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Items for February Newsletter

DUE January 18, 2023

shirlenejustice@gmail.com

January Membership Meeting

featuring

Sharon Watkins

Owner, Chez Zee Restaurant



When: Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.

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

Cost: \$30.00

Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Sharon Watkins received her college training in theater arts and soon after was invited to establish and direct the Creative Theatre Unlimited at Princeton University. Upon returning to Texas, she designed and ran programs for the Texas Commission on the Arts. After a subsequent career in advertising, Watkins decided to buy the bankrupt Chez Fred restaurant and transform it into her next stage — a “third act.” Austin’s response has been nothing short of a standing ovation.

Running a busy restaurant for (almost) 30 years has not slowed Sharon down. Besides her busy “job” at Chez Zee, she actively supports several arts and nonprofits in Austin in a leadership capacity. She was the founding president of the Austin Public Library Foundation. She was in the Leadership Austin class of 1993. She served on the board of The Long Center and is currently in the Austin Area Research Association. She was on the Austin Arts Commission from 1999 to 2001 and served on the Seton Cove and KLRU Boards among several others. She is a lifetime member of the Fine Arts Council at UT Austin.

The lunch will be a tossed salad, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls. Dessert will be a miniature assortment. Drink options are coffee and tea. There will be a vegetarian option, if requested. Beverage-only cost is \$5. Deadline for Reservations is January 6 at 6:00 p.m. After that date, do not RSVP on Evite. Instead, call **Jackie Hardee** at (512) 983-2688 or **Brenda Hahne** at (832)233-4254.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

January is a time for reflecting on the year past and envisioning the year to come. Much gratitude to all of you as members of AAUW for your shared passion in our mission of advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. Our branch has raised money for scholarships, awarded fellowships, educated ourselves through outstanding monthly programs and book clubs, registered voters, voted, offered friendship and support to one another, and advocated for important issues facing women and girls in our state and the nation.



Susan La Flesche, who in 1889 became the first Native American female doctor, is on my mind after reading *A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become American's First Indian Doctor* by Joe Starita. Susan exemplifies the values of AAUW—non-partisan, fact-based, principled, inclusive, and intersectional. Her story compels reflection on the horrific injustices done to native populations as white settlers moved westward and continued to take over native lands, bring disease and break treaty agreements. Bastrop County's Lost Pines, where I am writing this note, was a settlement and hunting site for tribes like the Tonkawa hundreds and even thousands of years before the white settlers arrived and took over this native land.

Doctor La Flesche fought for the right to be educated as a doctor, fighting both gender and racial barriers to do so. She then served as an articulate, impassioned advocate for her people, the Omaha, at the local, tribal, and national levels to ensure they had the public health services so desperately needed. What an inspiration through her example that one person can make a difference. This gives me hope as we continue to advocate for equity for all.

But that hope is for naught if we force teachers to suppress the truth of our nation's history and inhumane treatment of those who have been considered "other." This inhumane treatment continues now with the pressures seen by transgendered individuals and migrants seeking asylum.

As you reflect on 2022 and envision 2023, where does your passion lie? How do you want to make a difference? What are the most important issues for women and girls in the year to come? We welcome each of you to this vital effort to create a future in which **all** our children and grandchildren can thrive. If one person can make a difference, think of what we can do collectively!!

Cheers to many blessings and forward momentum in 2023!

In sisterhood,

Linda



Winter Social Recap



A big thanks to **Judy Reinhart** and her team of past presidents who hosted the fabulous 2022 Winter Social. Over fifty-five members attended and enjoyed visiting with friends while feasting on delicious snacks and drinking some amazing punch. There were a number of requests for the punch recipe. Judy provided the recipe below.

Judy also wants to let us know that there were leftover supplies that are available for use by an interest or study group. 72 unopened 9 oz. burgundy coffee cups and 40 unopened 9 oz. punch cups. Contact Judy Reinhart at (512) 345-5936 if you are interested in using these supplies.



Past Presidents

Special thanks to **Marsha Endahl-Kramer** for taking some beautiful photos of our good time during the winter social. If you would like to view the photos, click [Winter Social Photos](#).

Betty Owen's Punch Recipe

- 46 oz. can pineapple juice
- 46 oz. can cranapple juice
- ½ cup sugar
- 12 oz. frozen lemonade, undiluted

Combine above 4 items; stir until sugar dissolves. Divide into 2 equal portions and freeze. Remove 4 hours before serving so mixture is mushy. Empty 1 container of frozen mixture into punch bowl and add 2 liters of cold ginger ale; repeat with second batch and 2 liters of cold ginger ale. DO NOT ADD ICE! Yields 50 (9 oz.) cups.

