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AAUW Branch May Membership Meeting

Meet the Fellows

When: Saturday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Balcones Country Club, [8600 Balcones Club Dr.](#)
Cost: \$30.00
Contacts: Joyce Pulich, joycepulich@sbcglobal.net
Linda Welsh, lawelsh@gmail.com

Please join us to meet the 2022-23 fellowship recipients. Our May meeting, when we are introduced to the fellows, is always an exciting and enlightening event for our branch. Hearing from these brilliant young women as they discuss their research validates the importance of our mission and inspires us to keep up the good work.

The fellowship team of **Nancy Andren, Elizabeth Newell, Joyce Pulich, Ruth Rubio, Mary Ellen Scribner** and **Janet Widoff** met over several months to improve the application process for 2023. At Mary Ellen's suggestion, they developed a rubric for analyzing the application documents. Out of twelve complete applications, the team selected three women who will receive a fellowship in the amount of \$3,650 for the coming academic year.

Information about the recipients follows on **page 2**.

May is also the time when we install new officers and thank our generous and thoughtful leaders who will be rolling off the board. More information about the board transition is on **page 4**.

Please check the Evite invitation for lunch details.

Items for Summer Newsletter

DUE July 19, 2023

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

Meet the 2023-24 Fellows

Saralyn Foster

Saralyn Foster is working on a doctorate in nutritional sciences. She has a bachelor's from Texas A&M, and a master's from The University of Texas at San Antonio. She has worked as a pediatric dietician at several facilities. She will explain her dissertation entitled "Eating Right from the First Bite: Associations of dietary diversity with growth and body composition in high-risk infant populations".



One of her greatest achievements is becoming a registered dietician. In that role, she has provided guidance to parents of children with feeding difficulties to improve growth trajectories and worked with children diagnosed with a myriad of congenital disorders to improve their relationship with food. She has continued to pursue her doctorate despite the pandemic with three kids at home with virtual schooling for over a year.

Faith Deckard

Faith Deckard earned a bachelor's in biology from Trinity University and an master's in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. She is working on a doctorate in sociology. Her dissertation topic is "Bonded: How Commercial Bail Entangles Families through Money and Risk". Her research systematically traces how families and broader support networks become enmeshed in the criminal justice system and at what consequences to economic, relational, and mental/emotional wellbeing. She is a first-generation college student and a financial provider for her family.



Faith's greatest achievements include serving as a student minority liaison and co-instructor for the Texas Prison Education Initiative where she works to bring college courses to incarcerated women. After obtaining her doctorate, she hopes to obtain a tenure track position where she can teach, do research, and mentor and serve incarcerated people.

Upasana Garnaik

Upasana Garnaik has two law degrees and is currently working on a doctorate in sociology. She has worked as a legal researcher and as a legal officer. Her dissertation topic is "Between the home and the law: Indian women's experiences in family housing disputes". She has conducted a year of ethnographic fieldwork and finds that many of the cases involve domestic violence and the breakdown of marriages.



In the future, she plans to work with legal aid offices to understand the issues that women face when they file for economic claims against their families. After she earns her PhD, she hopes to secure a tenure-track position at a research university. In previous jobs, she mentored female students and involved them in policy and research projects.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month we mourn the loss of two wonderful AAUW sisters, **Myrtle Bell** and **Frances Tomlinson** as we honor and celebrate their lives. Frances joined the branch in 1950 and Myrtle in 1966. While there has been progress since then, they both would be asking, “How can we **still** face inequities, trampled rights, and severe challenges as women, especially women of color or LGBTQ individuals in 2023?”



In *Use the Power You Have: A Brown Woman's Guide to Politics and Political Change*, Pramila Jayapal emphasizes the importance of diverse leadership to create change:

“One reason representation matters is because the conversations are different when we are at the table, as women, as people of color, as immigrants, as low-income folks, or LGBTQ people. We bring our different perspectives and experiences to everything we do. We craft different legislation. We chair hearings differently. We tell stories differently and we tell different stories. All this means that, in the end, we bring a deep inherent wisdom and perspective to the policy agenda and the crafting of legislation itself, making it much better in the end.” p. 87.

That is why we need to be at the table to share our voices and vision for our families, our community, our state, our nation, and the world. Leadership matters. Collectively, we are strong enough to change the conversation. Please find ways to join in these important conversations in whatever way you can.

