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Items for April Newsletter
DUE March 24, 2021

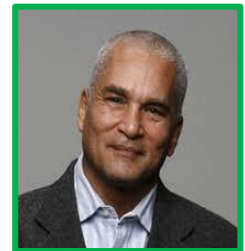
AAUW Austin March Branch Meeting

When: Saturday March 13, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: "Racial Geography at the University of Texas at Austin"

Speaker: Edmund T. Gordon, Ph.D.



Edmund T. Gordon is Vice Provost for Diversity and Founding Chair Emeritus of the African and African Diaspora Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Gordon's teaching and research interests include: culture and power in the African Diaspora, gender studies (particularly Black males), critical race theory, race education, and the racial economy of space and resources. His publications include *Disparate Diasporas: Identity and Politics in an African-Nicaraguan Community* (UT Press, 1998). Dr. Gordon received his Doctorate in Social Anthropology from Stanford University, his Master of Arts from Stanford University in Anthropology, and a Master's degree in Marine Sciences from the University of Miami.

Since his arrival on The University of Texas campus, Dr. Gordon has studied how the architecture and landscaping of the university reflect its history. In this case, a history of racism, patriarchy, and the "lost cause." Dr. Gordon began speaking on this topic as part of a Black History Month student event and it has grown to include a regularly featured campus tour, now with a web version. A vital part of this presentation is a reminder of the cultural significance of names, images, and places, and a reminder of the messages communicated by public symbols.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Again this month, I want to start by thanking our dedicated volunteers for all of their work in support of the Austin Branch. Some of these volunteers have what is essentially a part-time job as an AAUW volunteer. Thank you!

If your own level of volunteer activity is below where you'd like it to be (or, if you can stretch a bit), please consider a currently available opportunity. Brooke Shannon, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, needs a committee co-chair. This important group has active members and big plans; leadership help would be a great asset for advancing these plans. Please contact Brooke to volunteer, brooke.shannon224@gmail.com.

Earlier this year, I wrote about AAUW leaders asking us to re-consider the requirement that members have a college degree. We are coming up to the vote on the requirement and I encourage you to consider the matter before voting.

Many of you know that over the past many years, AAUW leaders have regularly asked us to eliminate the college degree requirement. Making it clear that this is my opinion — it has seemed that AAUW administrators were out of touch with members and branches, imagining that we had a stream of potential members without degrees. This always seemed to be an unsupported hope for new revenue.

Now, there is a change. AAUW leaders — including not just administrators but also member leaders — have presented a reason for changing. That is, if we are truly a group working for equity, then we need to welcome as members all who support the causes that we back. Likewise, we should recognize unequal access to higher education that can lead to an individual lacking a college degree.

Austin Branch members have shared thoughtful comments with me. For some, the degree requirement is part of our organizational heritage — if we don't have the requirement, what sets us apart from other similar groups? But, for those used to working with job descriptions, it is an easy call. The skills for this job do not require licensing; it is a matter of who is willing and able to do the work.

In the past, this was easy for many of us; now it shouldn't be. Please think about the issues and be an informed voter.

Thank you for your dedication to AAUW!

Larayne J. Dallas,
Co-President, Austin Branch AAUW
ldallas@austin.utexas.edu



February Meeting Recap

At the February Branch Meeting, held over Zoom, our guest speaker was Elizabeth M. Korves, Fellowship Program Administrator in the Graduate School at the University of Texas at Austin. As part of her duties, Elizabeth helps facilitate the AAUW Austin Branch Fellowships.

In her presentation, Elizabeth described various types and levels of fellowships. She noted the value of fellowships in helping to ensure the success of graduate students, and cited recognition within the university about the importance of providing this support. When asked about the source of money allowing for an increase of 60% in fellowship funding over the past few years, Elizabeth credited the Office of the Provost for recognizing the importance of fellowship support and in adding to the available funding.

Elizabeth included her experience in witnessing the joy of students who had received particularly meaningful fellowships. For example, a fellowship is intended to ease the recipient's financial path, but for a student who is also a parent, it is a special blessing.

As we know, AAUW fellowships are typically created for a certain type of recipient. That is, the fellow is intended to be in a certain field, of a specific demographic, or at a required stage of progress towards completion of a degree. We also know that AAUW fellowship recipients have shown accomplishment in their past work and show promise for future achievement.

