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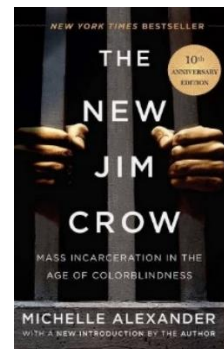


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Items for December  
Newsletter **DUE**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

## November Branch Meeting

**Topic:** Guided Discussion- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*  
**Speaker:** Dr. Rosalee Martin  
**Date:** Saturday, November 14  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Contact:** Anita Knight, [dbasknight@aol.com](mailto:dbasknight@aol.com)



We are pleased to have an important and timely discussion moderated by Huston-Tillotson's award-winning sociology professor, **Dr. Rosalee Martin** on the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, which shows how America's incarceration policies have been impacted by a racist criminal justice system.

The book's author, Michelle Alexander, is a civil rights litigator and legal scholar. She discusses race-related issues specific to African-American males and mass incarceration in the United States, but Alexander noted that the discrimination faced by African-American males is also prevalent among other minorities and socio-economically disadvantaged populations. Alexander's central premise, from which the book derives its title, is that "mass incarceration is, metaphorically, the New Jim Crow".

To learn more about our guest speaker, Dr. Rosalee Martin, and review the supplementary materials she provided for your review, **please go to page 10.**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is the month that reminds us to express thanks. Thank you for supporting AAUW and its goals, and thank you to our volunteers who continue to dedicate time and talent in support of the branch and of the organization.

Of course, November also means Election Day. At our October Branch Meeting, volunteers from the League of Women Voters answered our questions about voting in 2020 and also talked about strategies for encouraging voting. In this newsletter (Our AAUW Austin Members in Action!), **Roberta Coffin** does a great job of summarizing voter-support suggestions from League representatives and from our members. Please consider the ideas in Roberta's e-mail to see what you can contribute and please share the message with others.

At the League presentation, I particularly noted these suggestions. They are easy to do and may have a bigger impact than we realize:

- Set a good example; be a voter.
- Show others that voting is normal, and communicate about your voting behavior so that even those who don't see your actions will know that voting is expected and important.

Looking back at past elections and also remembering the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment: you may have wondered if ratification came soon enough to help women to vote in the 1920 presidential election. Election Day fell on November 2, shortly after ratification on August 18; certification came even later, on August 26.

- Yes, women did vote on Election Day 1920.
- Participation was increased by the 19th Amendment.
- Because of their place of residence, some women would have been eligible without ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Women had previously been recognized as voters in many states and territories. This summary from the Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics: [Women's Suffrage in the U.S. by State](https://tag.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/suffrage-by-state.pdf), gives details.
- The Rutgers site notes that the point of the 19th Amendment wasn't to give women the right to vote but to give constitutional protection to the right. (And we must always note theory doesn't necessarily work out in practice.)
- Some "new" voting states waived missed deadline dates and allowed women to register.
- In four southern states, registration deadlines had been missed and there were no waivers; women had to wait.

I will close with advice from the AAUW National homepage:  
**"Explore the issues, get empowered, and take action."**

**Larayne Dallas**

Austin Branch CO-President

[ldallas@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ldallas@austin.utexas.edu)



Citations:

<https://tag.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/suffrage-by-state.pdf>

Century of votes for women : American elections since suffrage, by Christina Wolbrecht and J. Kevin Corder. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2020, p.10.

## AAUW Member Spotlight- LYNN COOKSEY



Lynn Cooksey's story begins in Pampa, Texas, a town where everyone knew everyone. Lynn attended the University of Texas where she received a B.A. in Psychology. After graduating, she married UT Law student, Frank Cooksey. Following law school, Frank, Lynn and their two children, ages 2 ½ and 5, moved to Washington DC where Frank accepted a position with the Kennedy administration in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

After Kennedy's assassination, the Cookeys remained in Washington DC to work in the LBJ administration. Lynn worked in LBJ's office answering mail from Texans. Lynn proudly points out that if she "red flagged" a letter and requested a response from the relevant agency, the agency representative was required to respond within 24 hours. Lynn witnessed history in the making working on "Great Society" initiatives including legislation that formed the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The family left Washington DC for Houston when Frank accepted a position with the US Attorney's Office in the Department of Justice. Lynn continued her career by serving as a community organizer for the Poverty Program in Houston funded by Office of Economic Opportunity. The family remained in Houston for eight years.