It has been such an honor to serve as your president this past year, working with an outstanding board. I look forward to working side-by-side with the newly elected Co-President **Soon Flynn**, a former colleague at Austin Community College with an impressive resumé and leadership skills. She will be joined by our new Membership VP **Sharon Babot** and returning leaders, Co-VP Programs **Brenda Hahne** and **Jackie Hardee**; Treasurer **Cathy Werner**; and Secretary **Elaine Penn**. A special thanks to Brenda and Cathy for extending their service for an additional year and Elaine for her willingness to do another two-year term as secretary. They are joined by a hard-working, skilled group of leaders in our appointed positions – Co-Chairs AAUW Funds, **Debbie Starr** and **Joyce Pulich** (who also serves as Fellowship Chair); Governance/Bylaws/Parliamentarian **Pam Wolfe**; Historian, **Nancy Andren**; Public Policy Chair, **Mary Ellen Scribner**; Interest Group Coordinator **Berta Lloyd**, and Immediate Past President **Larayne Dallas** (who also serves as our archivist and is probably looking forward to next year when she is no longer the long-serving immediate past president). This distinguished group is joined by the non-voting positions of our AAUW Central Texas Liaison **Cheryl Fuller**; **Anita Knight**, our Community College and University Liaison; **Carol Algren**, Member Connect and our Web/PR team led by **Janani Janakiraman**, including **Pam Wolfe** and **Soon Flynn**. Thanks also goes to those of you who serve on our committees.

At our June planning retreat for the new program year, the new board will be joined by outgoing Membership VPs **Milli Stecker** and **Ruth Subramanian** who did a great job managing the challenging transitions at the national office this past year. If you have ideas, suggestions, issues, or concerns that you would like the joint board to consider as we plan for our anniversary year, please call, text or email me. Each of you has valuable input to offer.



In Sisterhood,
Linda Welsh, Ph.D.

April Meeting Recap

Catherine Jaffe, Professor of Spanish literature at Texas State University, gave an interesting presentation about how she came to produce her most recent book *Society Women and Enlightened Charity in Spain: The Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito*. She explained how she became interested in doing research on the enlightenment, particularly in Spain. Her previous books – *The Routledge Companion to the Hispanic Enlightenment*, *Maria Lorenza de los Rios*, and *Eve's Enlightenment* explore how the enlightenment impacted women. Cathy provided information about early feminists including the British writer, Mary Wollstonecraft.

Wealthy Spanish males resisted allowing women to participate in the male associations. Upper class wealthy women appealed to the Spanish king whose 1787 order created the Junta de Damas. The Junta members helped poor women and children *and* worked to reduce infant mortality. Their social welfare work helped people help themselves. Their efforts included a patriot school where women could learn skills for the textile industry, a foundling hospital, and improving conditions in female prisons. Cathy described the lives of several key members of the early Junta.

Cathy concluded that (1) the enlightenment provided a foundation for the development of modern feminism; (2) the Junta was an association of enlightened civic mothers who wanted access to the public sphere; (3) and the Junta was a vital example of *enlightenment* independent agency at the dawn of modern feminism. She also pointed out that the American Association of University Women with its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls is a direct descendant of the Junta.

2023-24 New Branch Leaders

At the April 12, 2023, Branch meeting, members approved the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee and accepted by the Board:

- **Co-President**
 - **Soon Flynn** for a two-year term, 2023 - 2025
- **Membership Vice President**
 - **Sharon Babot** for a two-year term, 2023 - 2025
- **Program Co-Vice President**
 - **Brenda Hahne** for a one-year term (2023 – 2024), extending the current two-year term
- **Treasurer**
 - **Cathy Werner** for a one-year term (2023 – 2024), extending the current two-year term
- **Secretary**
 - **Elaine Penn** for a two-year term, (2023 – 2025) for an additional two-year term

We appreciate these members and their willingness to serve the Branch.

AAUW Austin Branch – Centennial Celebration, Early Projects

After the November 15, 1923, establishment of the Austin Branch of AAUW, members of the group followed through on their advertised intention to serve humanity and began working on community projects. Among those:

Encouraging diverse employment for women. On January 29 of the next year, the *Austin Statesman* (Jan 29, 1924; page 10) reported a project planned by members of Austin AAUW, based on work done by groups in both San Antonio and in Dallas. Members were working with **Lucy J. Newton**, dean of women at the University of Texas and a member of the branch. Sixty percent of the expected 306 female graduates of UT were planning to be teachers, even when their training was in a different field. Miss Newton was hoping for a vocational bureau to help assist women with finding jobs beyond teaching. (We do not know what happened with either the survey or the bureau.)

