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**Sunday, August 15  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
3525 Bee Cave Rd - Austin 78746**

**Join us as we come together in person to start the next year. Bring a friend with you. Help us build our base of support for women in Austin & beyond.**

After seeing each other via Zoom for more than a year, this is the perfect time to reconnect face-to-face and meet new friends. It's also the opportunity to learn about the wonderful programs and undertakings planned by our interest groups and board members for the months ahead.

We will start with brief introductions, followed by a chance to mingle with friends, explore our interest groups, and learn what is coming your way in the coming year. Many groups are welcoming new members and there may be a few surprise additions – so bring a pen and sign up!

Discover, too, how to join us in our work, including:

- New efforts to support STEM programs
- Scholarships and fundraising activities
- Commitment to Mainspring Schools, Title IX, and other AAUW-mission issues
- Public policy and advocacy efforts

**For more information, contact:** Ruth Subramanian at [aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net](mailto:aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net) or call (678) 764-8898.

*An Evite will be arriving in your inbox from AAUW Austin Texas Membership. Be sure to RSVP via the Evite. If you are bringing a guest, please RSVP for them too.*

**COME TOGETHER  
BRING A FRIEND  
BUILD SUPPORT**

**Join us for the  
AAUW Austin  
Summer Social**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2021-2022 year of The Austin Branch of AAUW in action. We express our appreciation for our new and returning officers and committee members who have been busy this summer preparing for another rewarding year of AAUW excellence.

Since 1881, AAUW has been a champion for women in education, the workplace and the community.

Today, out of approximately 170,000 national members, the Austin Branch of 182 members plays an important and impressive role in advancing our national goal of equity for women and girls. Our accomplishments support our alignment with national, state and local areas of focus, empowering women and girls through research, education, advocacy and philanthropy. The work and dedication of our members through our committees and interest groups, and with the capable leadership of our officers, help ensure quality programs and opportunities with transcultural tradition. Last year our Branch Strategic Planning Group developed local goals reflecting an alignment with the national and state mission to support women and girls with a local spotlight on recruitment, education and training, community partnerships, public policy action, economic security, leadership, research and AAUW visibility. The Plan helps provide direction to our continued success as a Branch. Our membership voted to continue this year with this excellent plan of action.

This fall, AAUW will celebrate 140 years of being a champion for women and girls. Our Austin Branch has played an active role for 98 of those important years. Based on my observations, our Austin Branch members are caring, capable, talented, intelligent, generous, hard-working, creative problem solvers, and are not afraid to try new solutions for identified challenges related to our national mission of gender equity for all women and girls. I look forward to the pursuit of another outstanding year. It is an honor to be a member of our AAUW Austin Branch.

I wish success and love to all of you in 2021-2022.

Evelyn Farmer, Co-President



*Newsletter Editor:*

Shirlene Justice

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

**Items for Summer Newsletter**

**DUE August 18, 2021**

## Reports from the 2020-21 Fellows

In May 2020, the Austin Branch awarded five fellowships to University of Texas doctoral candidates. By accepting the funds, they agreed to report to the membership about their use of the fellowship. These reports demonstrate that the fellowships are funds well spent to encourage and support intelligent women working on their doctoral degrees.

**Lucy LeBlanc** reported that the AAUW Fellowship helped her complete her dissertation. She wrote her dissertation in Spring 2021 entitled "Regulation of Death and Differentiation of Embryonic Stem Cells" and successfully defended it in front of her committee on April 14th. She graduated in May. Additionally, she had a first-author review article published in February 2021 ("Context-dependent roles of YAP/TAZ in stem cell fates and cancer", published in *Cell & Molecular Life Sciences*).



**Caroline Johnson** used the fellowship funds to cover the costs of her final year without pursuing a secondary loan. The funds went toward tuition and final charges related to her dissertation including image rights and archival documents requested virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic. On April 12, 2021 she successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Clouds Like Glass: The Deterrence and Determination of U.S. Women Airline Transport Pilots, 1973-2001". On May 22, she became the first member of her family to obtain a doctorate. She accepted a position as the 2021-2023 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, PA. In this role, she will serve as co-curator for the 2022 Climate Science exhibition and as lead curator for the 2023 exhibition entitled "Women in Science: Unequal Recognition." Caroline writes that the mission of AAUW remains close on both a personal and professional level, as her primary goal is to honor the stories of women past, present, and future.