In the business portion of the meeting, members were reminded to make Named Gift nominations by April 1. **Joyce Pulich**, Funds Chair, described up-coming Funds activities. Co-President **Evelyn Farmer** coordinated updates on Goals and from the Nominating Committee. **Nancy Andren** noted volunteer opportunities for those interested in helping with STEM activities. **Brooke Shannon**, Chair of the Public Policy, spoke of the many important issues of interest to members of the committee, and asked for a volunteer to serve with her as committee Co-Chair.

Lastly, though it was at the start of the meeting: Attendees participated in an activity in celebration of Black History Month and had the opportunity to sing along with a recording of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Report prepared by Larayne Dallas, ldallas@austin.utexas.edu

Lift Every Voice and Sing – often called “The Black National Anthem” – was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and then set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) in 1899. It was first performed in public in the Johnsons’ hometown of Jacksonville, Florida as part of a celebration of Lincoln’s Birthday on February 12, 1900 by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal. (Scroll for more about Johnson below.)

Source: <https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-lift-evry-voice-and-sing/>



AAUW Austin Member Spotlight

Brooke Shannon



It is 1992 and the elementary school has a mock election between presidential candidates, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush. The principal, Dixie Jackson, gets up at the assembly to announce the mock election results, a certain number for Clinton and a certain number for Bush. She then says there was one vote in the entire school for Ross Perot. A kindergartener stands up and says, "I didn't vote for Ross Perot, I voted for 'Other'!" Why? Her mother had told her people were just voting for white Christian men and the kindergartener didn't think that was fair. So, she decided to vote for "Other," which was to her a non-white, non-Christian woman! Thus began **Brooke Shannon's** journey into political activism, local government, and public policy.

Brooke was born in Houston but grew up in Denver, Colorado, when her dad traded hydraulic work on ships for hydraulic work on trains. As a young child, her interest in politics and history included an obsession with Abraham Lincoln. Her racial justice fire was lit attending protests with her parents. By age 13, she attended a vigil on her own protesting the Afghanistan War. A self-described "nerd" in high school, she was copy editor of the yearbook and also worked on the school newspaper.

Brooke's grandpa told her to "get all the knowledge that you can" so she took a multitude of courses that interested her at university, culminating with a BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado. She then moved to Memphis after being accepted into "Teaching Fellows," a program where she earned a teaching certificate. She taught Spanish in a lower socio-economic school of racially diverse students, many who were from refugee families.

Wanting to further her education, she enrolled in the University of Memphis where she earned a Master's Degree in Political Science while working as a graduate assistant. Her thesis was on Institutional Reforms at the Local Level and included surveys of opinions on civilian review boards. In addition to the usual jobs of grading papers and keeping office hours, she loved creating lessons and teaching classes in constitutional law. Currently, Brooke is finishing up her PhD in Government at the University of Texas at Austin. Her focus is on policy agenda of local urban government. Her goal is to become a professor and even more, a mentor to her students as they study American politics and public policy at the local level.

All throughout her studies and teaching, Brooke has been involved in community organizing and racial justice. She became a member of AAUW in 2017, encouraged to join by a friend in Indiana who was an AAUW member. She identifies with the mission of AAUW, especially the social justice work. She is chair of the Branch's Public Policy committee that not only advocates, but also build coalitions with other local groups. Other organizations she is involved with include [Mid-South Peace and Justice Center](#), [JOLT Action](#) and [Women in Political Science](#) (UT).

Brooke is obsessed with local government and public policy, vegan food and due to COVID, hour-long daily walks. She also has two precious cats (seen above), Millie and Willie who are brothers! (Ask her about Millie's non-masculine name.) Brook encourages women to join AAUW because she loves its mission, its opportunities for leadership, and the inclusivity of the Branch. Brooke says that AAUW membership has been a fulfilling experience for her.

Spotlight prepared by Pam Watson, pwatson1925@gmail.com

Policy Update

The Branch Public Policy group met in February to discuss the Texas Legislative season, and how we could advocate for AAUW's policy goals. Members split into interest areas to learn more about the movers and shakers in the legislature, bills, committees, and other organizations in town that we can work with and from whom we can learn. The important issues that AAUW Austin will focus on are:

- Paid Sick Days
- Family Leave
- Redistricting
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Child Care
- Broadband Access
- Pay Equity

If you are interested in learning more about one or more of the identified policy issues, let us know! Contact **Brooke Shannon** to get activated.

