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AAUW Austin Branch October Luncheon



When: Saturday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Norris Conference Center, 2525 W Anderson Ln #365
Speaker: Susan Dawson, President & Executive Director, E3 Alliance
Topic: Education Trends in Central Texas from Early Childhood through College: What the Data Show
Cost: \$30.00
Contact: Linda Welch, lawelsh@gmail.com

Every day, educators, non-profit organizations, business leaders and policy-makers seek information and support to help them make decisions about how best to improve educational outcomes in the Central Texas community. Through the E3 Alliance, these stakeholders have access to information and resources that enable them to positively impact our community. As the President and Executive Director of E3, **Susan Dawson** will share the data with our members so that we can better understand the educational landscape in Central Texas.

*****Please note, if you are able to attend, the speaker would like you to bring a laptop or tablet so you can investigate education data questions interactively as part of our discussion.**

Newsletter Editor:

Shirlene Justice shirlenejustice@gmail.com

Items for November Newsletter DUE October 18, 2021

Speaker Bio

Susan Dawson is a Texas entrepreneur, business and civic leader. As a successful business entrepreneur turned social entrepreneur, Dawson has led multiple technology firms and she founded and leads the E3 Alliance (for Education Equals Economics), a regional collaborative to increase economic outcomes by aligning our education systems to fulfill the potential of every student. E3 Alliance has been recognized across the country for its groundbreaking work in systemic change for education.

Dawson has served the community as Chair of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce as well as board chair/executive member of AARO, Leadership Austin, Children's Optimal Health, Workforce Solutions, American Youthworks and Austin Partners in Education, among many other community groups. Her many awards include the Leadership Austin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Community Trusteeship, Austin Under 40 "Austinite of the Year", Hero for Children by the State Board of Education, Austin Profiles in Power "Profile Leader", Ernst and Young "Entrepreneur of the Year", Dell Medical School Health Hero, UT McCombs School "Trailblazer Award" for the distinguished woman alumna trailblazer in business and community and a CEO of the Year by the Austin Chamber. In 2011 the Austin Business Journal named Dawson one of "Austin's 30 Most Influential" leaders in shaping Austin's economy and culture in the last 30 years; in 2019 she was named the national Cradle to Career Champion by StriveTogether; and she was recently named the 2020 Austinite of the Year.

Dawson has a BS Cum Laude from Princeton University and an MBA with Highest Honors from UT Austin McCombs School of Business. She is wife of Dr. Ken Mannas and mother of two public school graduates: one in dental school and one at Purdue University. She is surviving Stage 4 breast cancer first diagnosed in 2016, and has spent significant time over the last few years understanding and working to improve the cancer research, prevention, and clinical care infrastructure in our region and our state, particularly for those who are most underserved.



E3 Alliance resources can be found at <https://e3alliance.org/>

President's Message

The 2022 Women's History Theme as chosen and presented by The National Women's History Alliance is "Women providing Healing and Promoting Hope". This is not only a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers during the pandemic, but recognition of the many ways women have provided healing and hope throughout history, in their professions and in their daily roles in the workplace, the community and the family. As we traditionally expect healing and hope from women, let us not forget that women too need healing and hope. Mother Teresa said that we must keep oil in our lamps if they are to continue burning and provide light. Our local, state and international AAUW goals include gender equity and economic security as part of our healing and hope for women. On September 14, 2021, the U.S Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor statistics indicated that in 2020, women were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man. You may have received an email recently informing us that September 8 was [Native Women's Equal Pay Day](#). AAUW is offering a new series of free virtual workshops which start on September 23. This series called [WorkSmart](#) is designed to help women navigate personal finances, successfully plan budgets, save and manage finances. It includes 3 one hour virtual sessions. For more information, go to [AAUW.org](#) on line, or telephone AAUW offices at (202)785-7700.

As part of our leading the way to hope and healing, we celebrate [National Hispanic American Heritage](#) Month on September 15 through October 15th. This year we take this opportunity to honor the cultural and historical contributions of American women whose ancestors come from Spain, Portugal, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America. This celebration was begun in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week by President Lyndon Johnson. It was expanded in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan to cover a 30 Day period from September 15 to October 15.