**Maro Youssef** used the fellowship to offset the costs of medical care during the 2020-2021 academic year. As a cancer survivor, her medical bills are higher than the average graduate student. This often meant working 2-3 jobs during her Ph.D. The fellowship helped her focus on her research full-time. This resulted in producing several manuscripts and submitting them for publication, and finishing her Ph.D to graduate on time. During the fellowship year, Maro presented her dissertation research on "Women's Political Participation after Revolution in Tunisia" at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW). Over 100 individuals attended the event, including policymakers, activists and academics. She produced several manuscripts based on her dissertation research during the award year such as one on unlikely feminist coalitions between liberal and conservative women in Tunisia. She co-authored an article on feminist mobilization around gender-based violence before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in Tunisia. She also co-authored an op-ed in [openDemocracy](#) on women's rights since the Arab Spring (over the past decade) in North Africa.



**Willa Granger** presented at the Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC) as well as at the Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH)'s annual conference in September and October. It was at this latter event that her 2019 peer-reviewed article was awarded SESAH's "**Best Journal Article**" award for the year.



An excerpt of this piece was also reprinted by request through Rice University's CITE magazine. In November of 2020 she was awarded the Senate of College Council's William C. Powers Jr. Endowed Scholarship in recognition of her teaching. She served as a Teaching Assistant for World Architecture: 1750 to Present, all while completing her dissertation chapter drafts by December. In the Spring semester she had the opportunity to craft and teach her first-ever course as an Assistant Instructor. In April she successfully defended her dissertation. Next year she has been named a Fellow-in-Residence at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, where she will continue to revise her dissertation for book publication.

**Sierra Mendez** was able to move her research from a conceptual place to a place of production thanks to the AAUW fellowship. She is currently quantifying, through archival texts, San Antonio's homogenized reproduction of Mexicanx distributions of labor, resources and space. She used the fellowship funds to build her collection of San Antonio's 20th century tourism texts, specifically the purchase of postcards. She also used the funds to purchase a subscription to ArcGis, a digital storytelling and mapping tool to produce a curated digital archive for her project. She is currently working on early drafts of her dissertation. She has submitted some articles for publication. She is very grateful for our financial support especially during the past year as COVID disrupted her research.



## Opportunity to Support More Fellowships

The branch fellowship team learned recently that the University of Texas will accept donations to the AAUW Fellowship Fund. Donations can be added to the endowment or used for outright fellowships. The donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be mailed to:

The University of Texas at Austin  
Attn: Jennifer Pool, Associate Director of Donor Relations  
P.O. Box 7458  
Austin, TX 78713

Please include in the donation remarks that you would like the donations added to the AAUW Fellowship Fund (Account # 57100033/30727622) and whether it should be added to the endowment or go directly for fellowships.

Gifts can also be made online at [www.giving.utexas.edu](http://www.giving.utexas.edu) by typing "Other" in the search box and choosing the option: Other – Specify in Comments.

## 2021-22 AAUW Austin Board Officers and Standing Committees and Appointed Officers

### Co-Presidents

**Evelyn Farmer, Ph.D.:** [efarmertx@gmail.com](mailto:efarmertx@gmail.com) (current)

**Larayne Dallas:** [ldallas@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ldallas@austin.utexas.edu) (outgoing)

### Co-Program Vice President

**Phyllis Folarin, Ed.D.:** [p.folarin@att.net](mailto:p.folarin@att.net)

**Brenda Hahne:** [bwhahne@gmail.com](mailto:bwhahne@gmail.com)

### Co-Membership Vice Presidents

**Ruth Subramanian:** [ruthsindia@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthsindia@yahoo.com)

**Milli Stecker:** [milli1251@gmail.com](mailto:milli1251@gmail.com)

### Secretary

**Elaine Penn:** [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

**Cathy Werner:** [cathy.werner3586@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.werner3586@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

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

### AAUW-Funds Chair

**Joyce Pulich:** [joycepulich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joycepulich@sbcglobal.net)

### Governance / Bylaws

**Pam Wolfe:** [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

### Historian - unfilled

### Newsletter Publisher-Editor

**Shirlene Justice:** [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)

### Parliamentarian

**Pam Wolfe:** [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

### Interest Groups - unfilled

### Public Policy

**Judy Reinhart:** [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)

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## Branch Leadership Opportunities – We Need YOU!