January was Sex Trafficking Awareness month, and the Human Trafficking team lead by **Marsha Endahl Kramer** really kicked it into high gear! Copies of the flyer Marsha designed and the poster from the Texas Department of Licensing Bureau were sent to 185 Branch members to be distributed and posted in public places like nail salons, public bathrooms, and cafes. The goal was to educate members about the issue, spark conversations, and encourage members to check whether or not places like nail salons were in compliance with displaying the information.

Lastly, the group needs a co-chair! Email Brooke if you're interested in stepping up for a leadership role in the policy group!

Report prepared by Brooke Shannon, Policy Committee Chair, brooke.shannon224@gmail.com.

AAUW Georgetown Branch March Meeting

Topic: Update on Scholarships
Speaker: Alexis McCammon, 2018 Scholarship Recipient
When: Monday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Zoom
To RSVP: Contact Terry Whaley, whaleyterry@gmail.com

“Join Now” Bonus Time Coming Soon

In just a few weeks, AAUW is opening up memberships for the next (2021-2022) fiscal year. That means anyone joining after March 17 enjoys up to three and a half (3 ½) extra months.

And, to provide further savings, both the March and April membership meetings will be **Shape the Future** events. That way, guests who decide to become members within the week following either meeting can, upon request, receive half off of their National dues, bringing the entire total to just \$54!

To take advantage of this amazing discount, those of you who are interested just need to contact either of the Membership Co-VPs, Gayle Kanies or Roberta Coffin, and they will provide you with either a custom link to pay by credit card online or a PDF with directions on where to send a check.

Please reach out to your neighbors, friends, co-workers, family members or anyone that you know. This is a great opportunity to support our branch and our AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

And, by joining now, new members can immediately get involved in all of AAUW Austin’s public policy, STEM and interest group activities. They can even help with planning for next year.

Anyone who has questions, just reach out via email to aauw-atxmembership@aauw.net or give Gayle or Roberta a call.

Roberta Coffin
rcw@scriptacommunicates.com
(714) 679-8697

Gayle Kanies
gayle.kanies@gmail.com
(512) 587-7747

Equal Pay Day – March 24, 2021

The Equal Pay Today Campaign is an innovative collaboration of national and state-based legal advocacy, worker justice organizations, and social justice organizations that fight to close the gender wage gap that persists in nearly every industry and profession across the country, through strategies involving policy reform, litigation, and education and outreach. For more information about Equal Pay Today, visit the Equal Pay Today Campaign website by clicking the Equal Pay Today Campaign logo.



College Leadership Scholarships

Many of you have probably heard mention of a strange acronym – NCCWSL. It stands for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Seeing the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women, this undertaking was initiated nearly 40 years ago. Since that time, it has become a life-changing event that has impacted hundreds upon hundreds, if not thousands, of attendees.

During the conference, participants have the opportunity to build their leadership skills across five core learning objectives:

- Leadership Development: Develop and strengthen a voice, skill set, and mind-set for leadership
- Professional Development: Build a professional tool kit for postgraduate life
- Activism: Learn how, why, and when to take action and be a change maker
- Women's Issues: Gain a better understanding of local, national, and global issues and policies affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women
- Identity and Diversity: Own their personal identities and roles in increasing and supporting diverse voices

Slated for May 25 - 26, this year's conference is going to be held virtually rather than in-person, and AAUW Austin is planning to fund four (4) attendees.

There will be a short application and remote interview process. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. These do not necessarily need to be individuals already involved in student leadership. The goal is to guide and inspire.

Please get the word out to anyone you know who might be interested in attending or who has connections with students of our greater Austin area institutions of higher learning.

More information will soon be available on our AAUW Austin website. In the meantime, contact Roberta Coffin at ruc@scriptacommunicates.com or (714) 679-8697.

Spring Fundraising Events

The fundraising team is working on three fundraising events for the coming months.

