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Items for May Newsletter

DUE April 19, 2023

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

April Membership Meeting

featuring

Dr. Catherine Jaffe

Professor, Texas State University and Author



Society Women and Enlightened Charity of Spain: The Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito, 1787-1823

When: Wednesday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Unity Church of Austin, [5501 West US Hwy 290](#)

Cost: \$30.00

Contact: Joyce Pulich, joycepulich@sbcglobal.net

Catherine Jaffe is Professor of Spanish literature at Texas State University. Jaffe earned a B.A. in Honors English from Georgetown University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Chicago. Her research interests center on modern Spanish and comparative literature, with a focus on women writers and theories of gender in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Spain.

She will talk about her most recent book *Society Women and Enlightened Charity in Spain: The Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito, 1787-1823*. The edited collection of essays covers a range of disciplines including intellectual history, social history, biography, and art history. The members of the Junta de Damas de Honor y Mérito, founded in 1787 to administer charities and schools for impoverished women and children, claimed a role in the public sphere. Through their self-representation as civic mothers, they created an enlightened legacy for modern feminism in Spain. Cathy will explain how this secular association of elite Spanish women fulfilled the expectations of their class and gender while at the same time vying for more authority and more visible participation in Enlightenment endeavors.

Copies of the book will be available for sale at the meeting.

For lunch options and payment details, please see page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April always starts off for me by celebrating the Week of the Young Child. This fun-filled week recognizes the importance of children's early development and the critical role of parents and early learning professionals in that development. Unfortunately, pay equity lags far behind for those working with young children, despite how essential this time is as the foundation for each child's future. And as we learned in the pandemic, without childcare services, parents can't work.



In an address to the United Nations Commission on Women on International Women's Day last month, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated that at the current rate, women will not achieve gender equality for 300 years!! Unacceptable!! We have work to do.

What a treasure we have in our many members who go above and beyond to make this a special branch! We so appreciate our Newsletter Editor, **Shirlene Justice**, for the excellent newsletter that is chock full of important information, including the ongoing branch history articles done by our Archivist and Past President **Larayne Dallas**. It is fascinating to read about those early years. At our branch meetings, we are also treated to a bit of the history of each decade by our Governance/Bylaws Guru, **Pam Wolfe**. This month look forward to the 80s.

A shout out to the Southwest Book group and Chair **Debbie Starr** for leading the way on interest group service projects by collecting books for the Williams Elementary School Library and to the Central Book group, who is now collecting books for Allison Elementary School – especially important projects in this time of book banning. If your interest group is doing a service project, please let **Berta Lloyd**, our Interest Group Coordinator know of your good work.

Thanks to all of you who are advocating on behalf of women's issues at the state and national levels. **Mary Ellen Scribner** and the public policy team and supporters have been busy contacting state and national elected officials to share their views on pending legislation. We all need to do what we can to educate our legislators on the important issues of the day.

Please attend our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 12th at the Unity Church of Austin after what promises to be a fascinating talk by author and Professor of Spanish at Texas State University, **Dr. Catherine Jaffe**. The nominating committee, led by Past President **Larayne Dallas**, will present an excellent slate of officers to guide us for our 100th year. Please give a big thanks to our Program Co-VPs **Brenda Hahne** and **Jackie Hardee** for a great program this year and for their extra hard work at the Unity site to keep us all well-fed.

In Sisterhood,

Linda Welsh, Ph.D.

P.S. The AAUW word of the year is emerging. Check out the voting thus far. The word wall will be back in May for more votes. If you want to vote on a word for our 100-year anniversary and can't attend the meeting, send me an email at lawelsh@gmail.com or text at 512-586-1575.



Lunch Options

Your choice of:

- A roast beef and Swiss cheese sandwich box lunch
- A chef salad box lunch
- A spinach wrap box lunch

All include chips and a cookie. Please choose one and indicate your preference in your RSVP.

Beverages Only is \$5.00. Please indicate on your RSVP. Otherwise, you will be charged \$30 for a complete meal. Payment for the meal/beverages is acceptable by check or cash at the meeting.