The following leadership positions in our Austin Branch are now open. If you are interested, we invite you to consider accepting one of these positions.

**Co-President** (formerly held by **Larayne Dallas**, now acting co-president and past co-president).

**Historian** (formerly held by **Cathy Werner**, now treasurer).

**Interest Group Chair** (formerly held by **Brenda Hahne**, now Program Co-Vice President).

If you are interested or have questions about these positions, please contact **Elaine Penn**, Chairman of the Austin Branch AAUW Nominating Committee.

[epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512)-970-5051

## AAUW National Election Results



Last Spring, AAUW members across the nation voted in an important AAUW election. Here are the results:

- **Julia Brown** was re-elected to serve as Board Chair for three more years.
- **Malinda Gaul** was re-elected as Board Vice Chair, and **Elizabeth Haynes** and **Joseph Bertolino** will also retain their board seats. All are three-year terms.
- AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.
- The ballot initiative to eliminate the membership requirement received 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change. Therefore the initiative did not pass.

Thanks to all of you for your active participation in this election.

## Yearbook Update

The 2021-22 Yearbook is scheduled to be distributed at the September Branch meeting on September 11, 2021. Yearbooks not picked up on September 11 will be mailed, unless other arrangements are made.

# Policy Update: Redistricting

Following the release of the 2020 Census results, Texas lawmakers plan to tackle redistricting this fall in a special session. The redrawing of maps for the state's congressional, legislative and State Board of Education boundaries will be both complicated and contentious.

Whom you can elect at the national, statewide and even local levels depends on which district you live in. And the way those district maps are drawn often decides which party controls the national and state legislative bodies. The maps will remain in use for as long as 10 years. Politicians have the power to group voters in a way that will give them a partisan advantage as long as they are not discriminating on the basis of race.

To learn more about how the redistricting process works, how it may impact you and how you can advocate for a fair and open process, [All on the Line Texas](#) is offering **Redistricting Summer U**, a series of four workshops that will be conducted before the Census Bureau releases redistricting data. Registration is free. The topics and dates offered include:

## Redistricting 101

- Tuesday, August 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m. ET
- Monday, August 16, 8-9:00 p.m. ET
- Saturday, August 21, 6-7:00 p.m. ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Engagement Opportunities + Tactics

- Tuesday, August 3, 8-9:00 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, August 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m. ET
- Saturday, August 21, 3-4:00 p.m. ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Mapping for Redistricting

- Tuesday, Jul 27, 8-9:00 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, August 18, 8-9:00 p.m. ET
- Sunday, August 22, 1-2 p.m. ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Storytelling in Activism

- Wednesday, July 28, 7-8:00 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, August 11, 7:30-8:30 p.m. ET
- Thursday, August 19, 6-7:00 p.m. ET
- Sunday, August 22, 2-3:00 p.m. ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

# ALL ON THE LINE

## Other Resources:

Indivisible Texas LEGE, <https://indivisibletxlege.org/>

Redistricting House Committee hearings are posted here:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/Committees/MeetingsByCmte.aspx?Leg=87&Chamber=H&CmteCode=C080>

## 2021 Named Gift Honorees

Being designated as a Named Gift Honoree is a very special honor in AAUW. The award is reserved for members who have made extraordinary gifts of time and hard work to the Branch and AAUW. It has been our tradition to name an honoree for each \$500 raised by the Branch. In 2020, the Austin Branch raised \$12,000, enabling us to honor 24 members. The recipients and some of their contributions are listed below.

