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### Items for December Newsletter

**DUE November 15, 2023**  
[shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)



## *Celebrating 100 years!*

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

**Doors open at 10:45 a.m.**

**Program begins at 11:15 a.m.**

***Chateau Bellevue, 708 San Antonio St, Austin 78701***



## **Save the Date Winter Social**



Be sure to mark your calendar for the Branch Winter Social. We will be gathering on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Balcones Country Club from **1:30 to 3:30 pm**. It's our usual meeting spot but not the usual day. As with the Summer Social, this occasion is set aside for fellowship and is a good chance to introduce a guest to AAUW. The Past President Council is hosting and providing refreshments.

## Co-President's Message

Dear All,

November is an important month! On November 1 we will celebrate 100 years of service by AAUW Austin for our community. Wear a hat proudly for all we have accomplished. Much thanks to **Pam Wolfe** and her Centennial Committee of **Ann Berasley, Rolinda Carrington, Larayne Dallas, Marsha Endahl-Kramer, Anita Knight, Soon Merz Flynn, Elaine Penn**, and yours truly for bringing us this wonderful celebration!



Be sure to exercise your right to vote. Educate yourself on the items on the ballot at the League of Women Voters' website: <https://www.vote411.org/>. Artist Sam Ward in the Southern Poverty Law Center calendar emphasizes the power of voting.

We are so grateful to each of you for being members of AAUW Austin, helping us be 100 Years Strong!

In Sisterhood,

Linda A. Welsh, Ph.D.

Co-President 2023-2024

AAUW Austin – 100 Years Strong

## Branch Historian Needed



The board and all branch members thank **Larayne Dallas** for the well-researched and interesting branch history series that has been published in the newsletter over the past seven issues. Larayne has served as the branch historian for several years and it is time for her to pass the torch.

The branch historian helps maintain records regarding the branch's history and is responsible for updating the member accomplishments page on the website. Without someone fulfilling this vital role, we would not have been able to connect ourselves to the women who have come before. Please volunteer and help us ensure that 100 years from now, future members will understand the work we have accomplished to pave the way for them. If you are interested in taking on this important job, please contact **Linda Welsh** or **Soon Flynn**.

## AAUW Austin Branch History Celebrating 100 Years

Submitted by Larayne Dallas on behalf of the Centennial Celebration Committee

In the past months, we have looked back at some highlights from the history of the Austin Branch and named a few of our past leaders. This has been only a sampling of events from the branch's history and leaves unidentified many of our members who served as officers and committee chairs; sold tickets; made calls and wrote letters; worked information tables; found meeting rooms; and did the many jobs necessary to keep the branch a vital part of the community.

To read about more of our members, please see the [Member Accomplishments](#) page of the branch website. While you are at the website, be sure to also read [HERstory of the Austin Branch: 1923 – present](#). And, be sure to read the special *Celebrating 100 Years* insert in this year's Branch Yearbook.

It has taken (and continues to take) a group of talented and dedicated members to keep the organization strong. It has been a great past 100 years of their accomplishments, and we look forward to many more in the years ahead.

## Branch Fundrai\$ing Update

Submitted by Joyce Pulich

### Online Holiday Shopping Event Benefitting AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund

The funds team is sponsoring an on-line silent auction as we have the past three years. The event will take place December 4-7, and is open to anyone in our branch, as well as to friends and family. Please think about any articles you may have that you are willing to contribute – wine, quilts, artwork, jewelry, apparel, etc. You may have a property, boat, or camper you are willing to offer for a weekend or a specialty dish that could be offered to winning bidder. We welcome any and all contributions. The auction cannot happen without these donations. You can bid on the items without leaving home. Winners will be notified on December 10.

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

# Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair Anita Knight

By the time you get this newsletter, the Texas Special Session of the Legislature may be finished. Did we, along with the League of Women Voters, Texas Freedom Network, TX Impact, Equality Texas, Texans for Strong Public Schools, et al., successfully oppose the "voucher", aka "school choice" or "education savings accounts"? If so, a voucher plan will be back, because it is part of a nationwide conservative movement. **Joshua M. Cowen**, professor of education policy in the College of Education at Michigan State University, said after studying school vouchers for two decades that he is now firmly opposed to them. Read his statement [HERE](#).

Be sure to understand the fourteen propositions for constitutional amendments on the November ballot. Did you know that the Texas Constitution is one of the longest in the nation and is still growing? As of 2022 (the 87th Legislature), the Texas Legislature has proposed a total of 700 amendments. Of these, 517 have been adopted, and 180 have been defeated by Texas voters, and three amendments never made it to the ballot. Thus, the Texas Constitution has been amended 517 times since its adoption in 1876. Our U.S. Constitution is considered by many as a "living document", and it only has 27 amendments. Thirty-three amendments to the Constitution of the United States have been proposed by the U.S. Congress and sent to the states for ratification since the Constitution was put into operation on March 4, 1789.