When Lynn and Frank returned to Austin, Lynn enrolled in the newly established LBJ School of Public Affairs and graduated in 1977. Lynn's Master Project addressed housing, an issue that was important to her and aligned with her career. In 1983, Lynn went to work for Governor Mark White in the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. She published papers on low-income housing and "red-lining" (housing discrimination against Black Americans).

Frank was elected Mayor of Austin in 1985 and Lynn began her role as "First Lady" of Austin during his term. From 1990 to 1992, Lynn served as the Executive Director of ACTV (public access TV). She left to care for her aging mother who died in 1993. Lynn did consulting work for a while and beginning in 1999 served as the Executive Director of the International Hospitality Council, now Global Austin. Under Lynn's leadership this Department of State sponsored program expanded its reach and enhanced its purpose of bringing emerging leaders from other countries to the U.S. to exchange and share knowledge and information, and improve relationships. Lynn retired in 2008.

Immediately upon retirement, Lynn completed the process of becoming a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). This led to her interest in genealogy and researching her family history. Lynn's love of history led her to become a member of the Austin History Center Association. As a volunteer, Lynn collects oral histories from Austin citizens from all walks of life.

Lynn's life continues to be as busy as ever. She has always been interested in women's issues, the struggle for equal rights, including equal pay and opportunities in all areas. Lynn is an active member of the Austin Women's Federated Club, of the Austin Chapter of United Nations Association, and has participated in a dinner club for over 40 years. As a longtime member of AAUW, Lynn participates in Culture and Cuisine, the monthly bridge group and audio book club. She is currently working on a presentation with Anne Wheat on "Foods for Healthy Living." Lynn is an avid swimmer enjoying her life-time membership at Barton Springs. One can find her at Barton Springs most days regardless of the outside temperature. Lynn's future projects include sorting through and cataloging her papers. Lynn encourages young women to volunteer and to continue the fight for women's rights and equality.

## Getting Out the Vote-

### Our AAUW Austin Members in Action!

Submitted by Roberta Coffin, [rw@scriptacommunicates.com](mailto:rw@scriptacommunicates.com)

Our October meeting was all about Engaging Voters in the General Election. And our AAUW Austin members are doing just that!

**Mary Ellen Scribner & Marsha Endahl Kramer** – Posting selfies with ballots and letting their social network know they have voted.

**Debbie Starr** – Offering rides to those who need help getting to the polls. She also researched and compiled a very useful [Drop Off Mail-In Ballots Checklist](#).

**Ann Berasley** – Sharing Vote-by-Mail ballot information with her away-at-college daughter and her friends, then posting links to national resources on the college's Parents Facebook page.

**Anita Knight** – forwarding voting process and ways to encourage participation information she has gathered from her many different resources.

**Mary Ellen Scribner, Debbie Starr, Jackie Hardee** – all served as Deputy Registrars working on getting folks registered to vote.

**Jackie Hardee** also volunteered through the League of Women Voters to do contactless voter registration outreach.

**Brenda Hahne** has been participating in a virtual text/phone bank. She also has done some postcard mailing.

**Phyllis Folarin** has added her voice through her network and contacts. She shared, too, how easy it was to deliver her ballot directly to the post office.

**Shirlene Justice** is helping friends who want to vote in person get to the polls.

**Myrtle Bell** is a poll worker. (She also served as a census-taker.)

The above list is by no means complete. It was derived from just a brief brainstorming session held almost three weeks ago.

This election has presented all of us with a great opportunity to, as **Jean Bessent** says, “transform ourselves from couch potatoes to armchair advocates”. Let’s keep the momentum going.