<b>Nancy Andren</b>	Under Nancy's leadership, the Branch supports STEM education for girls.
<b>Sharon Babot</b>	Sharon helped with many successful fundraising activities, including the highly successful See's candy sale.
<b>Jean Bessent</b>	Jean has been an active member of the Branch for 8 years, taking on many important roles.
<b>Roberta Coffin</b>	As a very active board member, Roberta advocated for Branch participation for National Conference of College Women Student Leaders Conference.
<b>Larayne Dallas</b>	Larayne did an amazing job of leading us through the trials and tribulations of the pandemic and in pivoting the Branch into a virtual world.
<b>Phyllis Folarin</b>	Phyllis served as Program Vice-President over the past year, overcoming the many challenges the Branch faced during COVID.
<b>Brenda Hahne</b>	Brenda provided quiet and effective leadership as she served as Interest Group Chair and developed guidelines for using the Branch Zoom account.
<b>Jackie Hardee</b>	Jackie served as Assistant Treasurer and then Treasurer and generously volunteered to stay on until a replacement was named.
<b>Janani Janakiraman</b>	Janani worked almost entirely behind the scenes sharing her time and talent to keep the Branch website updated.
<b>Shirlene Justice</b>	Shirlene took on the role of Newsletter Editor and brought the Branch into the technology world of the 21st century.
<b>Anita Knight</b>	Anita always provides leadership in large groups and small projects while serving as liaison in the larger community.
<b>Gayle Kanies</b>	Gayle served as Membership Co-Vice President. She did an excellent job preparing for the virtual summer social.

<b>Marsha Endahl Kramer</b>	Marsha has done an excellent job serving as art tour leader for several years and promotes AAUW enthusiastically wherever she goes.
<b>Elaine Penn</b>	Elaine served as chair of the Nominating Committee – a very difficult job – and accepted the Secretary position for the coming year.
<b>Joyce Pulich</b>	Joyce is past Branch President who chairs the Funds team and UT Fellowship team.
<b>Pat Rehm</b>	Pat is a dual member (Georgetown Branch) who fosters communication between the branches.
<b>Judy Reinhart</b>	Judy is one of the most loyal and hardworking members in the Branch and can always be counted on for specific jobs.
<b>Jan Rooker</b>	Jan provides creativity and expertise in serving on the Funds team and is dedicated to the Branch.
<b>Mary Ellen Scribner</b>	Mary Ellen is the thoughtful and generous copy editor for the newsletter who contributes to its success.
<b>Brooke Shannon</b>	Brooke stepped up to chair the Public Policy Committee, discerning information and giving support to the sub committees, enabling them to make good progress. She did this while working on her Ph.D.
<b>Marian Wernicke</b>	Marian agreed to stay on an extra year as Secretary – a job many are happy to leave to others. She produced excellent minutes.
<b>Linda Welsh</b>	Linda provides continued leadership both in large and small projects and is chairing the Mainspring Schools committee.
<b>Cathy Werner</b>	As a new member, Cathy served as Historian and has agreed to serve as Treasurer in the coming year. She made the December virtual auction a success.
<b>Pam Wolfe</b>	Pam has provided members with a readable and creative yearbook while working on governance, the website, Drop Box policies and other areas.

## Membership DUES are (Past) DUE

Your AAUW membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. So, if you haven't paid your 2021-2022 dues yet, it's past time to do so.

To be included in this year's Yearbook, please renew now. If you'd prefer to pay by credit or debit card, please send an email to [aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net](mailto:aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net) requesting an invoice and you'll receive your personal AAUW renewal invoice and direct payment link.

If you have any change of information to be included in the Yearbook or prefer to pay by check, please use the Renewal Form and mail with your check to:

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

Any questions, give Ruth a call at (678) 764-8898.

Your Co-Membership VPs

**Milli Stecker and Ruth Subramanian**

[Download Membership Form Here](#)

## Branch Member in the News

Branch member and former Branch President, Kay Goodwin, along with other residents of Westminster Retirement Center, were featured on a segment of the Today Show. Here is the story that aired back in April. Enjoy! To watch the clip, click [WATCH VIDEO](#).

## Great Job Austin Branch!

Pat yourselves on the back. The Austin Branch raised more funds for AAUW in 2020 than any other branch in Texas. We even outraised Dallas!

This achievement is a reflection of your commitment to the AAUW mission, your energy, enthusiasm and talent.