The AAUW Texas October newsletter UWT was in your Inbox recently. It provides important information for advocacy and action. It has an LWV-provided link to video explanations of all the propositions on the ballot for the November 7 election. [Link to Video](#)

For sure you will vote **YES on Proposition 9**: a pension increase for retired teachers.

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) encourages you to **vote NO on Proposition 7**, which appears on the ballot with this statement - "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities." Reason: While we do need to modernize our energy infrastructure here in Texas, we need to focus on making more clean energy. Proposition 7 leans into dirtier sources like natural gas while discouraging energy companies from investing in solar, wind, battery storage and energy efficiency.

Some of us have been following **Heather Cox Richardson**, history professor and author, whom I recently met on a webinar and introduced in last month's newsletter. A few of us attended the conversation with her at the LBJ Library on Wednesday, October 18, moderated by the LBJ Library Director **Mark Lawrence**. Her purpose is to emphasize the principles of American **DEMOCRACY**: people's right to be treated equally before the law and to have a say in their government. So do continue to have your say by voting, communicating with your elected representatives, attending school board meetings, even running for election. Experts on our branch public policy committee are available for your further education and involvement: **Mary Ellen Scribner** for book banning, **Jackie Hardee** for voting rights and elections, **Sarah Averill** for public education, **Ann Berasley** for state government.

HAPPY FALL y'all!

## 2023 - 2024 ACC AAUW Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarships (Submitted by Larayne Dallas)

**Charlotte Carter** - Award Period: Fall 2023 / Spring 2024

### A Note of Thanks...

As a recipient of this scholarship award, I extend my gratitude. Coming back to school has been a mentally taxing endeavor, and this award truly relieves pending stresses. Many thanks to the endowers and donors who have made this accessible.



### In Her Own Words...

I am an unconventional student, continuing my education later, having graduated from high school in 2004.

I began my secondary education journey pursuing a degree in civil engineering, but found myself enamored with architecture, so I switched gears after two years. Since changing, I have felt architecture is where I needed to be all along. I will complete my Associate of Science degree this Spring of 2024 at Austin Community College. From there, I am applying to pursue my bachelor's degree at the University of Texas.

I hope to work at a firm that holds and nurtures community values and appreciation. This past summer, I was lucky to earn an internship role, through ACC, at the Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek (BGK) Architecture firm. As a student user, I was immediately inspired by the work and design integration the BGK Architects firm achieved in bringing new life to the dead space that was Highland Mall. But now that I understand more of the elements of design and integration, I know this is the kind of work I hope to do in my career. There are too many dead spaces that deserve new life in and around our cities. The future should be rethought, rather than rebuilt.

I hope to leave a mark that inspires others as I move into the professional world.

### ACC Major

Architecture, AS

## Yearbook Additions/Revisions

### Corrected Phone Number

**Sharon Babot**  
(707) 373-1317 (cell)

### Change of Address

**Linda Welsh**  
2023 Cervin Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78728

### Corrected Bio Information and Address

**Devon Austin**  
168 Belterra Village Way, Apt. 8203  
Austin, TX 78737

### Degrees Obtained

Bachelor of Arts in Management, University of Phoenix, 1996,  
Master of Science in Computer Information Systems, University of Phoenix, May 2004  
Doctor in Education, University of Phoenix April 2020.

Also, please review your contact information in the Yearbook and report any updates to **Sharon Babot** at [sharonbabot@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbabot@gmail.com).



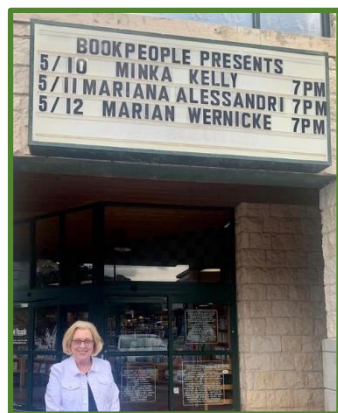
## Report from the Contemporary Literature Book Group

Submitted by Mary Ellen Scribner

Contemporary literature is off to a lively start for 2023-2024. It helps to have a respected novelist as a group member! When **Marian Wernicke** read and spoke at BookPeople about her most recent novel, *Out of Ireland*, many of the group's members were in attendance as were a number of other branch members.

We are pleased with the interest and participation in our service project of Opposing Book Bans. Our original intent was to oppose attempts by one or two individuals to challenge a few books in our local schools and libraries. However, after the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session ended, we realized that we had to expand our work to oppose attempts by our own state government using partisan legislation to corrupt intellectual freedom and reading choice in those institutions. We are pleased to work with the public policy committee and any branch members wanting to support our efforts.