Austin Public Library. Our members often point with pride to this project. Members of the Austin Branch of AAUW were the force behind the formation of a public library system for Austin. **Mrs. David Lee** (Grace Delano) **Clark** was quoted in the *Austin American* (November 15, 1925, page 3) commenting on Austin's collective embarrassment over not having a library. She said that visitors would see the First Baptist Church, suppose that it was the library, and be surprised that Austin had no public library at all.

The actual group working on the library project was the Austin Library Association. Success seems to have been thanks to the popularity of the cause, aided by clever public relations and good publicity. For example, the *Austin Statesman* (November 28, 1925, page 1) reported that **J. Frank Dobie** gave the library its first book, his own *Legends of Texas*. This was with an article encouraging \$1.00 memberships, so that everyone would feel a part of the library, and announcing a slogan, "Give Austin a public library for Christmas."

[HERstory of the Austin Branch: 1923 – present](#) has more on the library, including that Grace Delano Clark continued her dedication to the effort, volunteering as the first librarian. The library opened first on February 16, 1926, in rented space at 819 Congress Avenue and then opened in a separate building at 9th and Guadalupe on December 23, 1926. With this start, the library later became part of city government, with tax support. (Additional information from:

[https://austinlibrary.com/downloads/APL_HistoricalFactsSummary_2017.pdf.](https://austinlibrary.com/downloads/APL_HistoricalFactsSummary_2017.pdf))

Graduate Fellowships. Following the lead of the national organization, local members sought to support graduate education for women. A story in the *Austin American* (November 20, 1927, page A2) tells of plans for a November 29, 1927, "benefit bridge party" at the Driskill Hotel. A follow-up story (on November 27, 1927 page A5) describes an event that sounds more like a gala with activities not limited to bridge. An endowment fund at the University of Texas was established with our first contribution of \$1,100 in 1934. Contributions were made to this fund over a period of years, until the endowment reached sufficient size to support awarding of annual fellowships. **Mildred Englert** is the branch member whose donation completed the endowment. The Austin Branch has awarded graduate fellowships yearly since 1985 to women who are doctoral candidates at The University of Texas at Austin.

Submitted by Larayne Dallas on behalf of the centennial committee and with a special thanks to the ProQuest Historical Austin American-Statesman subscription available through Austin Public Library.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner



I am looking forward to Monday, May 29, 2023, the last day of 88th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, as I suspect many Texans are. Once *sine die* is called, we will begin to count our wins and losses and consider how to proceed in compliance with new laws (some good but most probably not so good); our ongoing advocacy; and the identification of political candidates whose values and concerns will most closely match our own in future elections. I say 'begin' to do these things because Governor Abbott has until Sunday, June 18, 2023, to sign or veto bills passed during the regular session. That's when we will have the complete picture. Bills without specific effective dates, other than bills with immediate effect, will become law on Monday, August 28, 2023. Let's hope that's it for the 88th, that no special sessions are called because the governor or lieutenant governor had a priority bill that did not get passed!

The way politics and public policy have played out in the U.S. in recent years has been demoralizing; Texas has been one of the worst examples of that phenomenon. Starting with the blatantly partisan redistricting of local and national election districts and that of the fifteen State Board of Education members, the struggle for equitable laws and policies has become enormous. As the legislative session draws to a close, we can only hope for some sensible mandates; it is looking quite hopeful that we will be spared vouchers for K-12 schooling. As more people, especially young adults, are becoming fed up with the lack of ethics and genuine respect for the electorate, one can feel the breath of change. High school students are agitating for gun control, for intellectual freedom in their classes and libraries, and against voting restrictions such as no polling places on college campuses. Sometimes one sees reaction to unfair laws and restrictions in the most unexpected places. I hope you are familiar with what has just happened in nearby Llano County. The American Association of Libraries tells the story and that of other successful efforts to save public libraries and their invaluable contents:

"More than half of the U.S. is facing efforts to ban books - efforts which are only intensifying, according to our [latest data](#). While book banning has been rising nationwide, so has our movement for libraries. A few success stories from this year:

- Library advocates in Llano Texas showed up in droves to save their libraries from imminent closure.
- The Missouri Library Association drove over 16,000 comments filed in opposition to an adverse library regulation.
- The Virginia legislature shot down two anti-library bills, with the chairman of the committee specifically mentioning emails from our advocates as a driving force.

With our collective effort, we *have*, we *can*, and we *will* defeat book bans."