Thank you to the Funds committee for heading up our fundraising efforts. It would not have happened without their leadership.

See the tallies provided by AAUW Texas. Click on the document to enlarge.

AAUW Texas Branch and State Contributions	
1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020	
Top Ten Branches in Total Contributions	
Austin	\$ 12,394.60
West Harris County	9,948.00
Tyler	7,947.00
Northwest Tarrant County	7,665.35
North Harris County	5,465.00
San Antonio Inc.	5,337.00
Richardson	4,371.58
Tarrant County	4,296.00
Lubbock	1,609.00
Dallas	1,351.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,992.53</b>
AAUW Texas	7,400.00
<b>Total contributions from all Texas Branches</b>	
<b>\$98,005.53</b>	

# Meet Our New Members

## **Janet Tilden**

Janet is a veteran English teacher of 35+ years of high school and middle school from Wisconsin, Las Vegas, Montana, and Oklahoma. She moved from the arid lands of Las Vegas to Austin to be near her daughter and to enjoy the beauty of the hill country landscape. Janet loves home decorating, sewing, knitting, crocheting, jewelry making, listening to audiobooks and hanging out with her BFF, Grizz Lee, a soft-coated Wheaten Terrier. She is looking forward to meeting other Branch members.

## **Nancy Ennis**

Nancy earned a BS from Penn State in Accounting and has worked as a Certified Public Accountant. She moved to Austin from Houston to be closer to her daughter. Since moving here in December 2020, Nancy has enjoyed meeting several of the Austin Branch members in the hiking and a book club interest groups. She is looking forward to meeting more members and getting involved in other activities.

## **Sheryl Beirne**

Sheryl been a member of AAUW since 1976. She moved to Austin from Redmond, Washington, a year ago to help her daughter with child care during COVID. Sheryl was having so much fun with her two granddaughters that she decided to stay in Austin. She recently bought a home in Pflugerville. Before retiring, Sheryl served as a teacher, conference planner and Executive Director for a small professional society. She has volunteered as a docent at the San Francisco MOMA, the California Historical Society Whittier mansion and the Bellevue Art Museum. Sheryl loves yoga, traveling, food and wine, reading, crossword puzzles and visiting the Falcon Pointe Splash Park with her granddaughter. She is hoping to split her time between Austin and Redmond (where she has lived since 1985). Sheryl looks forward to making new friends and sharing some fun times!

## **Barbara Lighthouse**

Barbara was born and reared in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from the University of Oregon. She moved to Texas in 1985. Her careers include working as a pre-sentence investigator for the criminal justice system, managing volunteer programs at several non-profit organizations and serving as a union organizer and trainer for the American Federation of Teachers. After being involved in a serious car accident, she retired in 2014. Barbara's husband died three years ago after 20 years together. She spends her time reading, working out, walking and being with friends.



# 2021 – 22 Interest Groups



## Art Tours:

Art lovers tour studios, exhibitions and artists' homes to experience the wide variety of art being created in our community.

When: Fourth Wednesday unless noted with \*  
Contact: Marsha Endahl Kramer, [MEKSpirit66@gmail.com](mailto:MEKSpirit66@gmail.com), (512) 906-6566



## Bridge Groups:

Enjoy a good game of bridge with experienced and novice players.

### Group A

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

### Group B

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.  
Contact: Lynn Cooksey, [lcooksey@austin.rr.com](mailto:lcooksey@austin.rr.com), 512-477-2774

### Group C

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



## Central Book Club:

The Central Book Club meets monthly to discuss books that are of interest to the club members.

When: Second Monday, 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: Mary Lou Bell, [maryloubell@gmail.com](mailto:maryloubell@gmail.com), (512) 940-6480



## Contemporary Literature:

Contemporary Literature meets in the evenings to discuss a balanced selection of recent fiction, general nonfiction, and memoir/biography chosen annually by popular vote.

When: First Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, [maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com), (512) 698-5539



### **Creative Stitchery:**

Creative Stitchery meets monthly in members' homes to work on various stitchery projects. Some of the stitchery projects may include well known skills like quilting, counted cross stitch, and weaving.