RSVP, Changes or Cancellations should be made by 4:00 p.m. April 5.

Note: If you are bringing a guest, let us know their name and their lunch preference. You can do this when you RSVP to the evite invitation.

March Meeting Recap

Lindsey Derrington, the dynamic young Executive Director of Preservation Austin, gave us a broad-based and impressive view of the work this successful non-profit organization has accomplished since its inception in the 1950s as the Heritage Society of Austin. Helping to save the Driskill Hotel was just one of many major success stories the organization has achieved in their mission to save the buildings, neighborhoods, and important cultural and historical sites that reflect Austin's true character. She noted that she came to Preservation Austin at a transition point in its history, when the old "order" that was focused on preserving grand homes in wealthier neighborhoods was being pushed to include the whole of Austin, including East Side neighborhoods experiencing a surge in homebuyers seeking affordable properties and the amenities that would accompany them.

Lindsey related how, as a young female professional, she was often encouraged to preserve the past way of doing things, especially in deference to the mostly male board members. Fortunately, she was and continues to be resolute in her commitment to move Preservation Austin forward into the present – continuing their many successful programs such as the annual Homes Tours, Preservation Merit Awards, and preservation Grant awards – while striving to ensure that they are inclusive, accessible, and representative of all of Austin's populations and neighborhoods. She has diversified her board's membership, created cultural history walking tours, and overseen strategic planning work, all while juggling fundraising efforts to restore the historic McFarland House on Red River Street, purchased by Preservation Austin to protect the home and use it as their office location. At the same time, she has kept the organization fully engaged in advocacy work by addressing threatened structures, public policies and codes, greater diversity of board, staff and participants, and increased public engagement.

Following the meeting, Lindsey provided several links to the information that she shared during her presentation. They are included here so that you can learn more about this work:

- To join: <https://www.preservationaustin.org/join-renew>
- For the Homes Tour: <https://www.preservationaustin.org/events/2023homestour>
- For their self-guided tours: <https://www.preservationaustin.org/historic-austin-tours>

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

*The beat goes on, the beat goes on
Drums keep pounding a rhythm to the brain
La de da de de, la de da de da (Sonny Bono)*

Guns, vouchers, LGBT+, abortion, CRT, library books, infant mortality, teachers being told what to and what not to teach, parental support, etc., is the beat that goes on at the Lege day after day. We are just halfway through the 88th session, but your public policy committee will be there until “the fat lady sings”. If you don’t know that bit of Texas lore, you’ll just have to look it up. We are busy writing emails and making calls to legislators. We are submitting public testimony and registering our opinions by “dropping cards” at the Capitol. We are thinking ahead to May and November elections and registering voters—have you certified as a VDR yet? We are rallying at the Capitol, and we are promoting a more just society every opportunity that comes our way. We appreciate your participation.

April 22 is Earth Day, the 53rd since its establishment in 1970. If we are going to keep our planet livable for our children and grandchildren, we need to make every day Earth Day! **United Nations Climate Action** makes it clear what we are facing.

***Climate change** refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.*

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures.

Examples of greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and forests can also release carbon dioxide. Landfills for garbage are a major source of methane emissions. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main emitters.

Greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest levels in 2 million years And emissions continue to rise. As a result, the Earth is now about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s. The last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record.

Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others.

The consequences of climate change now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms declining biodiversity.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>

On page 11, you may read about how some branch members remember their participation in past Earth Day events.

AAUW Austin Branch – Centennial Celebration

More From the Early Days of the Austin Branch

First, a note that, as originally released, the March installment of this Centennial Celebration had an error. The date for the *Statesman* at the beginning of paragraph six was incorrectly given as “November 8, **2023.**” It should have been **1923**. Second, these reports are my work as an interested investigator but I cannot claim credentials as an historian.

Our usual interest is in the accomplishments of the Branch, but you may have wondered: Who were those women who started the Austin Branch of AAUW?