Some AAUW Fellows and Grantees who have enriched our society:

Sierra Mendez, 2020-2021 Austin Branch Fellowship recipient - University of Texas Doctoral Candidate currently working on drafts of her dissertation. Her doctoral work includes quantifying San Antonio, Texas' homogenized reproduction of Mexican distribution of labor, resources, and space. (*AAUW Austin Branch Newsletter*, Summer 2021, p.4)

Blanca Pacheco, 2020-2021 AAUW National UT Fellow (American Fellowship) - attends the University of Texas, Austin with a specialization in Latin-American Studies and Indigenous studies. Her current work centers on a community-based documentation project of the Indigenous Xinka system of medicine. She analyzes the relationship between indigeneous peoples and public-health systems. (*AAUW Austin Branch Newsletter*, Sept. 2021, p.4)

Ashleigh Tierney, 2017-18 Career Development Grant and Manager of Research and Innovation at the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Leticia Alvarado, 2019-2020 American Fellow and associate professor of American Studies, Brown University.

-----President's Message continues on page 4

Juliee Conde-Medina, 2018-2019 Selected Professions American Fellow and attorney, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Lara Souza, 2011-2012 American Fellow and associate professor of plant biology, University of Oklahoma.

Marisel Moreno, 2009-2010 American Fellow and associate professor of Latino/a literature, University of Notre Dame.

Zaida Hernandez, 2015-2016 Selected Professional American Fellow and thermal engineer, NASA. (www.aauw.org, Sept. 2021)

AAUW Members can follow in the footsteps of these members by applying for educational funding through AAUW. National deadlines run from November to December 2021. AAUW offers \$115 million in fellowships and grants to qualified women.

At this time, AAUW of Texas has no fellowships or grants available (AAUW of Texas: University Women Newsletter, Sept. 2021).

Those interested in an Austin Branch Fellowship for Doctoral Candidates at the University of Texas may contact our UT Fellowship Chair, Joyce Pulich at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net.

There may be a fellowship or grant that matches your goals.

Let us as AAUW Members continue to remember our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy and to look to our vision of equity for all as we meet this challenge of COVID-19 with healing and hope.

She once believed that the damage to her mind and heart was permanent until she met wisdom, who taught her that no hurt is eternal, that all can be healed. Love and hope can grow even in the toughest part of our being. (Adapted from Yung Pueblo)

Evelyn Farmer, Co- President



September Branch Meeting Recap

Our guest speaker Amy Simmons shared how she went from a pre-med student at Tufts University to opening an ice cream shop in Austin, Texas, that has grown to more than 13 with more shops soon to open. She shared several private stories of business relations and a few from customers telling why they wait in line for Amy's ice cream.

An AAUW Austin Branch business meeting was held on September 11, 2021, where Branch members approved the 2021-2022 Budget. Special thanks to our treasurer, **Cathy Werner** and her committee for their work on the development and presentation of the 2021-2022 budget.

The agenda included information from **Joyce Pulich** about our Branch fund raising activities for 2021-2022, and an announcement from **Nancy Andren** regarding the Girlstart Game Changer luncheon to be held on October 09, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members were reminded that the luncheon will be held as a virtual event rather than in person. For more information go to (girlstart.org).

Brenda Hahne also shared information from the Program Committee about meeting quotas and lunches.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

The AAUW Funds team will initiate a "Change for Change Challenge" at the October branch meeting on October 9. We will distribute decorated mason jars that members can use to deposit spare change for three months. Participants will return the jars at the January 8th Branch meeting. The top two fund raisers will receive a prize. If you want to help with this but can't attend the branch meeting, contact **Joyce Pulich** at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net or (512) 656-1776 and she will deliver your jar and pick it up as well.

Our online auction last year was very successful so we are doing it again in early December. Members who have items they want to contribute can contact **Cathy Werner** at cathy.werner3586@gmail.com or **Joyce Pulich** at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net.

In 2022, we will have a Gumbo Cook-off event in late February, have See's chocolate candy bars available for distribution, and hold a Spring Fling concert and wine event in Dripping Springs in April.

Proceeds from these events support the national AAUW efforts to advance equity for women and girls.

2021-22 AAUW Yearbook

Soon Merz Flynn, our yearbook editor, has done a fabulous job in editing the 2021-22 yearbook. What a huge task to produce and distribute the yearbook and we congratulate Soon and her team for an excellent job!

Soon has asked that members review their individual information in the new yearbook. If corrections are needed, the corrected information may be sent to Soon Merz Flynn at smerz.2000@yahoo.com.