When: Third Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Beverly Locklin, [blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com), (512) 633-2902



### **Culture and Cuisine:**

Culture and Cuisine meets monthly in members' homes to learn about different cultures and experience their gastronomical delights.

When: Third Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Shirlene Justice, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com), (512) 507-1003



### **Friday Book Review:**

Friday Book Review is made up of retired, semi-retired and women still employed, all educated and who love reading books and talking about the ones they liked best.

When: First Friday, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Judy Reinhart: [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net), (512) 345-5936



### **Hiking Group:**

Hikes are twice a month on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday mornings. Times vary depending on the location and weather. Look for an EVITE about 2 weeks before the hike to get details.

When: Thursday, Friday, or Saturday mornings, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Roberta Coffin, [rwc@scriptacommunicates.com](mailto:rwc@scriptacommunicates.com), (714) 679-8697



### **Mystery Book Club:**

Mystery Book Club reads a different mystery-themed book each month. The group learns about "new to me" authors and focuses on a different theme each month.

When: Fourth Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.

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



### **Out-to-Lunch:**

Out-to-Lunch meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday. Join the group and enjoy lunch at a nice restaurant and lively conversation.

When: Third Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512) 970-5051



### **Pears:**

Members and their significant others meet monthly to participate in diverse activities while enjoying each other's company and Austin's vibrant culture.

When: Varies  
Contact: Milli Stecker: [milli1251@gmail.com](mailto:milli1251@gmail.com), (512) 512-468-1088



### **Southwest Book Club:**

The Southwest Book Club reads an assortment of biographies/memoirs, fiction and non-fiction nominated and voted by members.

When: Second Monday, 10:00 a.m., may vary  
Contact: Sharon Babot, [sharonbabot@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbabot@gmail.com), (707) 373-1317



### **STEM:**

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

When: TBD  
Contact: Nancy Andren, [texasnancy@austin.rr.com](mailto:texasnancy@austin.rr.com), (909)709-7616



### **Wine Tasters:**

Wine Tasters' enjoy themed tastings with a wine educator; to guide, engage and expand attendees' knowledge.

When: Varies  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com), (512) 970-5051



# Announcing a New Interest Group!



The Branch is trying a new approach to STEM this year. We are forming a new STEM interest group. Come to the Summer Social, August 15<sup>th</sup>, to learn more about the group and where we hope to go with it this year.

So far, we have the following suggestions:

- Help train those members who may be struggling with technology. To do this we need to know what you know and are willing to share with others, either on a one-to-one basis or in a larger arena.
- Compile a list of all STEM projects/organizations in the Austin area and publicize via schools, social media and/or a feature article.
- Learn the STEM skills that our children and grandchildren are or are not mastering.
- Provide our members with volunteer opportunities in STEM organizations.
- Compile a list of online newsletters to which to subscribe.

These are just some of the exciting things we would like to do this year. If you have additional interests or want to come and help us achieve greater awareness and visibility in the community of STEM, please contact **Nancy Andren** at [texasnancy@austin.rr.com](mailto:texasnancy@austin.rr.com). Please come join us.

## News from Girlstart



**Tamara Hudgins** has left Girlstart as their Executive Director to serve at a private foundation in Georgetown, effective June 30, 2021. She has been at the helm of Girlstart for 12 years and helped develop it into the international organization that it is today. We want to wish her well in her future endeavors and thank her for the many years of service to STEM in the Austin area and beyond.

*"If we all start listening and helping,  
then surely, together, we can make the  
world a better place for all living  
things. Can't we?"*

- Jane Goodall -

# Mainspring Schools

**80 Years Serving Austin's Children and Families: A Milestone**



Your Mainspring Schools Advocacy Committee is busily planning an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to honor AAUW Austin's establishment of this Austin institution that has been serving young children and families for 80 years. We will celebrate this important milestone at our October program meeting.

To celebrate, please consider hosting a virtual fundraiser or bringing a gift to our October meeting. Mainspring Schools keeps an updated list of school needs on their Amazon wish list: [Amazon Wishlist for Mainspring](#). On the left side you will find areas of need listed – everything from art supplies and books to family pantry supplies. There is no need to purchase items from Amazon; the school uses this as an easy way to maintain a wish list.