Event	When	Where	Person Responsible
See's Candy Sale	Late March or Early April	12 Fox Brewery, Dripping Springs	Sharon Babot
Kendra Scott Jewelry Sale	Before Mother's Day on May 9	Virtual	Jan Rooker
Cooking Class with Chef Alex (appetizers and cocktails)	Sunday, June 13, 4–5:30 p.m.	Virtual	Brenda Hahne, Jan Rooker

More information and details about all planned events will be in the April newsletter.

March Interest Groups

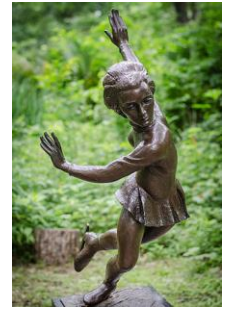
Bridge Groups, Pears, Wine Tasters

No March Meeting

Art Tours

When: Wednesday March 24, 10:00 a.m.
Where: UMLAUF Outdoor Sculpture Garden, 605 Azie Morton Rd.
What: Enjoy an independent stroll around the sculpture garden.

Lunch: Lunch is on your own. Click [RESTAURANTS](#) to see a list of eateries located near the garden.
Planner: Shirlene Justice
To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKspirit66@gmail.com or text (512) 906-6566



The UMLAUF Sculpture Garden contains 58 sculptures by Charles Umlauf. Umlauf's sculptures range from haunting expressionism, to detailed neoclassical realism, to lyrical abstraction. There is plenty of free parking and masks are required. Tickets may be purchased at the garden or online (\$7-adults, \$5-seniors), <https://www.umlaufsculpture.org/>.

Contemporary Literature

When: Monday March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith*
Author: Timothy Egan
Leader: Beverly Locklin
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com

Central Book Club

When: Monday March 8, 10:30 a.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *Paris by the Book*
Author: Liam Callanan
Facilitator: Maggie Kadlecek
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com



Creative Stitchery

When: Wednesday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Zoom
Project: TBD
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com



Culture and Cuisine

When: Thursday March 18, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Theme: Passover
Hosts: Pam Watson and Cindy Darilek
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com



First Friday Book Club

When: Friday March 5, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd and Avenue B.
Book: *Caste*
Author: Isabella Wilkerson
Reviewer: Delia Quintanilla
Host: Judy Reinhart
To RSVP: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net, 512-345-5936

Hiking Group

	<u>Hike 1</u>	<u>Hike 2</u>
When:	Tuesday March 9, 10:00 a.m.	Thursday March 18, 10:00 a.m.
Where:	North Loop Trail at McKinney Roughs Nature Park	Discovery Well Cave Preserve 1 5000 Anderson Mill Road, Cedar Park
Meeting Location:	Pope Bend Trailhead off of Pope Bend Road	Ranch at Cypress Creek Park (Rachel Ridge & Del Roy Dr.)
Leader:	Linda Welsh	Cathy Werner
To RSVP:	Linda Welsh, lawelsh@gmail.com	Linda Welsh, lawelsh@gmail.com , Cathy Werner, cathy.werner3586@gmail.com

Mystery Book Club

When: Tuesday March 23, 11:00 a.m.
Where: Zoom
Topic: Texas Mysteries (setting or author)
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com



Southwest Book Club

When: Monday March 8, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Where: Zoom
Book: *With a Daughter's Eye: A Memoir of Mead and Batesman*, 318 pages
Author: Catherine Batesman
Facilitator: Marsha Endahl Kramer
Host: Marsha Endahl Kramer
To RSVP: Please respond to the emailed invitation and SAVE it to your calendar.

Enrichment Opportunities

International Women's Day Film Festival

March 8, 2021 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

INSPIRING GLOBAL CHANGE THROUGH WOMEN'S STORIES



Click the picture above to register.

Tune in to ConnectHER's 1st Annual International Women's Day Event. You won't want to miss this exciting program featuring film, guest speakers and calls for social change through powerful storytelling!

- Watch short films by young filmmakers from our [ConnectHER Film Festival](#), an annual international competition and scholarship program that amplifies the voices of women and girls.
- View the first ever [PitchFest](#), where participants compete for a chance to make a ConnectHER-commissioned film!
- Get inspired by special guest speakers to become a powerful advocate for women and girls around the world.
- Live music from Austin's own [Ley Line](#)!