To make an impact locally, contact **Brooke Shannon** who, as Public Policy co-leader, is spearheading plans for AAUW Austin’s participation in Lobby Day at the Texas State Legislature.

Other Public Policy committee members heading up various interest areas include **Mary Ellen Scribner**, Letters to the Editor; **Gayle Kanies**, 2-Minute Activist; **Debbie Starr**, Getting Out the Vote; and **Marsha Endahl Kramer**, Human Trafficking Awareness.

## Questions about Voting?

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is happy to respond to any questions you may have about voting and the election. They field many questions from the [contact form](#) on their website or their general mailbox at [lwvaustin@LWVaustrin.org](mailto:lwvaustin@LWVaustrin.org).

To access the Voting Guide Toolkit developed by the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, click [Voting Toolkit](#)



## Introducing a New Member

**Ruth Cook** has a BA in History from Marian University in Indianapolis and received her MLIS (Library) from UT Austin. She worked as a school librarian for 32 before recently retiring.

Volunteering at her church library is very important to Ruth as is participating in service projects for Delta Kappa Gamma. **Kate DiPronio** invited her to attend the Summer Social and as a newly retired woman, Ruth has time to develop new interests and friendships.

Ruth grew up in a family of ten on a farm in Indiana. She has two grown children who live in the Austin area as does her grand-cat. Ruth is a big UT fan.

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Many thanks to **Kate DiPronio** for preparing these bios!

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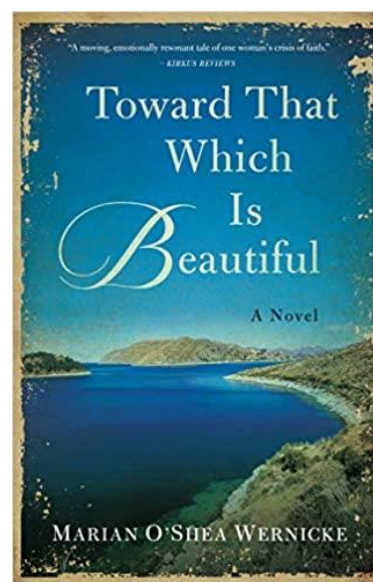
In these times of social distancing, it is harder than ever to get connected. Did we miss you? If you are a new member who joined within the past year, we would love to introduce you to our AAUW membership through a new member profile. Please send an email note to Kate DiPronio ([ktlee523@gmail.com](mailto:ktlee523@gmail.com)) and she will get in contact with you.

## Celebrating Member Success

Austin AAUW member, **Marian O'Shea Wernicke**, is celebrating the publication of her debut novel, *Toward That Which is Beautiful*, published by She Writes Press. The novel has been praised in The Kirkus Review as "a moving, emotionally resonant tale of one woman's crisis of faith." The setting is the early 60s in the Altiplano of Peru, where Sister Mary Katherine, a young American nun, slips away from her convent one day with no money and no destination. Disoriented by a culture that is opaque to her and afraid of her attraction for an Irish priest with whom she is working, she spends eight days on the run. Her journey of memory and desire leads to a startling destination.

Marian was a nun herself for eleven years, and worked for three years in Lima, Peru, during that time. She served as an English professor and department head at Pensacola State College for many years, and is married with three adult children and one grandson. She and her husband Michael now live in Austin.

The novel is available at Book People, Barnes & Noble, and of course, Amazon. Marian will hold a Zoom book launch on Sunday, November 15, at 4:00 p.m., which will include an interview with Charlotte Gullick, novelist and head of the Creative Writing Department at Austin Community College. If you are interested in attending the Zoom launch, please email Marian to receive an Evite, [mwernicke43@gmail.com](mailto:mwernicke43@gmail.com).





### \*\*\*Winter Social\*\*\*

The past presidents of AAUW Austin are busy planning an afternoon of celebration and sharing for our 2020 Winter Social—on Zoom, of course. Please **SAVE the DATE** for **Sunday December 6, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** To counter the need for physical distancing, guests are encouraged to be prepared to contribute about a minute of conversation sharing good news, a favorite memory, snippets of friendship and caring, or just a greeting to AAUW friends as we kick off the winter holiday season in true AAUW style.

