas at Austin, where she had earned her B.A. and M.A. in English, receiving her Ph.D. in English in 1978. She went on to develop an inclusive indexing system for the Modern Language Society of America's Annual Bibliography, a project funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Returning to Austin from her MLA work in New York, Kay went on to pursue her fascination with computer science, becoming a Systems Analyst and Team Leader with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality until her retirement in 2012. She was especially interested in the ways in which webpages could be designed and updated to support individual user learning clearly and cleanly.

Kay always felt a deep concern for the status of women. This concern was reflected in her work in AAUW, which she joined in 2013 and which, always an active member, she served in many roles. Kay acted as Austin Branch secretary and as Branch historian, both in 2017-18. She continued to update Branch and Member "herstories" and Girls in STEM webpages, always building carefully on previous member histories and responding to member suggestions. Janai Janakiraman helped by locating images to support the AAUW webpages Kay updated. For her contributions, Kay was honored by the Austin Branch with a named gift of funds in 2013 and 2016.

Of course, Kay had many other lifelong passions. She loved art, enjoying it, exploring it, sharing it, and creating it in her photography. She travelled all over the United States and the world --especially Egypt, which she visited three times--among so many places whose cultures, landscapes, and art she studied with delight. She served as docent at the Art Museum of Austin and as a volunteer usher at the Long Center and the Texas Performing Arts Center. Her pleasure in art was contagious. Kay's profound spirituality, her energy, and her dedication to everything she undertook made her contributions moving and significant to others.

Kay loved her cats, that long succession of dear furry familiars who brightened her life and touched her heart.

Kay leaves behind her loving and beloved spouse of over 20 years, Cindy Tincher, and the many friends whose lives she warmly and generously touched. She is missed.

Memoriam prepared by Katherine Staples

Mainspring Schools Report

Report prepared by Linda Welsh

Dang that COVID: As Jason Gindele, Mainspring's Executive Director reported:

"The virus has infiltrated Mainspring in 2022. That isn't surprising, since it is everywhere, but it definitely throws a wrench in our days. Unlike the last year and a half, we are seeing children test positive -- in fact, we have had more children get the virus than staff. Luckily, all are seeing only short-term and minimal health effects. We have had to temporarily close various classrooms over the last month, as a result. Given the decreased symptoms of this variant, we decided to reduce those closures from 10 days (which is the public recommendation) to 5 days to ease the burden on working families.

The ups and downs of it all have definitely put a strain on the team, and we are working hard to be cognizant of that stress. We are all ready to see this pandemic end."

Appreciation Luncheon: This year's Appreciation Luncheon in April during the [2022 Week of the Young Child](#) (April 2 – 8) is more important than ever to support the teachers and staff who are under such tremendous stress. The Mainspring Advocacy Committee is meeting next week to work out the details. Please contact **Linda Welsh** (lawelsh@gmail.com or 512-586-1575) if you are interested in participating in this year's luncheon or want to know more about our committee.

Good News: On an exciting note, Mainspring was awarded a grant from Impact Austin, local women's philanthropy for a new program to help families during the critically important formative period of prenatal through age 18 months. This new program is called CRASH: Creating Resilient, Attached, Supported Homes. The goal is support families in multiple ways to nurture healthy child-parent attachment and prevent negative early childhood experiences.

For More Good News: Check out fun facts and figures to show how well Mainspring stacks up against other early childhood programs. We should be proud! [Mainspring Schools Facts and Figures](#)



March Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:



What: [Silo Gallery & Glass Studio](#) - home of over a dozen Texas artists who specialize in 3D art forms next to a beautiful grotto located near two relaxing waterfalls. There will also be an optional side visit to the [Wimberley Glassworks](#) gallery

When: Wednesday, March 23, 10:00 a.m.

Where: 7990 Ranch Rd 12, San Marcos, Texas

Planner: Cathy Werner and Nancy Andren

To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKspirit66@gmail.com, (512) 906-6566

Creative Stitchery:



When: Wednesday, March 16

What: Field trip to the [Cotton Gin Museum](#)

Where: 307 North Main Street, Burton, Texas

To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Bridge Groups

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

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.

Book Clubs and Literary Exploration



Central Book Club:

When: Monday, March 14, 10:30 a.m.
Where: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Book: *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*
Editor: Isabel Wilkerson
Facilitator: Janet Lawson
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com, (512) 940-6480



Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*
Author: Isabel Wilkerson
Leader: Ruth Subramanian
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryscribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539



Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, March 4, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 310 W 43rd Street
Book: *Fast into the Night*
Author: Debbie Clarke Moderow
Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer
Hostess: Evelyn Boyer
Contact: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net, (512) 345-5936



Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, March 22, 11:00 a.m.
Where: ZOOM
Topic: Read a Non-USA Author
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865



Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.
Where: ZOOM
Book: *Dutch Girl: Audrey Hapburn and World War II*
Author: Robert Matson
Facilitator: Brenda Hahne
Host: Dixie Schurle
To RSVP: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317

Friends, Food and Conversation



Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Home of Nancy Andren, 80 White Magnolia Avenue, Lakeway
Theme: Ireland
Co-Hosts: Nancy Andren and Roberta Coffin
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003



Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, March 15, 11:15 a.m.
Where: County Line on the Hill, 6500 Bee Cave Road
Planner: Milli Stecker
To RSVP: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051



Pears:

Pears will not meet in March.



Wine Tasters:

When: Saturday, March 20, 4:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Cathy Werner, 2714 Grand Oaks Loop, Cedar Park
Theme: Oregon Wines
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

STEM



STEM Coordinating Group:

The STEM Coordinating Group will not meet in March.

The Great Outdoors

Hiking Group:

Hike 1

When: Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.
What: [Crocket Garden Falls/Good Water Loop \(San Gabriel River Trail\)](#)
Where: Cedar Breaks Park Road, Georgetown
Leader: Roberta Coffin
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rw@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697



Hike 2

When: Friday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.
What: [Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve](#)
Where: 805 N Capital of Texas Hwy
Leaders: Anita Knight
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rw@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

Georgetown Branch – March Program

The Georgetown branch invites you to attend the March Georgetown branch meeting.

When: Saturday, March 19, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. – social time
3:00 p.m. - program

Where: [Lark and Owl Booksellers and Bistro](#) (outdoor garden patio)
205 6th Street, Suite 101, Georgetown

Topic: Trials, Tribulations and Victory: Launching a Local Book Store, Gift Shop, Bistro and Community Gathering Sport

Speakers: Three of the original ten women who were inspired to open the Lark and Owl.