The first three presidents are listed in our records as:

- Mrs. F.L. Jewett (Branch president, 1923-1924)
- Mrs. E.J. Villavaso (Branch president, 1924-1925)
- Mrs. Lelia Porter (Branch president, 1925-1926)

The custom of referring to married women as “Mrs. Husband’s Name” presents an obstacle but thanks to the digitized *ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman* (available through the subscriptions of the Austin Public Library), Google Books, and other records available through the Internet, it is possible to find more.

1. Mrs. F.L. Jewett was Catherine Margaret Caughey Jewett.

JEWETT, FRANK LEONARD, A. B.
(A. B. 1900 Harvard, B. D. 1901-02 Univ. of
Chicago, S. T. B. 1903 Harvard) Teacher.
2007 Univ. Ave., Austin, Texas.
JEWETT, CATHERINE M. (CAUGHEY), A.B.
Homekeeper, 2007 Univ. Ave., Austin, Tex.

From the *Class of 1899* section.

From: [Alumni Catalogue, February 15, 1922. Bulletin, v. 23, no.4. Lawrence: University of Kansas, 1922, p. 40.](#)

[Find a Grave](#) information shows that Catherine Jewett was born in Coal Valley, Illinois, in 1876 and died (with burial in Austin) in 1957. Alumnae information (above) from the University of Kansas (Lawrence) shows that she was a graduate of the school with an A.B. Her husband, Frank Leonard Jewett, was also a graduate of the University of Kansas (Lawrence) and had additional religious study. In November 1923, when the Austin Branch began, Catherine was 47 years old.

2. Mrs. E.J. Villavaso was Ethel Zivley Rather Villavaso.

ETHEL ZIVLEY RATHER (Mrs. Ernest J. Villavaso),
B.A. University of Texas 1902, M.A. 1903.
Miss Rather received her Doctor's degree in 1908. During the
year 1911-1912 she was Director of Women's Religious Work
at Columbia University.
In 1915 she married Ernest Joseph Villavaso, Professor in
the University of Texas. They have one son, Ernest Joseph
Villavaso, Jr., born in 1918.
Her dissertation, entitled "Recognition of the Republic of
Texas by the United States," was published in 1910 in *The
Quarterly* of the Texas State Historical Association.
Her present address is 3105 Duval Street, Austin, Texas.

From: [Margaret Trumbull Corwin. *Alumnae Graduate School Yale University, 1894-1920. New Haven: Yale University, 1920, p.43.*](#)

As noted above in a Yale University publication, Ethel received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Texas, and then a Ph.D. from Yale. Her husband was a professor at the University of Texas.

You may also read about Ethel in the [*Biographical Note*](#) included as an introduction to the *Ethel Zivley Rather Papers* at the Briscoe Center for American History (University of Texas at Austin) and additionally in the [*Abstract and Biographical Note*](#) included in the introduction to the *Villavaso-Rather Family Papers*, at the Briscoe.

Ethel was a native of Gonzales, Texas. She was born in 1881 and died in 1967. At the start of the Branch in November 1923, she was probably 42.

3. Mrs. Lelia Porter was Lelia Tyler Binkley Porter

Lelia Tyler Binkley,
B. S., 12; A. M., 13; Sigma Xi; Teacher;
Instr. Zoology Univ. Texas. 20 Church St.,
Gainesville, Tex., and 402 W. 24th St., Austin,
Tex.

From the section, "Graduates of Teachers College, 1901 - 1916."

From: [*Catalogue of Officers and Graduates of Columbia University from the Foundation of King's College in 1754, 16th Edition, Columbia University in the City of New York. New York City: Published for the University, 1916, p.830.*](#)

As shown above in a publication from Columbia University, Lelia graduated with a bachelor's of science degree from Columbia Teachers College as Mrs. Binkley at about age 31. She was from Gainesville, Texas and is buried there. It appears that she married a Mr. Binkley — Tyler is her maiden name — and then was widowed or divorced. We don't know when Lelia started college but she completed her bachelor's degree as a somewhat older person.

