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Items for December Newsletter

DUE November 16 2022

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

November Membership Meeting

featuring

Thais Perkins

CEO, Reverie Books



*Creating Safe "Third Places" for Young People:
Open Hearts and Open Minds., Reverie Books is the Place*

When: Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Balcones Country Club, [8600 Balcones Club Dr.](#)

Cost: \$30.00

Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com

Thais Perkins, M.S. has been an academic researcher, environmental regulator, traveling songwriter, nonprofit executive and educator, and now is the creator and owner of Reverie Books in Austin. Raised in rural Louisiana, her life story represents a personal journey of resisting the biases of the Deep South and finding purpose in education and community support of young people, most recently through the establishment of an independent bookstore. Drawing on her experience as a singer/songwriter, activist, environmentalist and mother, Thais shares her story of creating a bookstore that seeks to build community and create a safe space where everyone can feel welcome.

The meal will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal consisting of roasted turkey with all the trimmings and sides, plus dessert. A vegetarian option may be requested in your RSVP. A beverage only option is also available for \$5. Payment in cash or by check is acceptable.

Deadline to RSVP is November 3, 6:00 p.m. Please keep in mind that the costs for the venue include more than food and drink and is based on the number of respondents. If you RSVP "yes" and do not attend, you will still be charged \$30.00. Indicate on the RSVP if you are bringing a guest. Please call **Jackie Hardee** at 512-983-2688 or **Brenda Hahne** at 832-233-4254 if you have questions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Birthday AAUW Austin! On November 15th, we will hit the 99-year mark! What a testament to the vision of our early leaders that we are still thriving as an organization after so many years. But it is the behind the scenes work of our dedicated, hard-working board members who ensure our branch continues to thrive. My love and gratitude go out to each of them for being the remarkable people they are and sharing this journey with me.



Our October meeting was a delightful gathering at the Unity Church of Austin. AAUW, Jorge Babot, the wonderful husband of member extraordinaire **Sharon Babot** shared his personal story of his life in Cuba and the Pedro (Peter) Pan Airlift from Cuba which brought him and his brother and thousands of other young Cubans to the US. Such an intriguing opportunity to hear from someone who experienced this historic event.

November is a critical time in our democracy as Election Day approaches on November 8th. Our biggest responsibility as citizens is to vote. Educate ourselves about the issues and candidates and VOTE! Reach out to friends and family to make plans to vote — either by mail, through early voting, or on Election Day. Jim and I have our mail-in ballots and plan to use the League of Women Voter's 411 website as one education tool: <https://www.vote411.org/>

Many thanks to our members who are active participants in the vote supporting process — serving as Deputy Voter Registrars, poll watchers, poll workers or working in other ways to get out the vote. Our AAUW State President **Mary Smith** reminds us that AAUW is non-partisan. When working for a particular candidate, remember that you are acting as an individual and not as a representative of AAUW. Please vote!

As always, feel free to contact me at lawelsh@gmail.com. I welcome your suggestions and ideas.

In sisterhood,

Linda A. Welsh, Ph. D.



Mark Your Calendars for the Winter Social



The Past Presidents invite you to attend the Austin Branch's 2021 Winter Social.

When: Sunday, December 11

Where: St. Francis Anglican Church
3401 Oak Creek Drive

More details will be in the December newsletter and an Evite that will be emailed to you.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

This month's public policy update is almost entirely borrowed from EARTHDAY.ORG and is accompanied by the beautiful nature-oriented photos by **Cathy Werner**. Cathy is our committee's point person for climate change, and for our last meeting she shared a link to some good information from the Sierra Club about a variety of environmental/climate-related issues we can follow and support: [Campaigns | Help Wildlife, Protect the Environment, Support Nature Conservation, Save the Planet \(sierraclub.org\)](#). I bet you can find a couple of actions that you want to support! Some are Texas specific!



Per [EARTHDAY.ORG](#), here are five common excuses many people make to not vote on Election Day. How can we respond to them? With many candidates this year running on themes of sustainability and environmental issues, making sure as many people get out there and vote will influence the policy decisions made for decades to come.

1. "My district is deep red/blue: my vote won't matter!"
2. "None of the candidates interest me!"
3. "I'm busy that day, I won't have time to go to the polls!"
4. "The system is rigged against me, it's flawed to its core!"
5. "I'm just one person, I can't influence anything on my own!"



EARTHDAY.ORG's campaign [Vote Earth](#) goes far beyond the process of actually voting. The fight against climate change is just as much a shift in culture as it is a shift in the policies that enable action. Talking to your friends and family about the truths about climate change [no matter how challenging that may be](#) is vital to maintaining an informed and motivated voting population. There is no other issue a candidate can run on that is as fundamental to the long-term habitability of our planet. Even though one vote on its own can hardly affect the outcome of an election, thousands of 'one votes' can.