Celebrate Day of the Dead with the Austin Woman's Federated Club

Austin Woman's Federated Club



Join AWFC at Mexic-arte Museum for a presentation about Dia de los Muertos and view current exhibitions

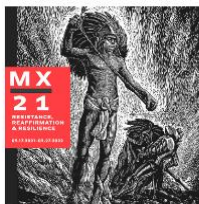
**Friday
October 8
11 am**

Register via email to:
blanchardc56@gmail.com
or phone (512)971-0197

Parking on the street or in the
Frost Bank Garage (in the same building)

Purchase a luncheon special with us at Perry's Steakhouse
across the street from the museum following the event

\$5 Recommended Donation to
support the organization's
programs and mission.



Mexic-arte Museum
419 Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78701



CAROL BLANCHARD
512-971-0197

AWFC OCTOBER "DIA DE LOS MUERTOS" PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 11:00 AM
CT

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM
419 CONGRESS AVENUE
AUSTIN, TX 78701



Public Policy Committee

[AAUW's Public Policy Priorities](#), voted on by all members every two years, could be considered the rudder for everything we do to make a difference in the lives of women and girls, advocating as we have since 1881 for equity in all aspects of life including economic, education, gender and political fairness.

Texas is currently attracting national attention in these areas, unfortunately for negative reasons. AAUW Texas and our own Austin Branch Public Policy Committee are more determined than ever to make our voices heard in the struggle for public parity for women and children. At the moment, we are focused on the process of legislative redistricting underway in the third special session of the 87th Texas Legislative Cycle. Three Branch members offered testimony in the preliminary public hearings in September with, **Gayle Kanies** and **Marian Werner** submitting written testimony and **Mary Ellen Scribner** providing virtual testimony to both the Senate and House committees.

Now it is time for each member to be in touch with her legislators, to write letters to the editor and perhaps to become a deputy voter registrar. Please consider joining the Public Policy Committee to share information and tools. Contact **Judy Reinhart**, Chair: jareinhart@att.net or **Mary Ellen Scribner**, Communications: maryescribner@gmail.com.

For more information on AAUW's Public Policy Priorities go to:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Women's March ATX- Rally at the Capitol-October 2

A number of activists from AAUW-Austin and other local branches in Texas are planning to be among those attending [Austin Women's March for Reproductive Rights](#) on October 2, 2021, 9 a.m. at the State Capitol. This should be a well-attended "rally" with individuals and people representing over 90 groups. "Right to Choice" has been in the AAUW public policy. Our policy states:

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. AAUW advocates self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions. (Priorities)

More information on the rally can be found at [Women's March](#) and [Women's March ATX](#).

Some have suggested we wear some clothing, scarves or hats that are **purple**, a color historically identified with early suffragists. We are hoping to gather on the left side of the south steps at the Capitol. Our 2021-2022 branch directory has the cell numbers of most of our members! Encourage friends and family to participate!

Whether you come alone or in a group you will find like-minded AAUW sisters who will be present to take a stand against the recent legislation that has been passed and make a statement that Texas women want control over their own bodies, particularly when faced with a challenging decision about an unplanned pregnancy.



Women's March ✓

@womensmarchonwash · Nonprofit Organization

October Interest Groups

Art Tours:



When: Wednesday, October 27, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Oakwood Cemetery and Chapel, 1601 Navasota Street, Austin, 78702
Free event/Donations accepted.

What: Low impact walking tour at Oakwood Cemetery and Chapel with focus on famous women 'residents', women's suffrage, chapel history and the headstones themselves as art. Lunch suggestions will be provided.

Planner Debbie Starr

To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKspirit66@gmail.com, (512) 906-6566

Bridge Groups:

No meetings planned for October.

Group A

When: Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Contact: Elaine Penn, elpenn9915@gmail.com, 512-579-4545



Group B

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Lynn Cooksey, lcooksey@austin.rr.com, 512-477-2774

Group C

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, 512-633-6178

Central Book Club:

When: Monday, October 11, 10:30 a.m.