Lelia also earned a master's degree from Teachers College, and become a tutor and then an instructor in the Department of Zoology at the University of Texas. In 1916 she married Milton Brockett Porter, a mathematics professor at the university, and became Mrs. Lelia Porter. Her [*Find a Grave*](#) shows that she lived from 1881 to 1932. A notice of Lelia's death, appearing in the *Statesman*, p. 2 on May 17, 1932, confirms Milton Porter as her husband and reports that she did not wake up from a nap. A long-time heart problem was believed to be the cause of death.

[*The Dedication of the Biological Laboratory. University of Texas Bulletin, No. 2545. Austin: The University, 1925, p.68-69.*](#) indicates that she taught after her marriage, from 1918-1921. In November 1923, Lelia was 42.

This leads to an interesting side note. See: [Judy Green and Jeanne LaDuke. *Pioneering Women in American Mathematics: The Pre-1940 PhD's. History of Mathematics, vol.34. Providence, R.I.: American Mathematical Society, 2009, p. 268-269.*](#)

In 1934, after Lelia's death in 1932, Milton Porter married Goldie Printis Horton. Goldie had been his doctoral student and was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. at the University of Texas. In their book, Green and LaDuke (p.269) report that Goldie "was a founder . . . in 1923 of the Austin chapter of AAUW,

of which she also served as treasurer, secretary, and president.” However, Goldie is not on our list of Branch presidents.

The first three Austin Branch presidents were in their 40s at the start of the Branch (of which they were original members) and when they served as president. All were married, with well-educated husbands. Concerning Catherine, Ethel, and Lelia, their academic degrees were from:

- Teachers College, Columbia University
- The University of Kansas
- The University of Texas
- Yale University.

Two had advanced degrees and one of those was a Ph.D.

- They had recently seen the world go through the Great War;
- Had survived the 1918 flu pandemic;
- Were living in the Prohibition experiment begun in 1920 by the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and
- Were beneficiaries of the 19th Amendment ratified in 1920 and guaranteeing women the right to vote.

We do not know their personal motivations for starting the Branch, but we know that they provided leadership to an enthusiastic group of women who quickly got to work on projects in their community.

-----Submitted on behalf of the Centennial Committee by **Larayne Dallas**.

Save the Date

AAUW Austin Branch Centennial Celebration

Chateau Bellevue, Wednesday, November 1, 2023



Yearbook Additions

Change of Email

Pat Rehm

rooster.rock11@gmail.com

Newly Renewed Member

Rolinda Carrington-Rhone

11914 Snow Goose Road

Austin, TX 78758

(512) 791-91121

rolinda@carrington.com

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

2023 Nominating Committee Report Slate of Prospective Officers

This is the report of the AAUW Austin Branch Nominating Committee for 2023. Members of the Board voted to accept the report at their March 21, 2023, meeting and membership will be asked for approval at the April 12, 2023, Branch meeting.

- **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 thank these members for their willingness to serve the branch.

Presented by committee members: **Phyllis Folarin, Brenda Hahne, Anita Knight, Berta Lloyd, Joyce Pulich, Larayne Dallas** (chair)

Mystery Book Club is on the CASE!

The AAUW Austin Mystery Interest Group attended a Mystery Night at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in February. Besides having dinner, they had a mystery to solve. The night was fun and members got to interact with many of the other mystery guests. Attending were **Ann Berasley, Jackie & Robert Hardee, Ruth Cook, Pam Wolfe, Kate & Ron DiPronto**, and **Trish Kane**. Also attending and acting as photographer was **Catherine Schmidt** from the Georgetown Mystery Group.



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

Please join branch member Marian Wernicke for the launch of her new book, *Out of Ireland*. Book People will host Marian in conversation with author Stacey Swann as they discuss the book. Marian will also read passages from her book and be available for a book-signing.

When: Friday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Book People, 603 North Lamar Blvd.