Yearbook Corrections

Newly Renewed Members

Margaret DiPronio
1701 Spyglass Drive, #8
Austin, TX 78746

Change of Address

Delia Quintanilla
415 West Benavides
Falfurrias, TX 78355
dquinta@att.net

Corrections

Tara Peterson-McGarity
correct phone number: (512) 632-5372

Carole Holahan
correct email: c.holahan@austin.utexas.edu

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

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner



It's January of an odd-numbered year, so the Texas Legislature is coming to Austin for its biennial gathering in January. Much of the time, it seems that this body spends an oddly disproportionate amount of its time and Texas taxpayers' money talking at length about causes that pertain to the individual legislators' personal religious beliefs or other pet causes instead of important issues such as constituents' high maternal mortality and other deficits in health

care, lack of broadband access for about a million Texans, treatment of immigrants legal or otherwise, public school regulation and financing, and on and on. As much as we can, we want to "ride herd" on this gerrymandered collection of folks as it works its way through its 88th session of legislation.

The first step is to know who your legislators are and as much as you can about all the members and the workings of the legislature. It will be important to keep tabs on the lieutenant governor who chairs the senate and the speaker of the house who manages the house. The next step is to acquaint yourself with the website <https://capitol.texas.gov/Home.aspx> which is presently being updated with the information for the upcoming session. This is an amazingly full-service website where you can get contact information including office numbers and staff personnel rosters, see who is on what committee, find committee meeting schedules and agendas, every time a bill is introduced and its content, learn how to submit written or spoken testimony regarding a bill, and most importantly, where you can track the progress of bills. If you have any interest in a brief Zoom demonstration of the functioning and flexibility of Texas Legislature Online, please let me know. Also let me know if you would like to be on an email list to receive information on bills that are especially pertinent to AAUW public policy issues, and the public policy committee will respond (maryescribner@gmail.com). AAUW is a small fish in the Texas public policy pond, so we rely heavily on the resources of like-minded organizations such as the League of Women Voters (<https://www.lwvtexas.org/#gsc.tab=0>); Texas Freedom Network (<https://tfn.org>); Every Texan (<https://everytexan.org>); Texas Impact (<https://texasimpact.org>); etc.

Call for Branch Officer Nominees

A necessary part of a strong branch is strong leaders. We know that this is a group of people with exactly the right qualifications. We need you to step forward and lead us into the future.

For the 2023 Branch election (in April), we are looking for:

- One **Co-President**
- One **Program** Co-Vice-President
- Two **Membership** Co-Vice-Presidents (we are thinking of a person for a one-year term and another for a two-year term)
- One **Treasurer / Financial Officer**

If you are willing to serve, please let us know. If you know someone you want to be sure is considered by members of the Nominating Committee, let us know. We can supply job descriptions to help with understanding what is required for a position.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: **Phyllis Folarin, Brenda Hahne, Anita Knight, Berta Lloyd, Joyce Pulich, and Larayne Dallas** (chair). Please contact any of us for more information, to make a nomination, or to volunteer.

Submitted by Larayne Dallas, ldallas@austin.utexas.edu

You are invited - Georgetown Branch Meetings

A Centennial Charter Celebration

The AAUW Georgetown Branch invites you to join them celebrating the 100th Charter Year of the branch. The program will begin with a presentation about the history of the Georgetown branch. The presentation is being prepared by Megan Firestone, the Archivist of Special Collections at Southwestern University, using her resources plus resources from the branch's historical records. Selected participants who have been AAUW members for twenty or more years will have a chance to share some of their memorable experiences. Lunch is available for \$18 upon arrival, but RSVP is requested on or before Sunday, January 15 to Pat Rehm at pacrehm2017@gmail.com.

January Meeting

Topic: Centennial Celebration

When: Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Bear Creek Country Club in the Card Room, [30500 Berry Creek Drive](#)

Silent Auction Results – A Big Success!

The branch auction ran from December 5th through December 8th. Twenty-three bidders placed eighty bids to generate **\$2,153** in gross revenue. This is close to what the first auction raised in 2020. After auction site fees were paid and monetary donations were added in, the grant total is \$2,014.77. The proceeds will go to the national [Greatest Needs Fund](#).



The funds team appreciates everyone who donated items and thanks members who participated in the auction. The auction cannot happen without you.

Cathy Werner set up the auction site and **Elaine Penn** solicited donations from members. Special thanks to Funds Co-chair **Debbie Starr** who solicited gift cards and tickets. The funds team encourages you to patronize these generous vendors:

- Casa Garcia
- League Kitchen & Tavern
- Zachary Scott Theater
- Book People

The funds team wishes you happy holidays and reminds you to keep putting coins in your **Change for Change** jars or any receptacle and bring it the January branch meeting.

Branch Fundrai\$ing Update Submitted by Joyce Pulich



The **Change for Change Challenge** will continue in 2023. Funds raised are directed to addressing the branch's budget deficit. In 2022, members generously donated \$492.20 at branch meetings. **Pam Wolfe** encouraged by **Shirlene Justice** collected \$56 at the Winter Social. Keep filling your change jars – dollars are also welcome!

At **Kate DiPronio's** suggestion, the funds team signed up to wrap gifts for tips at Book People in December. On the first day we earned \$99 and had fun doing it.

In early 2023, the team will sell See's candy bars and offer a New Orleans cooking class. Thanks to all of you who participate in past and future fundraising events to advance gender equity for women and girls.