Policy Update Continued.....

The 2022-23 AAUW program year ends on June 30th. We know there will be no extensions to it and new officers will take charge at every level. The branch will install a new executive board this month, and when its members begin to form their committees, please consider joining one or two that interest you. I hope many of you will consider joining the public policy committee. You may think that with the legislative session behind and the next two years away, there is nothing to do. Wrong! We must always keep our eyes on public education at every level, children's welfare services, many health care issues, LGBT+ treatment, etc.

This year we have learned a great deal about the process of getting a bill written, carried, and passed. A national goal (and one of the branch strategic goals) involves pay equity for women. The two years before the next legislative session offer an opportunity to set that ball rolling.

It has been a pleasure but also a lot of hard work serving as public policy chair this year. I never could have done it without the dedicated efforts of committee members, and I am very grateful to **Myrtle Bell, Ann Berasley**★, **Katie Campbell, Roberta Coffin, Dr. Sylvia Garcia, Jackie Hardee**★, **Zosia Hunt, Gayle Kanies, Anita Knight**★, **Dr. Rosemary Morrow**★, **Connie Munoz, Elizabeth Newell**★, **Jeannette Okur, Pat Rehm** (also our state chair), **Elaine Penn, Joyce Pulich, Angie Rose, Ruth Rubio, Brenda Scholin, Mary Ellen Scribner**★, **Debbie Starr, Ginny Tannebring, Dr. Linda Welsh**★, **Cathy Werner**★, and **Marian Wernicke**★.

We have relied on a number of nonpartisan organizations in our work, especially the League of Women Voters, the Texas Freedom Network, Every Texan, and Texas Impact. Please consider joining or otherwise supporting them; they do important work.

Vote on May 6 if you haven't already voted, enjoy your summer break, and plan to be in Austin for the August Summer Social where you can sign up for the public policy committee and a whole bunch of great interest groups! You don't have to be present to win that opportunity, but we would love to see you there.



Anita Knight visiting Donna Howard's office at the Texas Capitol in conjunction with CCL lobbying conference

Save the Date

AAUW Austin Branch Centennial Celebration

Chateau Bellevue, Wednesday, November 1, 2023



In Memoriam

Frances Tomlinson

Long-time Austin Branch member **Frances Tomlinson** died on February 25, 2023, at the age of 99. Frances's daughter, Linda Tomlinson Duke, sent a message letting Joyce Pulich know that Frances no longer needed the *Newsletter* to be sent to her. Linda wrote of her mother, "She was proud of her involvement with AAUW. She believed in the mission and believed in the equality of all women."



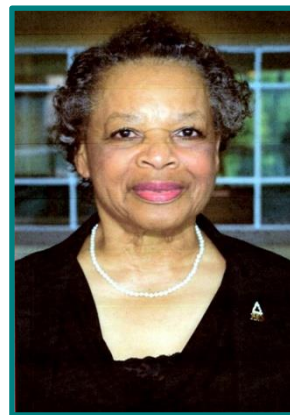
Our member information shows that Frances had been an AAUW member since 1950. She held a bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons in speech, English, and education. In the *Yearbook*, Frances noted these interests: creative stitchery, travel, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, church, and the Bob Bullock Museum.

We do not find a published obituary, but in this piece from three years ago, [*These Eyes Have Seen --- Frances Tomlinson, 95*](#), Frances provides her own life summary. She valued growing up on a ranch south of Abilene and her college experience in Abilene at Hardin-Simmons. She tells us of her partnership with her husband, Guy Tomlinson, and of their two daughters. And Frances includes this comment which seems a good way to summarize her life, "I was born a happy, positive person, and even at 96, I don't like to sit next to someone who grumbles."

Submitted by Larayne Dallas

Myrtle Bell

Branch member Myrtle Bell passed away on Tuesday, April 11. Myrtle was an active and honorary life member of AAUW, having joined in 1966. She participated in the Culture and Cuisine interest group and the Public Policy Committee. She had a bachelor's and a master's in accounting, and she worked for many years at IBM in New York and retired from IBM in Austin where she worked as a financial analyst. She was also very involved in the Greater Austin Section of the National Council of Negro Women, the Austin Chapter of Sisters Network Inc., and was a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Known for her opinions about and enthusiasm for politics, civil rights, food, and travel, Myrtle was a joy to all who knew her. Myrtle had many interests, including art, travel, Habitat for Humanity, community service, photography, computers, and Ballet Austin. She and her husband Darnese (aka Don) loved travelling and camping in their RV.