To RSVP, click this link. [Out of Ireland Book Launch RSVP](#)

Kentucky Derby Fund Raiser

Join us for GOOD FUN and Celebration. You will enjoy exceptional Southern food like Hot Browns, Mint Juleps, and much more. Bets can also be placed in hopes of selecting the winning horse. A framed Kentucky Derby 2023 Poster drawing will be held. Proceeds will support the AAUW National Greatest Needs fund. Check your inbox for the invite.



- 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
(GPS will come up with Andice, Tx. This is the correct address – continue on).
- Cost: \$40.00 per person, payable at the door
- Dress: Casual with Kentucky Derby hats strongly recommended

Membership Renewal Time

Renewal Time: Simple – Easy - All Online



This month most of you will be receiving your membership renewal notification from memberinfo@AAUW.org. By simply clicking on the personalized link included in this email, you can directly access your own account and make your payment online. Members who joined after 7/1/22 will get a renewal notice 12 months after they joined.

No check to write, stamp to find, or need for that trip to the post office. For those who prefer to write a check, just mail check made out to AAUW Austin to **Ruth Subramanian** at 4100 Jackson Ave, Apt 536, Austin, TX 78731.

National dues are increasing by \$5.00 this year. State and Branch dues remain the same. Combined, the dues for 2023-24 are \$101.00. This is the last of three planned incremental increases. Ever increasing expenses, combined with a greater-than-ever need to proactively support our membership and our mission, necessitated this decision.

For those who are interested, AAUW does offer a Paid Life Membership. Basically, this option equates to the prepayment of 20 years of National dues at the current rate. Life Members are still required to pay State and Branch dues on an annual basis. For further information, contact **Ruth Subramanian**, Co-Membership VP at ruthsindia@yahoo.com, (678)764-8898 or **Milli Stecker**, Co-Membership VP at milli1251@gmail.com, (512)468-1088.

New Member Profile

Submitted by Ruth Subramanian

Dorothy Shelley

Dorothy was born in the former Canal Zone, Panama, where she grew up. She was raised on the Pacific side and learned to love being out in nature and living in a bilingual country. Dorothy's family was very open to traveling into the interior of Panama and experiencing the culture, the beautiful beaches, and countryside. She graduated in 1978 from Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, California, with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. After Dorothy married, she decided to go back to college to pursue a teaching credential in bilingual education and Special Education. She retired in June 2020 after working twenty-five years in the field of Special Education/Learning Handicaps.

Dorothy has two daughters who moved to Austin about eight years ago and after she retired her daughters asked her to join them. Her response at first was "No thank you. The summers are way too hot." She had been living and working in Napa, California, since 1982 where she had friends and a home with a beautiful garden. She ultimately decided that she missed her daughters more than she cared about the heat, so she sold her home and moved to Austin in December 2021. She bought her home a year ago, March 2022 where she lives with her four-year old female black lab named Luna. They like to go on walks at Walnut Creek Municipal Park and the Copperfield Nature Trail near her home.

Dorothy likes to paint watercolors, work in the garden, go bird watching, go to estate sales, and explore the areas around Austin. She enjoys spending time with her daughters. She looks forward to making it to the coast at some point as she misses living close to the ocean. Dorothy has gone on only one wine tasting tour near Fredericksburg, but looks forward to learning more about the Texas wines. She also likes to listen to live music and is glad that Austin has a lot to offer in that area.

Dorothy's daughter, Marie is an art teacher at a Montessori School and is working on getting her art teacher credentials – she's almost finished! Her daughter, Emily graduated with a degree in conservation from Mills College and is working from home for a fashion design company out of Dallas.

Dorothy is looking forward to joining an AAUW book club and making it to one of the monthly meetings where she can learn where she can be more involved.



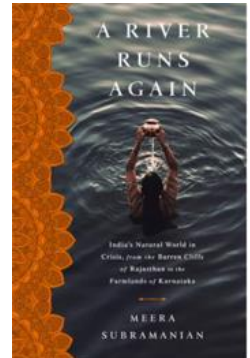
REFLECTIONS FOR APRIL 22, 2023, THE 53RD EARTH DAY

Sam Waterston told AARP that what he worries about most is climate disruption. “Now is the time to get on the bike. Turn down the thermostat. Ask yourself, like they did in World War II, ‘Is this trip really necessary?’ every time you get in the car. Don’t hide under the bed.”