Where: To Be Determined

Book: *Love and Ruin*

Author: Paula McClain

Facilitator: Randi Carter

To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com, (512) 940-6480



Contemporary Literature:



When: Monday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *The Night Watchman*
Author: Louise Erdrich
Leader: Cathy Werner
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Creative Stitchery:



When: Wednesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.
Hostess: Zosia Hunt
Co-Host: Mary Ann Leitz
Where: 6309 Big Cat Cove
Project: Knitting
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Culture and Cuisine



When: Thursday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Home of Shirlene Justice, 2408 Tom Miller Street
Theme: Pacific Northwest
Co-hosts: Shirlene Justice, Carol Fritz, Nancy Riley
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Friday Morning Book Review:



Where: Friday, October 1, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd and Ave. B
Book: *The Cloud Buster 9*
Author: Anne Keane
Reviewer: Carol Fritz
Hostess: Judy Reinhart
To RSVP: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net, (512) 345-5936

Hiking Group:

Although most of us are fully vaccinated, the Hiking Group follows all CDC and Austin Public Health guidelines. Social distancing and masks are advised if and when it is appropriate.

Hike 1

When: Friday, October 8, 10:00 a.m.

What: Berry Springs Park and Preserve in Georgetown

Where: 801 Co Rd 152, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Parking is free and on-site. The trails are flat throughout the preserve for an easy and scenic 2-hour hike/walk.

Leader: Cathy Werner

NOTE: Bring a picnic or head into Georgetown for lunch.



Hike 2

When: Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m.

What: Granger Lake Trail West Trailhead

Where: County Road 496, just north of Taylor, Texas

Parking available near trailhead. Up and back, 2-hour hike, relatively flat. Narrow plank crossing small creek.

Leader: Roberta Coffin

NOTE: Optional after-hike stop—Mallard Fare Delicatessen in converted school building in Taylor.

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, October 26, 11:00 a.m.

Where: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy, **or** Zoom, depending on CDC Protocol

Topic: Ancient Times (takes place in Greece, Egypt, etc.)

To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, cell- (512) 925-7865



Out-to-Lunch:



When: Tuesday, October 19, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Clay Pit, Indian Cuisine, 1601 Guadalupe, parking lot adjoining building, lunch menu online
Planner: Debbie Starr, text-512-771-4497
To RSVP: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

PEARS:



No October Meeting
When: TBD
To RSVP: Milli Stecker: milli1251@gmail.com, (512) 512-468-1088

Southwest Book Club:

This group is currently closed to new members.



When: Monday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Home of Sharon Babot, 370 Cattle Trail Drive Dripping Springs 78620
Book: *Sunshine Girl, An Unexpected Life*
Author: Juliana Margulies
Facilitator: Sharon Babot
Host: Sharon Babot
To RSVP: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317



STEM: Some members will be attending Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem Quarterly Networking Forum on October 21st. See page 14 of newsletter for more information

Contact: Nancy Andren, texasnancy@austin.rr.com, (909)709-7616

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, October 24, 4:00 p.m.
Where: Home of Terry Whaley, 2800 Joe DiMaggio Blvd., #41, Round Rock
Theme: Sparkling Rosé
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Debbie Shaffer attended Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. She holds degrees in library science, English 7-12, and as a reading specialist. She worked for 38 years in education and retired as a librarian from AISD two years ago.

She became interested in AAUW Austin after making a new friend at the gym, Marsha Endahl-Kramer, who talked about AAUW and how being a member was a great way to meet new people. Debbie is looking forward to possibly volunteering with Mainspring. She has a daughter in Houston and a son who lives here in Austin.

Debbie enjoys working out at the gym, water aerobics and is learning to play pickleball. Other interests include cooking, reading and travel. She is currently reading a book written by a friend entitled *Just Playing Crazy* about the experience of traveling around the world on a budget.

Sarah Averill grew up outside Houston. She attended Alvin Community College and received a BS in psychology from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. She began her working career at the Richmond State School, moved to Gulf Coast (Mental Health) Center working with disabled adults living independently. After returning to school for a teaching certificate, Sarah decided that instead of being in the classroom, she would combine her love of students with her psychology and social work experience at Communities in School working with at-risk youth at Webster Intermediate School. She moved to Austin and worked with Shirlene Justice in AISD providing out-of-school programming to support academic achievement to at-risk students, disguising academics as fun! Currently Sarah works at the Texas Education Agency as a grant manager supporting special education funding.

She has a son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter who live in Leander and a daughter who has just begun her freshman year at the University of Vermont.

Sarah and her husband love to travel visiting national parks, historic sites and presidential libraries. They also enjoy craft beer and have visited 346 craft beer breweries. She is interested in joining both the hiking group and the culture and cuisine group.