Those of us who knew Myrtle are deeply saddened by her unexpected death and will miss her infectious laugh and passion for life.

A full obituary and information about visitation and funeral services is available by clicking [HERE](#).

2023 Named Gift Honorees

Being designated as a Named Gift Honoree is a very special honor in AAUW. The award, in appreciation of their service, is reserved for members who have made extraordinary gifts of time and hard work to the Branch and AAUW. The recipients and some of their contributions are listed below.

The selection committee consisting of chair **Larayne Dallas** and members **Joyce Pulich**, **Berta Lloyd** (recused from some discussion), **Beverly Locklin** and **Resa Dune** proudly present the 2023 Named Gift Honorees.

Shirlene Justice

We note Shirlene's contributions as *Newsletter* editor and with the Culture and Cuisine Interest Group. She demonstrates continuing dedication to our mission, and we benefit from her outstanding organizational and editorial skills in gathering content, working with a group of volunteer assistants, and bringing us the branch newsletter.

Berta Lloyd

Berta is recognized for her service in three areas. As Interest Group Coordinator, she has been an enthusiastic advocate; for the Central Book Group, she organized a project benefitting the Allison Elementary School Library; and she contributes as a valuable member of our fundraising team.

Ruth Subramanian

As Co-Membership Vice President, Ruth showed determination, skill, and flexibility in working on our behalf during a difficult software transition at AAUW National. The frustrations were many, but Ruth persisted, keeping our Branch leaders and members informed along the way.

Book Launch Invitation - *Out of Ireland* by Marian Wernicke

Friday, May 12, 2023 - 7:00pm
BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar Blvd
RSVP [Here](#)



New Member Profile

Submitted by Ruth Subramanian

Leslie B. Curtin

Leslie grew up in Rye, New York. She studied anthropology in college, and earned an MA from Georgetown University. Leslie joined the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1983 as a Foreign Service Officer. She graduated from the National War College, National Defense University with a master's in National Security Strategy in 2002. She designed, implemented, and evaluated foreign assistance programs for over 35 years in countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East — many during periods of conflict. Her work required close collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and all branches of the U.S. military.

She retired to coastal Connecticut in 2014, where she has a large extended family. She moved to Austin in 2020, to live closer to her son and daughter-in-law, and her two young grandchildren here. Leslie also has a son and grandson who live in San Francisco and they visit each other frequently.

Leslie loves being active on "land and sea". As a relative newcomer, she is interested in exploring Austin, and more broadly, Texas and the Southwest. She is passionate about photography, especially when it tells a story. She enjoys sailing, boating, and kayaking and looks forward to exploring Lady Bird Lake, Lake Travis, and the Gulf Coast. She is an avid reader and tennis player, and would like to learn pickleball.

Membership Renewal Are Underway

It's that time of year again — renewal time. You should have already received your personal renewal notification from AAUW National, so check your inbox. You should be receiving an email from memberinfo@aauw.org. The subject line will be AAUW Membership Renewal, followed by your membership number.



This email includes a personalized invoice and link to renew online. Grab your credit or debit card, click on the link, and you will be done in a matter of minutes.

For those wanting to send a check, mailing instructions are included at the bottom of the email you received from memberinfo@aauw.org. Just print out the form, write a check to AAUW Austin and mail with the renewal form with any updates to **Ruth Subramanian**, 4100 Jackson Ave, Apt 536, Austin, TX 78731. Or use the form included at the end of this newsletter or just click below.

Honorary Life Members in recognition of fifty years of membership do not owe any dues. If you have any questions, please email aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net.

Ruth Subramanian, 2022-2023 Co-Membership VP
Milli Stecker, 2022-2023 Co-Membership VP

Download Renewal Form

[HERE](#)

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

Yearbook Deadlines

It happens every year. **Soon Flynn** and her team are already planning the 2023-24 yearbook. Here is the list of submission deadlines. Please make a note of when information is due and submit it to Soon on-time. This is one way we can all help to make the job easier for the dedicated yearbook team.

Depending on your area of responsibility, please submit the following lists and information to Soon Flynn (smerz_2000@yahoo.com) no later than **July 1**.

Incoming Executive Board • Committee and Off-board Members • AAUW TX Board • AAUW National Board • Committees and Chairs • Local Scholarship Recipients • Fellowship Recipients • Named Gift Recipients • Legacy Circle Members

In addition, the following information is also due on **July 1**.