The NYT headlined the March 21 edition **EARTH IS NEARING THE TIPPING POINT FOR A HOT FUTURE – ALARM IN U.N. REPORT – Calls for Drastic Action Within This Decade to Avert Disaster**

“We have never been better equipped to solve the climate challenge – but we must move into warp speed climate action now.” [ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General, 20 March 2023](#)

Ruth Subramanian writes, “The first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, was just under a month after the birth of our daughter, Meera, on March 25, 1970. My remembrance of that first Earth Day was being outdoors (very appropriately) in New Jersey with a group from our Unitarian church and one of the members free-form dancing in the park. Meera subsequently grew up, earned a BA in anthropology from the University of Washington, an MA in journalism from New York University, and has become a nonfiction writer specializing in the environment. She’s a long-time member and president for one year of the Society of Environmental Journalists. She has also published a book on environmental issues in India, *A River Runs Again: India’s Natural World in Crisis, from the Barren Cliffs of Rajasthan to the Farmlands of Karnataka*.”



Shirlene Justice says, “The first Earth Day I remember participating in was 1976. I was working at KLRU (KLRN then). A work colleague, Beth Brown was one of the early leaders of Ecology Action. She recruited me to work at the Ecology Action booth for the Earth Day event. I in turn recruited my new boyfriend (we’d known each other a week) to also help out. We have now been married for forty-six years. Fast forward to 1981. My friend Judy Dean and I were once again recruited by Beth to participate in Earth Day. We dressed up like trees and marched up Congress Ave to the Capitol. Here are some old photos from that adventure. Bill Oliver, Austin’s environmental troubadour, inspired us on the march with his well-known song *Have to Have a Habitat*. You can listen to the song by clicking this link. I bet many of you remember it.” <https://billoliver.bandcamp.com/track/have-to-have-a-habitat>





Mary Ellen Scribner remembers that she was working at a high school in Oscoda, Michigan, on April 22, 1970, when the first Earth Day was observed. She shepherded high school students picking up litter along a busy highway. Many bags were filled, and fortunately no one was hit by car. Years later, Mary Ellen lived in Ghana for a couple years, and that experience made her into a water “cop” to her family, friends, and neighbors. She was delighted to photograph the kids showing her the well the “American [Peace Corps] guy” helped their village get near Kumasi, Ghana..

Environmental volunteer and docent **Anita Knight** makes many days Earth care days by picking up litter on her regular walks and hikes and by participating in the cleanup efforts of several organizations or groups.

What lifestyle choices make a bigger impact to carbon output?



Texas Women in Conservation Spotlight

Terese "Terry" Tarlton Hershey was a champion for the environment since the 1960s and helped found many environmental groups in Houston. She also organized the first conservation easement conference in Texas in the early 90s, while serving as a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commissioner. Most land in Texas is privately owned (over 95%), and Terry recognized early on that conservation easements must be a central part of the conservation movement. We are grateful for her insight and celebrate her initiative to preserve what makes Texas, Texas.



“You ought to do things because they ought to be done.
And, if possible, by you.”

- Terry Hershey

[Learn more about Terry’s life and legacy here.](#)

In Memoriam

Jennifer Swenson

Prepared by Debbie Starr

Many of you know that one of our branch's greats, **Jennifer Swenson**, passed away this past week after a battle with kidney and bladder cancer. I am personally so saddened by this loss and know you join me in offering heartfelt condolences to her dear husband of 43 years, Charles, and to her loving son, Daniel Charles.

Jennifer was raised on a rice farm in a small town in East Texas called Alvin. She often shared her stories of growing up 'country' to give us 'city' girls the flavor of what that meant. She eventually attended UT Austin and obtained her bachelor's degree in history, a passion both she and Charles later shared through books and visiting historical landmarks.