Hostesses are **Anita Knight, Ann Berasley, Brenda Scholin, Delia Quintanilla, Elaine Penn, Elizabeth Newell, Ervalyn McVeigh, Ines Garcia, Judy Reinhart, Kay Goodwin, Marina Rivers, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Mary Ellen Scribner, Milli Stecker, Pam Wolfe, Rosemary Morrow and Joyce Pulich.**

May your stuffing be tasty.  
May your turkey be plump.  
May your potatoes and gravy  
have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
and your pies take the prize,  
and may your  
Thanksgiving dinner  
stay off your thighs!



*Happy Thanksgiving*

# **\*\* STEM \*\***

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

**Latinitas**: annual Start-up Chica conference took place virtually on October 10th. Girls from 9-18 learned business skills, how to invent a company or product idea and worked with tech mentors.

Club Latinitas, their free after school program, is online for now. The club is available to girls ages 9-14 in schools in the Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Manor and Del Valle school districts.

Latinitas has launched a new donation-based shop called La Tienda Violeta on their website. It has T-shirts, hats and other items with the Latinitas brand for sale. Go to [La Tienda Violeta](#) to check it out. All proceeds go towards funding programs at Latinitas.

For volunteer opportunities, please go to their web site: [Volunteer with Latinitas](#). They are currently looking for help with curriculum development, people for their online planning committee, web designers and PR/Marketing strategists.

**Girlstart** will not be holding their annual Game Changers Luncheon this year. Instead they are hosting a fall season of STEM events (Fall into STEM), leading up to their annual DeSTEMber program.

Girlstart After School at Home has begun for 4th and 5th grade girls. Each girl received the Girlstart After School at Home kit which included some materials prepared by our own members! They also received an engineering journal that was developed for the recent summer camps and some Girlstart swag, so they feel connected. The girls will have access to a digital library and are encouraged to meet up and stay in contact with fellow participants and Girlstart staff. This program runs Mondays from 4-5 p.m., September 28 to December 7. If you would like to participate in a virtual visitation of the program, let me know so I can schedule it.

Girlstart is providing many more opportunities that include their famous Starry nights (from home) on Thursday nights. Go to the [Girlstart](#) website for more details.

As far as volunteer opportunities, at present there is only the guest speaker slots for the after-school program. They are requesting 50 women in STEM to apply now.

## **Other STEM Opportunities:**

**The Texas Girls Collaborative Project** provides digital resources for both teachers and families on their website at [TXGCP](#). Their monthly newsletter contains many science, technology, engineering and math resources and educational opportunities in Texas. They provide 30-minute webinars.

**The Women in Engineering Program** at UT has a list of volunteer opportunities on their web site: [Women in Engineering Program](#).



# INTEREST GROUPS

## Art Tour

Annual Georgetown Art Tour - Gallery owner **Diane Gaume** will again lead us on an outdoor walking tour featuring new exhibits and some reopened galleries

When: Wednesday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Georgetown Library, 402 W. 8th Street

Lunch: Choice of eateries with outdoor dining options; more details to follow

Planner: **Cathy Werner**

To RSVP for tour and/or lunch: **Marsha Endahl Kramer**, [MEKSpirit66@gmail.com](mailto:MEKSpirit66@gmail.com) or text (512) 906-6566

## Bridge Groups

No November meetings

## Contemporary Literature

When: Monday November 2, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: The Moment of Lift; How Empowering Women Changes the World by Melinda Gates

Leader: **Cathy Werner**

To RSVP: **Mary Ellen Scribner**, [maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com) or 512.698.5539



## Central Book Club

When: Monday November 9, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: The Common Good by Robert B. Reich

Facilitator: **Ruth Rubio**

To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, [maryloubell@gmail.com](mailto:maryloubell@gmail.com)



## Creative Stitchery

When: Wednesday November 19, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Project: Adult Bibs

To RSVP: **Beverly Locklin**, [bklocklin@outlook.com](mailto:bklocklin@outlook.com)

## Culture & Cuisine

When: Thursday November 19, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Theme and Cuisine: Favorite Thanksgiving Dishes- Recipe Exchange

Co Hosts: **Pam Watson** and **Cindy Darilek**



### First Friday Book Review

When: Friday November 6, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 43rd and Avenue B.