<https://www.earthday.org/5-things-to-tell-your-friends-and-family-who-are-reluctant-to-vote/>

Our November meeting is on the 2nd at 4 p.m. on Zoom. Email for the link to join us.

The Equal Rights Amendment

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW Austin advocates for the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. To learn more about what you can do immediately to support advocacy efforts, check out this [ACTION STEP](#) recommended by AAUW National. We will also include more information about our local efforts in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

New Member Profile

Submitted by Ruth Subramanian

Leslie Word Blanton

Leslie was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, in a large nuclear and extended family. She attended McMurry College in Abilene, TX, where she studied German, French, and Spanish. During her college adventure, she actively participated in student government, was junior senator, and served as a student government secretary, as well as participated in several social and service organizations.

To further enhance her German skills, Leslie moved to Germany for one year returning to McMurry for a final year where she met her husband. They have been married for thirty-three years. Later she received a master's degree in teaching Spanish from Southwest Texas State University. She and her husband, Jimmy spent two summers living in Mexico to better internalize the Spanish language.

Leslie and Jimmy have three children: Benjamin, who works for DELL, and Jackson who just graduated from the University of Texas with an Economics and Political Science degree. Leslie's daughter Kennedy recently passed away in December 2019, one semester shy of graduating from UT with a degree in Biochemistry.

Leslie has been teaching Spanish and German for thirty-three years in area high schools and Cedar Valley Middle School. She retired from teaching in 2020 after the loss of her daughter but has just stepped back into the classroom this year at McNeil High School in Round Rock. Leslie feels like she still has much to give and even more to learn. She is working part-time, which offers her balance and opportunities to still see friends and family, work on personal passions, and maintain her home and garden.

Leslie loves to travel, having visited twenty-three countries and is drawn to other cultures. Outdoor adventures call to her. Spending time with her two boys is the highlight of any day. She has spent most of the past twenty years either engaged in high school study-abroad programs (German-American Partnership Program) or student travel groups. These trips have broadened her understanding of other cultures and have done the same for her students.

Leslie is thrilled to join this unique organization of interesting and accomplished women. With AAUW, she wants to do her part to make our corner of the world better.

Did We Make a Mistake? Year Book Corrections

Please let us know if any of your information is incorrect in the 2022-23 Year Book. Please email Milli Stecker at milli1251@gmail.com with the correct information and she will make the change.



How to Respond to Branch Evite Invitations



Be sure to be on the lookout for the electronic invitations for our branch meetings. The Evite invitations will be sent to your e-mail inbox.

Follow these simple steps to find out more about the branch meetings:

1. Locate the Evite invitation from [AAUW Austin Programs](#) in your in-box. Open the e-mail and hit the “View Invitation” button.

evite

YOU'RE EVITED!

AAUW Austin Texas Programs invited you to
AAUW Austin Branch Meeting Demo

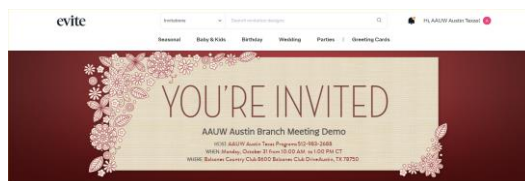
[View Invitation](#)

[RSVP Now](#)



[View Guest List](#)

2. On the next screen you will see the **date/time/location** for meeting at the top.



3. Scroll down to “view details” to get specifics on the meeting’s program as well as lunch options. The entrée(s) for the lunch will be given to help with choices. Pay special attention to the **deadline** for the RSVP.
4. Indicate if you will attend “yes” or “no”. Please do NOT reply with “maybe”.

You are RSVPing **Yes**

Replying as: Jackie Hardee [edit](#) | [how you?](#)

Lunch, please. And I am bringing a guest, Susan Smith. She will have lunch as well.

☒ **Public comment** - The comment will be visible to all guests

2 **Total guests** (including you)

You are currently opted into receiving event notifications. [Edit](#)

[Submit RSVP](#)

Will you attend?

[Yes](#)

[Maybe](#)

[No](#)

5. If “yes” you’ll see this screen where you can indicate if you want lunch or just beverages. If an optional lunch is offered, you can select it by commenting here. If you are bringing a guest, you can add to the total guests (don’t forget to count yourself) and give us the guest’s name so that a name tag can be made available. You should also indicate the lunch/beverage preference for your guest.
6. You may receive follow-up notices if there are changes to the plan or as a reminder of the event.

If you have any questions you can call either of our Vice-Presidents of Programs, **Jackie Hardee** at (512-926-7978) or **Brenda Hahne** at (832-233-4254).

Support our Work – Fundrai\$ing Opportunities



Change for Change Challenge

The Change for Change Challenge continues and the proceeds will go to address the branch budget deficit. At the October branch meeting we collected \$211! You can use the jars provided last year or any container to collect change to support the branch. The Funds team members will be collecting change at every branch meeting. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Online Silent Auction Coming Up!