2022 - 2023 ACC AAUW Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarships

Submitted by Larayne Dallas

Each year, we look forward to the announcement of the recipients of the AAUW Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship at Austin Community College (ACC). Our Austin Branch member **Frances Malmberg** had the foresight to establish the scholarship with funds from her estate. She honored AAUW by including the association in the name of the award.

The scholarship was formally announced in 2004 and first awarded for the 2005-2006 academic year. The scholarship assists women studying at ACC who are at least 25 years old.

Our thanks to **Ann Schubert** at the ACC Foundation for sending information about the 2022-2023 Malmberg recipients, **Sarah Krause** and **Elena Gomez**.

Sarah Krause

In her own words....

My name is Sarah Krause. I am a dog-mom of a mini-Australian Shepard named Roxy. She is the light of my life. Currently, I work as a LVN and waitress. I have been working at an elementary school in Elgin for the last two years as the school nurse. When I was accepted into the mobility program at ACC to achieve my associates degree in nursing, I was unable to continue working as a school nurse due to the amount of time I would be in class and studying. I am currently working as a waitress at an Italian restaurant to put myself through school. I aspire to continue working with kids after I receive my RN. I would like to either work at the Dell Children's Medical Center or go back to an elementary school. Thank you so much for the scholarship! I really appreciate it. The money will go a long way in helping me pay for my books and tuition. Thank you again for helping students like me further their education.



Elena Gomez

In her own words....

My name is Elena! I'm Texas born and grew up in the small town of Schulenburg. I will be graduating with an Associates of Applied Science in Sonography – Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography, as well as, an Advanced Technical Certificate in Cardio-Vascular Sonography. I am really excited about my future after graduation! I've gained so much knowledge being in this program and I am grateful for the support of instructors and staff. I'm taking my clinical course in the hospital right now and I have already been able to make a difference in patients' lives. It is a rewarding feeling. I am looking forward to continuing to improve patients' lives with sonography. I am truly grateful for the scholarship support. This scholarship allows me to work fewer hours and focus on my studies and additional educational opportunities. Thank you for your support of Austin Community College students and for choosing me as a scholarship recipient.



January Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

When: Thursday, January 5, 10:00 a.m.
What: Blanton Museum
Where: 200 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Planner: Sharon Babot
Contact: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317
Note: Eatery suggestions will be distributed the day of the tour.



December Art Tour –
Pottery Demonstration

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.
Project: Tunisian Crochet
Location: Home of Elaine Penn, 912 Dartmoor Drive
Host: 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, January 9, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth*
by Bryan Burrough, Chris Tomlinson, and Jason Stanford
Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Facilitator: Ruth Rubio and Linda Quintanilla
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.
Book: *The Shell Collector: Stories* by Anthony Doerr
Location: Zoom
Leader: Mary Ellen Scribner
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street
Book: *By her Own Design: A Novel of Ann Lowe, Fashion Designer to the Fashion Register*
by Piper Huguley
Reviewer: Judy Reinhart
Host: Judy Reinhart
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

When: Tuesday, January 24, 11:00 a.m.
Location: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac Expy.
Theme: Reader's Choice
Contact: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, January 16, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Circe* by Madeline Miller
Location: Home of Janice Goodsell, 4200 Hofman Drive, Austin
Host: Janice Goodsell
Facilitator: Sharon Babot
Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbstrr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497

Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.
Theme: New Zealand
Location: Home of Nancy Andren, 80 White Magnolia Circle, Lakeway
Hosts: Nancy Andren and Ann Gibbs
Contact: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, January 17, 11:15 a.m.
Location: Twin Lion Chinese, 4815 Braker Lane, Unit 510
Planner: Barbara Worley
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

The January 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, January 15, 4:00 p.m.
Theme: German Wines
Location: Home of Anita Knight, 529 Buckeye Trail
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

Hike #1

When: Thursday, January 5, 10:00 a.m.
Location: [Mayfield Park](#), 3505 West 35th Street
Leader: Ruth Subramanian

Hike #2

When: Saturday, January 21, Time TBA
Location: [Reimers Ranch](#) County Park, Hamilton Pool Road
Leader: Sharon Babot and Sarah Averill

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

Condolences

Our hearts go out to branch member **Marian Wernicke** on the loss of her husband, **Michael Wernicke**. Here is a note shared with us from Marian's daughter, **Kristin Benitez**.

My name is Kristin Benitez, and I'm Michael Wernicke's daughter. My mom, Marian Wernicke, asked me to pass along the information on the funeral happening this weekend in Pensacola for my father. The funeral will be held in Pensacola on Saturday, Dec. 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Immediately following the mass, we will host a reception for all at Gull Point, our family home. The address is 5140 Gull Point Rd, Pensacola, FL 32504.

If anyone wants to send flowers this week, please send c/o my uncle, Paul Wernicke, at the Gull Point house. In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome at the [Pensacola Humane Society](#) or [Central Texas Food Bank](#).

My mom's home mailing address is 7900 Yokohama Terrace, Austin, TX 78744. She'll be back in Austin after Dec 27th.

My cell is 646-436-2911. Please reach out if you have any questions.

*Thank you,
Kristin*

You may read the obituary here: [Michael Wernicke Obituary](#)