Book: England's Mistress by Kate Williams

Reviewer: Mary Frances Rogerson

Host: **Mary Frances Rogerson**

To RSVP: Contact **Judy Reinhart**, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net) , 512-345-5936

### Hiking Group

When: Tuesday November 10, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Laguna Gloria

Meeting Location: 3809 West 35th Street

Admission: \$10 per adult

Leader: **Linda Welsh**

To RSVP: **Linda Welsh**, [lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)



### Mystery Book Club

When: Tuesday November 24, 11:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: Female Detective (professional or amateur)

To RSVP: **Pam Wolfe**, [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

### Out to Lunch

No November Meeting

### Pears

No November Meeting



### Southwest Book Club

When: Monday November 9, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Where: Online via Zoom

Book: Blowout by Rachael Maddow

Facilitator: **Sylvia Garcia**

Online Host: **Debbie Starr**

RSVP to emailed invitation and choose option to SAVE to calendar; this will save the zoom details.

### Wine Tasters

No November Meeting

Continued from page 1

## Introducing November's Branch Meeting Speaker

Leading our discussion is **Dr. Rosalee Martin** is a Professor of Sociology at Huston-Tillotson University. A 38-year veteran teacher, her student-centered teaching has resulted in numerous teaching excellent awards, including the distinguished 2003 Piper Professor Award. She is also a private consultant and therapist.



A native New Yorker, Dr. Martin has a Master of Science in Social Work and a Ph.D. in Sociology. In addition, she is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor.

Dr. Martin was influential in getting the first HIV program on HT campus in the form of developing HIV literature, training HIV peer educators and getting a HIV non-discriminatory policy on campus. From 1988 to 1994, Dr. Martin collaborated with the University of Texas and Planned Parenthood as the Outreach Director of Project REACH (Regional Education for AIDS and Community Health); and she worked with churches, social and non-profit organization to increase HIV awareness and prevention. Dr. Martin's area of research has been on the Black family, families on welfare and recently on global HIV.

Dr. Rosalee Martin has made lasting contributions to society. She has served as a PTA president. In addition, she served on the Texas Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Treatment Methods Advisory Committee and was appointed by the mayor to the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council. Dr. Martin has conducted AIDS workshops around the world.

Dr. Martin is a published author of a variety of professional works related to her areas of specialization, children's books, and pamphlets (several on AIDS) and has written a health column in the Villager. Also a published poet, Dr. Martin has poems in many anthologies with the two most recent ones being Many Paths, Many Feet (2010) and Experiments in Jazz Aesthetics (2010-University of Texas Press). She is also working on a new book.

### Additional Information about the Topic...

**Dr. Rosalee Martin**, has provided the following background material that expands on several historical references in the book and its current implications, as well as providing additional information on the author.

- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jul/23/new-jim-crow-mass-incarceration-in-age-colourblindness-michelle-alexander-review>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/07/books/michelle-alexanders-new-jim-crow-raises-drug-law-debates.html>

### More Pre-presentation material

- Ted Talk (video) by Michelle Alexander: <https://youtu.be/SQ6H-Mz6hgw>
- Review the 13th Amendment: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xiii>
- Review Supreme Court Decision that made Separate but Equal (Jim Crow Laws) legal with a vote of 7 to 1: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Plessy-v-Ferguson-1896>
- Forbes article It's Time to Declare Peace in the War Against Drugs : <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dougbandow/2011/10/17/its-time-to-declare-peace-in-the-war-against-drugs/#4a6f75cd1fd7>

Preview YouTube video- [The future of race in America: Michelle Alexander at TEDxColumbus](#)