NEW MEMBER BIOS continued

Gale Spear attended Rutgers University and received a degree in comparative literature and psychology. She received her master's degree in early childhood education from Bank Street College in New York. Gale grew up in New Jersey and moved to Austin in 1976. She very recently retired from Austin Community College as a professor of childhood education and development. She will continue contract work at ACC working on projects for faculty development.

Linda Welch, a very close friend, introduced Gale to AAUW Austin. Gale is interested in joining art tours, hiking interest group, and possibly the mystery book group as she is currently reading *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny.

Gale has traveled extensively. Among her most enjoyable experiences, she has been traveling to Mexico, Nicaragua, Kenya, Thailand, Burma, India, Laos, Cambodia, and China. She has been to almost all of Europe, except Portugal.

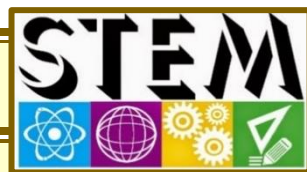
She has two sons and is the proud grandmother of two granddaughters, ages 10 and 7 who live in Austin. Her husband is retired, however volunteers to organize climate change awareness and is working to get vaccination approvals for the rest of the world. They live in the Barton Hills area of Austin. In her spare time Gale enjoys yoga, meditation and reading.

Sara Pietsch has a BA in anthropology from the University of Michigan. She attended paralegal school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and worked as a paralegal for several years. She also has a master's degree in labor and industrial relations. After moving to Texas she taught 8th grade American history and geography at Austin High School. She received her MLS in library science from UT Austin and worked as a middle school librarian until retirement.

Sara is interested in the art tours, the hiking group, and the mystery book group. She is currently reading *The Sweetness of Water*. She is fortunate to have three grandchildren in Austin, two girls and one boy. Sara's husband teaches history at UT.

She enjoys movies, reading, and traveling; recently traveling to Portland, Vermont and Santa Fe. Her most memorable trip was to Iguazu Falls, the widest set of waterfalls in the world, located on the border of Brazil and Argentina. Her current plan is to travel to Turkey in May followed by a trip to Spain.

STEM



AAUW Austin's work with Future Engineers

One of our branch members, **Jackie Hardee**, was on a panel of engineers to discuss women's role in Engineering. The webinar was titled "FabFems" and was hosted by the University of Texas and STEM.

Three female engineers were invited to share their professional experience with more than 60 engineering students in the webinar. The students had a host of questions, like "how does an engineering education relate to real-world job duties?" While so many students are discouraged by the curricula required in college, approaching issues using scientific logic can be used in so many different situations. There was a discussion on how engineers continue to learn through teamwork with other scientists on engineering projects.

Panelists were asked what inspired them to enter the engineering field and what their educational experience was like. The panelists explained how engineering school not only offered technical know-how, but how to "think" like an engineer. The panelists described some of the projects they worked on and encouraged the students to embrace opportunities that come their way to enhance their educational experience. For example, Jackie talked about internships; another panelist talked about volunteering to work on research with faculty members.

Participation with STEM allowed AAUW to reach out to students and encourage them to pursue a career that is considered "non-traditional".

STEM Ecosystem Quarterly Networking Forum

Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem Quarterly Networking Forum
Thursday, Oct 21, 4 - 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be virtual.

The Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem invites organizations and individuals engaged in STEM outreach, education, workforce development, educational technology, volunteering and advocacy to connect, network and share. All AAUW members are encouraged to attend this virtual event

Also, **Girlstart** has selected an interim Executive Director, Dr. Beverly Hamilton.

Mainspring Schools

It's a Party!

Celebrating 80 Years of Excellent Early Childhood Education

As the brainchild of our very active AAUW branch, in late October 1941, a free nursery school opened in Chalmers Court for three-and four-year-old children. Sponsored by AAUW and WPA this was the first nursery school in a low-income housing unit in the country. Mainspring Schools and AAUW have continued our partnership over these 80 years. We are so proud of their continued excellence in support of some of Austin's most vulnerable families.

The Mainspring Advocacy Committee invites you to celebrate with us at our October branch meeting. We will have a **Giving Tree** with items from the Mainspring Amazon wish list where they keep the ongoing list of their needs -- everything from books and art supplies to things for their parent pantry. We encourage you to choose an item from the tree to purchase and gift the school!

We look forward to celebrating together in October. And if you have a 40s hat or outfit, show it off!