Supporting AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund

The funds team is sponsoring an on-line silent auction as we have done for the past two years. The event will take place December 5-8 and is open to anyone in our branch as well as to friends and family. Please think about any articles you may have that you are willing to contribute – wine, quilts, artwork, jewelry, apparel, etc.



You may have a property, boat, camper you are willing to offer for a weekend or a specialty dish that could be offered to winning bidder. We welcome any and all contributions. Some members have already offered donations. You can bid on the items without leaving home. Winners will be notified on December 10.

To contribute items or if you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Werner** at cathy.werner3586@gmail.com, **Elaine Penn** at epenn9915@gmail.com or **Joyce Pulich** at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net. Please include a photo(s) of your item(s) and a suggested minimum bid. Deadline for contributions is November 30.



November Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

Art Tours will not meet in November.

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, November 16, 10:00 a.m.
Project: Ruching
Location: Home of Beverly Locklin, 7507 Long Point Drive
Host: Beverly Locklin
Contact: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902



What is Ruching?

Ruching is a gathered overlay of fabric strips that are pleated, fluted, or gathered together to create a ripple-like effect. The frill or pleat of the fabric, often lace, chiffon or muslin, has evolved from the 16th century ruff.

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, November 14, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *The Ten Year Nap* by Meg Wolitzer
Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Facilitator: Sue Ellen Jeffers
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.
Book: *We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy* by Kliph Nesteroff
Location: Zoom
Leader: Gayle Kanies
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street
Book: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge
Reviewer: Mary Frances Rogerson
Host: Mary Frances Rogerson
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, November 22, 11:00 a.m.
Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.
Theme: Female Detective
Contact: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865



Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *A Ballad of Love and Glory* by Reyna Grande
Location: Home of Sylvia García, 6403 Dunsmere Court
Facilitator: Sylvia García
Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbstrr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497



Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.
Theme: Thanksgiving Potluck
Location: Home of Pam Watson, 11124 Sea Hero Lane
Hosts: Pam Watson, Cindy Darilek and Shirlene Justice
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003



click the mug for info
on Oktoberfest & beer



Gerald Averill, Beer Expert
and Guest Speaker
for October Dinner



Myrtle Bell and Marsha
Endahl-Kramer



Angie Rose
Enjoying a Beer Cookie



Oktoberfest
Feast

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, November 15, 11:15 a.m.
Location: Valencia's Tex Mex Garage, 3120 Palm Way #170
Planner: Connie Muñoz
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

The November get together has yet to be determined. Please contact Milli Stecker if you are interested in joining this group. Milli Stecker, mstecker@austin.rr.com, (512) 468-1088

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, November 13, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Theme: Sparkling Wine
Location: Home of Sharon Babot, 370 Cattle Trail Drive, Dripping Springs
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

Hike #1

When: Thursday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.
Location: Canyon of the Eagles, Buchanan Lake, [MAP](#)
(1.5 miles northwest of Austin – 183 & Hwy 29)
Leader: Kate Di Pronio

Hike #2

When: Saturday, November 19, 9:00 a.m.
Location: Nalle Bunny Run – Birding with Mikeal Behrens, [MAP](#)
Leader: Joyce Pulich

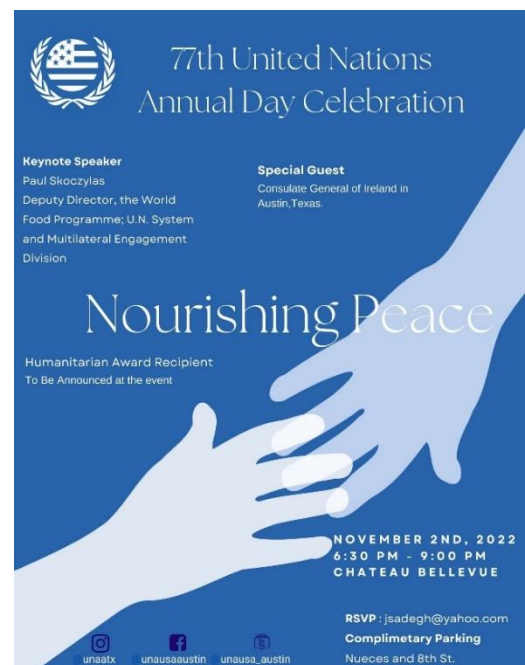
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697

UN Day You're Invited

The United Nations Association of the United States of America UNA-USA Austin Chapter invites you to join them in celebrating the 77th anniversary of the United Nations.

When: Wednesday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Chateau Bellevue, 708 San Antonio Street
To RSVP: info@unaaustin.org

Click the invitation to purchase tickets online.



Georgetown Branch November Meeting

Topic: [Faith in Action Programs](#) and Services Driving Seniors
Speaker: [Lisa Hill](#), Executive Director
When: Wednesday, November 23, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bear Creek County Club in the Card Room, [30500 Berry Creek Drive](#)