Jen then became accredited as an Early Childhood Specialist in Montessori methods. She became a private nanny and Montessori teacher for a family who traveled the world. This experience truly expanded her world view. Jennifer then began a career of Montessori teaching that spanned almost three decades. During that time, **she married Charles**, and they began their wonderful life together in Austin raising their only son. Jennifer was so successful as a Montessori teacher that when she retired, they still asked her to train any new teachers.

Jennifer joined AAUW in 2016, about five months before me. But I was already friends with her before then as we both attended a Hydrofit class at Lifetime Fitness. We not only worked out together in the pool, but we also often stayed after class for extra steps and to gab. Sometimes the gabbing led to more weighty topics. I guess what always struck me about Jennifer was her clear strength of convictions, thoughtful and firm but never confrontational. She had a quiet strength and also a great sense of humor and a twinkle in her eyes.

I was thrilled that we ended up in multiple AAUW interest groups together including Art Tour, Culture & Cuisine, the Funds Committee and our wonderful Southwest Book Club. I so enjoyed her company. In all of those groups, I'm sure many of you who knew her would agree, she brought intelligent insights and the perspective of that small-town girl growing up in a farming community in Texas who later 'saw the world' and never stopped learning. She had a way of telling her stories that captured your attention and made *you* more insightful. Of course, we also all got excited when she was hosting because she was an excellent cook with a **legendary** shrimp salad! Boy, she could cook!

As Jennifer became more ill, she became more private about her struggles and was unable to participate in AAUW activities. But even though she could no longer come to book club, **we** kept her on the roster in hopes of her recovery. Eventually she made me open the spot as she wanted to give others the opportunity to contribute. She left big shoes to fill.

I don't know. It seems that there are some people to whom you have a kind of soul connection. Jennifer is one of them for me. She was just a lovely, lovely person and will be a great loss to her family, this branch, and all who were lucky enough to know her.

May she rest in peace.

April Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

When: Wednesday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.
What: [David Borden's Impossible Dream Studio](#)
Where: 105 North Patterson Avenue, Florence, TX
Planner: Linda Welsh
Contact: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317
Note: Eatery suggestions will be distributed the day of the tour.

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.
Project: Cloth Books for Children
Location: Home of Jackie Hardee, 1811 Running Brook Drive
Hosts: Jackie Hardee and Elaine Penn
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: cooksey@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, April 10 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Should We Stay or Should We Go* by Lionel Shriver
Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Facilitator: Mary Lou Bell
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.
Book: *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*
by Partick Radden Keefe
Location: Zoom
Leader: Louise Jordan
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street
Book: *Edges of Texas* by Walt and Isabell David
Reviewer: Beverly Locklin
Host: Beverly Locklin
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, April 25, 11:00 a.m.
Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.
Theme: Mysteries with Animals
Contact: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty*
by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe
Location: The home of Dixie Schurle, 6022 Tasajillo Trail
Host: Dixie Schurle
Facilitator: Marsha Endahl-Kramer
Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbsttr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497

Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

When: ***Thursday, April 20**, 6:30 p.m.
Theme: Passover Seder
Location: Home of Anita Knight, 529 Buckeye Trail
Hosts: Anita Knight, Lynn Cooksey, and Brenda Scholin
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

***Revised Date**

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, April 18, 11:30 a.m.
Location: Chinatown North, 3407 Greystone Drive
Planner: Elaine Penn
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

When: Saturday, April 22, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Clay Pit, 1601 Guadalupe Street
Planners: Milli Stecker
RSVP: Milli Stecker, milli1251@gmail.com, (512) 468-1088

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, April 23, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Theme: Spring/Summer Pairings
Hosts: Roberta Coffin and Ann Gibbs
Location: Home of Ann Gibbs, 5200 Rambling Range, Austin
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

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

Hike #1

When: Thursday, April 6, 10:00 a.m.
Location: Commons Ford Ranch, 614 N. Commons Ford Road, Austin
Leader: Nancy Andren

Hike #2

When: Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.
What: McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin
Leader: Ginny Tannebring