Funds Overview • Individual Interest Group Description and Schedule • Interest Group Calendar and Rules • Membership Criteria and Dues • In Memoriam • Past President Update

Branch goals are due **July 15**.

Schedule of 2023-24 events and programs are due **August 1**.

Interest Group Deadlines

It is time to start thinking about gathering information for the 2023-24 Branch Yearbook and Newsletter. The following information is due to **Berta Lloyd** on or before Saturday, **July 1**.

- Name of Group
- When/Dates
- Time
- Topic/Book/Theme/Description
- Place/Location
- Hosts/Contacts/Facilitators
- Contacts/RSVP information



PLEASE FOLLOW THE FORMAT IN THIS YEAR'S 2022-23 DIRECTORY.

As you are planning your year to come, please consider how your interest group wants to recognize that we will be 100 years old this next program year. The interest groups are such a valuable part of our connections to one another and the camaraderie that comes from time spent on shared interests.

Berta will be sending email reminders to you in May and June. If you have any questions, contact Berta, berta.lloyd@yahoo.com, (206) 660-1812

Thank you for your hard work!

Successful Candy Sale



Thanks to all members who purchased See's candy bars and/or made donations. Special thanks to **Susie Angel, Pat Beal, Debbie Shaffer, and Debbie Starr** who took candy sales on the road. They were very successful at Flores restaurant on 290 West. These charming women received many donations – including a one-hundred dollar bill! They not only sold candy but they let customers know about AAUW. Total profit from the sale was **\$771.49**. This has been sent to national AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

Kentucky Derby Fund Raiser

Please join us for a fun time while raising money for AAUW. You will enjoy exceptional Southern food like Hot Browns, mint juleps and much more. Bets can be placed in hope of selecting the winning horse. A drawing will be held for a framed Kentucky Derby 2023 poster. Cost is \$40 per person payable at the door with revenue benefiting the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.



- Hosts: Berta Lloyd and Maggie Kadlecek
When: Saturday, May 6, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with post time at 5:45 p.m.
Where: Home of Berta Lloyd and Jerry Martinson, 1124 Wolf Hollow Dr., Georgetown
Cost: \$40.00 per person, payable at the door
Dress: Casual with Kentucky Derby hats strongly recommended

Registration deadline is Thursday May 4. A second evite will be sent soon, but you can also register by emailing Berta at berta.lloyd@yahoo.com

Silent Auction Winners

Sharon Babot donated a champagne brunch and labyrinth walk to the Silent Auction. The lucky winners were: **Maggie Kadlecek, Berta Lloyd, Elaine Penn, Cathy Werner, and Nancy Andren**



Central Book Group Literacy Project Results

This year the Central Book Group accepted the challenge presented by branch president Linda Welsh who encouraged interest groups to participate in a service project. In addition to serving the community and doing some good, Linda's vision was that by participating in a service project, group members would build community, both within and outside the group and elevate the standing of the branch throughout the community. The Central Book Group raised funds to purchase books for the Allison Elementary School library. Allison Elementary is located in the Montopolis neighborhood and serves predominately low-income students. The following report is a testament to Linda's vision and the hard work of the Central Book Group members. Congratulations to the book group members on a job well done. A special thanks to **Debbie Starr**, Chair AAUW SW Book Group, who mentored me on this project.

Report prepared by Berta Lloyd.

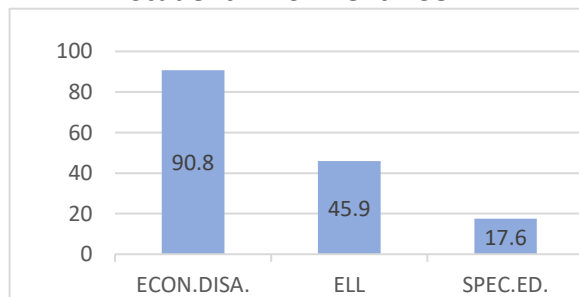
Literacy Project Outcomes: A Huge Success!