AAUW Equity Network

In Conversation with Dr. Shanna Benjamin:
"Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay"



Thursday, March 4th 5:00 PM ET

Description: Join the AAUW Equity Network for an informative and engaging conversation with AAUW fellowship alumna Shanna Benjamin, Ph.D, Educator and Scholar, to discuss her upcoming book, *Half in Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay*, which will be published in April. Dr. Benjamin is a biographer and scholar who studies the literature, lives, and archives of Black women. She has published scholarly works on African American literature and Black women's intellectual history in *African American Review*, *MELUS*, *a/b: Auto/Biography*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and *PMLA*.

To learn more about Dr. Benjamin and to register: Click [REGISTER HERE](#).



Secure Attachment in Children: How AAUW Austin is Helping Mainspring Schools Children and Families

Developing a secure attachment in young children in which the parent is a safe support for exploration provides a strong foundation for later success. That is why the AAUW Austin Board of Directors enthusiastically supported a request from Mainspring Schools to fund training for Mainspring's Family Services Director, Colleen Turner. The training is focused on helping parents and teachers to nurture secure attachments in children.

Secure attachment is one of four attachment styles that all infants develop, and it is the gold standard. An attachment style is the foundation of how the infant and later child interacts with the world. As the child grows into an adult, their attachment style is often passed down to the next generation. If unhealthy or insecure attachment styles are developed, this is the attachment style passed to the next generation unless there is intervention.

Circle of Security International (COSI) has developed a training that helps parents to not only learn the attachment types of their children and the appropriate and attuned responses, but also helps to correct their own insecure attachment if present. COSI focuses on viewing children's behavior as a bid for an unmet physical or emotional need. Parents learn to view all behaviors along the "circle" continuum. Children go out and seek exploration and age appropriate risk-taking, but always come back around the circle to the parent seeking assurance, encouragement, and soothing. Parents learn to view these behaviors as developmentally appropriate and meet those needs in a way that fosters a connected relationship, encouraging a secure attachment.

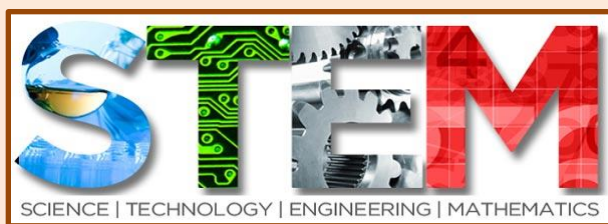
Funding from AAUW Austin will allow the Family Services Director to attend the 12-week online course from COSI (<https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/>). The training will give the Family Services Director tools and guidelines to help parents understand their children's behavior: Is their behavior a bid for developmentally appropriate exploration and independence (and what is developmentally appropriate) or is it a bid for comfort or security?

The training also helps parents examine their own upbringing and its influence on how we see children's behavior as something other than a need (trying to get back at parent, mad at parent, etc.). This training will be used for work with parents and also with the teachers to help both groups better understand the goals behind children's behaviors and ways to respond.

AAUW Austin can be proud to support the development of the next generation of Austinites!

Report prepared by Linda Welsh, lawelsh@gmail.com





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

Members volunteered from home for a total of 12 hours for Girlstart in January.

Latinitas

Club Latinitas second semester has begun online. This is their after-school program for girls ages 9-14.

Their latest Code Chica program runs from January 16 - March 6 on Saturdays, virtually. This program is for girls in the 8-12th grades.

Girlstart

Girlstart continues to provide their Starry Nights program online on Thursday nights as well as other virtual STEM programs.

If you want to help them out, you can deliver kits for their after-school program to the girls' homes. A background check is required for this hands-free activity. Go to their webpage girlstart.org for more information and the form to sign up.

The girls at Girlstart sent us a thank you note to show their gratitude. Here is a copy.



Other STEM opportunities

Girl Day at UT Austin is February 20 through March 1. This is a combination of their Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and the Girl's Day STEM festival. The event is virtual and free to any student in K-8th grades with an adult chaperone. Registration is required and an adult must be online with the child to participate. High School programming is also available. Go to <https://girlday.utexas.edu/highschool> for information on these programs and to <https://girlday.utexas.edu/filmscreenings> for a complete schedule of film screenings.

Report Prepared by Nancy Audren, texasnancy@austin.rr.com