If you are inspired to create a virtual fundraiser, check out this webpage for details: [80 Celebrations for 80 Years](#). This page offers some clever ideas for fundraisers and gives an update on progress toward Mainspring's \$200,000 fundraising goal. Please keep our committee informed if you are doing a fundraiser, so we can support your efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda Welsh**, [lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)

AAUW Austin Mainspring Schools Advocacy Chair

## Support the Georgetown Branch!

### AAUW Georgetown - 6th Annual Duck Race

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

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

Tickets go on sale in early August. For more information send an email to [georgetown.aauw.duck.race@gmail.com](mailto:georgetown.aauw.duck.race@gmail.com).



# Adult Enrichment Opportunities



**Senior University** offers a diverse program of classes, lectures, travel activities, and learning opportunities for persons over 50 years of age in and around Georgetown, Texas.



**SENIOR UNIVERSITY**  
GEORGETOWN

Many of these programs are being offered “remotely” through Zoom. These programs require no examinations and generate no academic credit. Membership in Senior University is required to participate in any of these programs, except the public lectures program.

On demand classes offered this year may include:

- Ranches and Railroads
- Modern Artists
- Worldwide Travel
- Bach
- What You Didn't Learn in Kindergarten
- Leading in Times of Significant Change
- The Industrial and Information Age
- Landscaping

For more information about courses, registration and fees, click [Senior University](https://senioruniv.org/) or visit the Senior University website at <https://senioruniv.org/>.

## **The University of Texas at Austin Osher**

**Lifelong Learning Institute (UT OLLI)** is where curious adults 50 and "better" can enjoy classes in a relaxed community of friends, among leading scholars and experts, who share a fascination with exploring new areas of knowledge and traditional disciplines.



**TEXAS**  
The University of Texas at Austin



UT OLLI is comprised of five programs to accommodate any busy schedule: **SAGE** (Mondays), **NOVA** (Wednesdays), **FORUM** (Fridays), **QUEST** (Tuesday & Thursdays) and the oldest **LAMP** (Learning Activities for Mature People on Tuesdays & Thursdays). As a **SCHOLARS** member you are able to explore and participate in all five programs at your discretion. You are able to determine which days of the week work for you.

Each program boasts curriculum offerings that are academic in nature and cover an extensive range of subject areas including: fine arts, science and technology, history, business, public and lifestyle. Programs include lectures and 6-week seminars.

For more information about courses, registration and fees, you may visit the UT OLLI website at <https://olli.utexas.edu/>.

# **In Memoriam**

## **Barbara Houston**

**May 6, 1945 – May 30, 2021**



Barbara Ann Houston, a long-time AAUW Austin Branch member died on May 30, 2021, in Austin, Texas, surrounded by her sons and daughters-in-law.

She was born in San Antonio and grew up in California and New Mexico, graduating from Sandia High School, in Albuquerque. She received her degree in Applied Arts-Interior Design from Texas Tech University and thereafter lived in Llano, Texas for many years, raising her three sons, Alan, Richard and Thomas Houston. An accomplished artist, she was skilled in pottery and painting and was an early member of the Llano Fine Arts Guild. She was involved in many other Llano organizations, including the Junior Women's Culture Club, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and school parent-teacher organizations. She later moved to Austin and expanded her love of interior design into a career as a successful realtor.

Her faith was of paramount importance – she had a deep relationship with God and was very active in her church. Her most treasured role, however, was being mom to her children and “grandmommy” to her beloved grandchildren, Braden, Micaela, Elise, Coralie, August and Dylan. She had many friends and family who were graced with her love and sense of humor, including her daughters-in-law, Heidi (Alan) and Danica (Thomas), Heather (Richard's fiancée), her four siblings, Carolyn, Richard, Joan and Stephen, and her many nieces and nephews. Her warmth and generosity will be remembered by all and her love and kindness will be with us forever.

The family plans a small, private service. If desired, donations may be made in her memory to Oxfam International (<https://www.oxfamgifts.com/gifts/donate-in-someones-memory/>) or Christopher House hospice, in Austin. (<https://www.hospiceaustin.org/get-involved/donate/donation-form/>).