- \$463 raised to buy books for the library at Allison Elementary School
- 99% of Central Book Group participated
- 29 books purchased at [Black Pearl Books](#) (A minority owned, independent book store)
- 4 Non-Gifted Books Donated
 - *The Red Balloon*
 - *Blue Bonnet Girl*
 - *Life on Earth*
 - *The Little Match Girl*
- 381 Students Impacted

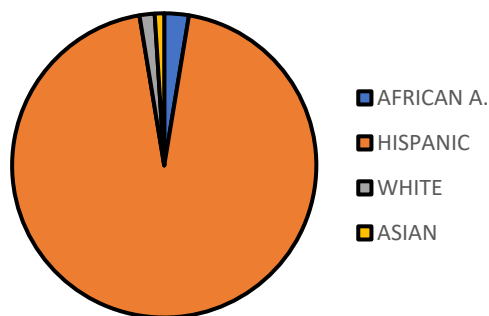
Overview: Allison Elementary School, Austin ISD

Source: Internet-Allison Elementary School website

Student Enrollment 381



*Economically Disadvantaged 90.8%
 *English Language Learners 45.9%
 *Special Education 17.6%



*Hispanic 94.5%
 *African American 2.6%
 White 1.6%
 *Asian 1.0%

May Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

When: Wednesday, May 24, 10:00 a.m.
What: 2023-24 Planning Meeting
Where: Home of Sharon Babot,
370 Cattle Trail Drive, Dripping Springs, TX
Contact: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com,
(707) 373-1317



Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden, Lampasas, TX

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.
What: No Host Luncheon
Location: Eldorado Café, 3300 W. Anderson Lane
Contact: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Bridge Groups

Group A:

When: Weekly Bridge on Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 579-4545

Group B:

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

Group C:

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, (512) 633-6178

Book Clubs and Literary Exploration

Central Book Club:

When: Monday, May 8, 10:30 a.m.

Book: *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* by Anonymous

Facilitator: Barbara Fry

When: Monday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.

Book: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway

Facilitator: Ann Marie Ellis

Contact: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Book: *The Beauty of Dusk: On Vision Lost and Found* by Frank Bruni

Location: Zoom

Leader: Cathy Werner

Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.

Where: To Be Determined

What: Lunch and Planning Meeting

Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, May 30, 11:00 a.m.

Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.

Theme: Non-USA Author

Contact: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, May 8, 10:30 a.m.

What: 2023-24 Calendar Planning

Facilitator: Debbie Starr

Location: Home of Sharon Babot, 370 Cattle Trail, Dripping Springs

When: Monday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.

What: *A House of My Own: Stories from My Life* by Sandra Cisneros

Facilitator: Mary Braunagel-Brown

Location: Home of Debbie Starr, 6205 Mesa Grande

Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbstarr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497

Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.
Theme: Comfort Food Potluck and 2023-24 Planning
Location: Home of Ann Gibbs, 5200 Rambling Range
Hosts: Ann Gibbs and Roberta Coffin
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Special guests Millie Segal and Milli Stecker joined Culture and Cuisine in April for a Jewish Seder meal. They shared their traditions and explained the symbolism behind all the special foods served at a Seder.



Co-Host Brenda Scholin



Co-Hosts Lynn Cooksey and Anita Knight



Pam Watson with special guest Milli Stecker



Special guest Millie Segal with Passover Afikomen Cover

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, May 16, 11:30 a.m.
Location: Sap's Westgate, 4514 West Gate Blvd
Planner: Debbie Starr
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

When: Saturday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.
What: Clay Pit Contemporary Indian Cuisine
Location: 201 San Marcos Springs Drive, San Marcos
Planners: 1601 Guadalupe Street
RSVP: Milli Stecker, milli1251@gmail.com, (512) 468-1088

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, May 21, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Theme: 2023-24 Planning
Hosts: Elaine Penn
Location: Home of Elaine Penn, 912 Dartmoor Drive, Austin
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

Contact: Roberta Coffin, rw@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

Hike #1

When: Thursday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve, 805 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.

Leader: Anita Knight

Hike #2

When: Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.

What Planning Meeting and Bull Creek Trail, Hwy 360 and Spicewood Springs)

Leader: Roberta Coffin

Yearbook Additions

New Members

Gladys E. Anderson
2307 Matterhorn Lane
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 443-1238
gladys.anderson1@icloud.com

Leslie B. Curtin
(202) 256-2734
lcurtin180@gmail.com

Also, please review your contact information in the yearbook and report any updates to Milli Stecker at milli1251@gmail.com.



I would like to personally thank **Anita Knight** and **Mary Ellen Scribner** for providing excellent feedback on the newsletter each and every month. They make sure I mind my p's and q's, dot every i and most importantly remind me to put the commas in the correct place. Thank you also to **Cindy Darilek** for loading the newsletter onto Constant Contact and linking all the pages. **Pam Watson** serves as my backup when I am unavailable to put the newsletter together. Altogether, we get it done.

Submitted by Shirlene Justice, Newsletter Editor

Talent Strong Texas Pathways

Community colleges have served at the nexus of our education system, connecting with high schools, universities, and local employers to meet the needs of our communities. With the rapid changes in the skills and talents needed by employers, the focus and funding for community colleges in Texas will center on successfully ensuring that all students are guided on a clear path to economic security and stability, especially those students who are first-time in college, people of color, or from low-resource families. The Texas Association for Community Colleges (TACC) is dedicated to ensuring socio-economic mobility through career-focused post-secondary education success for **all** students. The Texas Success Center (TSC) <https://tacc.org/tsc> was formed by TACC to provide the support needed by community colleges to achieve this goal.

Guided by the seminal work done by Davis Jenkins at Columbia University's Community College Research Center, TSC has offered seminars, working institutes, and coaches to help colleges in their efforts to establish "Guided Pathways" to ensure that more students reach their educational and career goals. Community college teams from across Texas gathered in Dallas April 11 – 14 for a statewide initiative, Talent Strong Texas Pathways, which builds on the early work of Guided Pathways. Teams from each college:

- Learned from experts in the field and peers at other colleges.
- Examined and discussed data about their students' successes disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status and other factors.
- Worked with coaches to develop action plans to implement strategies to ensure students achieve success and enter good-paying careers.

You can find a concise summary of this cutting-edge work on the TSC website: <https://tacc.org/tsc/events/texas-pathways-institute-1-leading-talent-strong-texas-pathways> and open the TSTPI (Talent Strong Texas Pathways Institute) model.

To review the Talent Strong Texas Pathways 2023-2027 Strategy, click in the box below.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Welsh, Ph.D.

Talent Strong Texas Pathways Coach for Lamar State College – Orange and Panola College

Talent Strong Texas Pathways

2023 -2027 Strategy



Date of completion: __/__/__
American Association of University Women
AAUW – Austin (TX) Branch
Membership **RENEWAL** Information 2023-2024

Please make checks payable to AAUW–Austin and mail check with completed form to:

Ruth Subramanian, 4100 Jackson Ave, Apt 536, Austin, TX 78731

[to request a direct link to renew online send an email to aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net]

(Please mark status/\$ amount)

Dues: (All but \$3.00 of National dues is tax deductible.)

Branch Member (\$101.00 total – National - \$72; State - \$13; Branch - \$16)

(If Dual Member and primary branch is a different Texas branch, total due is \$13.00)

(If Dual Member and primary branch is outside of Texas, total due is \$29.00)

Paid Life Member (\$29.00 total – National - \$0; State - \$13; Branch - \$16)

(Paid Life Member – one-time payment of 20x National Dues – currently set at \$1,180.00)

Honorary Life Member (\$0 total – National - \$0; State - \$0; Branch - \$0)

(50 years of continuous AAUW membership – no dues charged)

Student of Non-AAUW C/U Members (undergraduate or degree-seeking graduate)

(Non-voting membership / \$26.81 Total -- National - \$18.81; State - \$1; Branch - \$7)

Students of AAUW C/U Members* (undergraduate or degree seeking graduate)

(Non-voting membership / \$8.00 Total - National - \$0; State - \$1; Branch - \$7)

AAUW FUND donation: 100% Tax Deductible

Unspecific donations will be used where needed most.

\$ _____

Or write on check your mission preference: Economic Security, Leadership Initiatives, Education and Training or Governance and Sustainability.

LOCAL donation:

Austin Branch Operating Funds

\$ _____

Total payment:

\$ _____

Check your yearbook and, if there are any **changes** that need to be made to your listed information please fill in the appropriate items below. If not, please just sign and date.

Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle (or initial) _____

Preferred name (if different) _____ Name of Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Asterisk Preferred) Home (____) _____ Mobile (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Email: _____

Dual AAUW Memberships: Primary Branch _____ Other Branch(es): _____

Current AAUW Austin Interest Groups you enjoy: _____

Education:	Degree Earned/Major(s)	Institution and City/State	Year Graduated
	(BA Psychology, BS Business, MBA, etc.)		

Changes in work status/position, employer and contact information (if you want published): _____

Additional Honors/Published Materials _____

Interests (hobbies, causes, charities, other organizations): _____

Current volunteer commitments: _____

Permission to Publish personal contact info in newsletter and yearbook _____ (Y) _____ (N)

You may also circle any specific item that you wish to keep private and not publish in the AAUW Austin Yearbook.

Signature _____ Date _____

THANK YOU!