Contemporary lit is the only book group that meets at night and on zoom. If you work during the day or prefer not to drive at night, please consider joining us. We meet on the first Monday evening of the month. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. on November 6 when **Gayle Kanies** will lead the discussion of Suzanne Simard's *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*. Even if you haven't read the book, you will likely find the discussion of this bestselling nonfiction book interesting. Wine connoisseurs like to pair wine and food; avid readers sometimes enjoy pairing fiction and nonfiction. This book pairs very nicely with *The Overstory*, a 2018 novel by Richard Powers. Meeting link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5079011164?pwd=bTBaNmRpRkdMY3RkL0Ftbn1BelRWZz09>



Featured Author  
Marian Wernicke



Contemporary Lit members Ruth Subramanian,  
Carole Holahan, Beverly Locklin, Cathy Werner



Ruth Subramanian, Nancy Ennis,  
Joyce Pulich at the book signing



## Conference and Presentation Materials Available Now

Branch member **Terry Whaley** attended the AAUW Central States Regional Conference as our representative. She is sharing this QR code that contains all the presentations and handouts from the conference. She reports that there were so many overlapping sessions that she was unable to attend them all. A special thank you to Terry for attending the conference and sharing access to this important and timely information with all branch members.

To use the QR code, open the camera on your phone and point at the code. A banner will pop up above or below the code. Click on the banner and it will open up the website. Or you can click on this link: [Regional Conference Presentation Materials](#).



# November Interest Groups

## **Art Tours**

### **Art Tour will not meet in November**

Contacts: Pat Beal, [patrbeal@gmail.com](mailto:patrbeal@gmail.com), 512-762-9924 and Nurit Yaskil, [yaskil@aol.com](mailto:yaskil@aol.com), 858-775-3771

## **Bridge Group**

Thursday, November 14 and 28, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Lamar Senior Activity Center, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave  
Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com),  
512-579-4545

## **Central Book Club**

Monday, November 13, 10:30 a.m.  
707 E. Cesar Chavez Street  
*Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell  
Facilitator: Maggie Kadlecsek  
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, [quintalin@gmail.com](mailto:quintalin@gmail.com),  
713-202-8525

## **Contemporary Literature**

Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m..  
Zoom  
*Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by  
Suzanne Simard  
Leader: Gayle Kanies  
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner  
[maryescribner@gmail.com](mailto:maryescribner@gmail.com), 512-698-5539

## **Creative Stitchery**

Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.  
Home of Zosia Hunt, 6309 Big Cat Cove  
Project: Beading  
Hostess: Zosia Hunt  
Contact: Beverly Locklin, [bklocklin@outlook.com](mailto:bklocklin@outlook.com),  
[512-343-0782 \(h\)](tel:512-343-0782), [512-633-2902 \(c\)](tel:512-633-2902)

## **Culture and Cuisine**

Thursday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Home of Joyce Pulich, 2300 Westway Circle  
Theme: Northern Italy  
Hosts: Joyce Pulich, Nancy Andren  
Contact: Shirlene Justice, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com), 512-507-1003

**Art Tour** members visit Terra Firma Studios in Cedar Creek to view some beautiful mosaics and sculpture.



Left to right: Cecile Schubert, Shirlene Justice, Carol Swartz, Susan James, the artist - Aly Winningham, Ginny Tannebring, Nancy Andren, Jackie Hardee, Nancy Riley, Marsha Endahl-Kramer

**Creative Stitchery** displaying their blue jean totes



Elaine Penn, Jackie Hardee, Janet Cobb



### **Friday Morning Book Review**

Friday, November 3, 10:00 a.m..

*Vanderbilt* by Anderson Cooper

Reviewer/Host: Mary Frances Rogerson

Contact: Judy Reinhart

[jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net), 512-345-5936

### **Hiking Group**

#### **Hike 1**

Thursday, November 2, 9:00 a.m.

Turkey Creek Trail

Leader: Louise Jordan

#### **Hike 2**

Saturday, November 18, 10:00 a.m.

Slaughter Creek Trail

Leader: Janet Lawson

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

### **Mystery Book Group**

Tuesday, November 28, 11:00 a.m.

BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac

Theme: Potluck Author – Luck of the Draw

Contact: Pam Wolfe, [piwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:piwolfe@yahoo.com)

512-388-5433 (h), 512-925-7865 (c)

### **Out-to-Lunch**

Tuesday, November 21, 11:15 a.m.

Cheesecake Factory, 2901 S. Capital of Texas Hwy.

Planner: Debbie Shaeffer

Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com)

512-970-5051

### **PEARS**

Saturday, November 18, 5:00 p.m.

Las Palomas Mexican Restaurant, 3201 Bee Caves Road

Contact: Milli Stecker: [mstecker@austin.rr.com](mailto:mstecker@austin.rr.com),

512-468-1088

### **Southwest Book Group**

Monday, November 13, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Home of Brenda Hahne, 6202 Tasajillo Trail

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt

Facilitator: Sharon Babot

Contact: Debbie Starr, [dbbstrr@gmail.com](mailto:dbbstrr@gmail.com)

### **Wine Tasters**

Sunday, November 12, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Theme: Italian Wines

Host: Susie Angel, 220 Silver Charm Drive

Contact: Elaine Penn, [epenn9915@gmail.com](mailto:epenn9915@gmail.com)

### **October Culture and Cuisine** discovering Polynesian culture.



Sitting: Linda Booker, Pam Watson, Lynn Cooksey, Carol Fritz, Phyllis Folarin, Marsha Endahl-Kramer

Standing: Anita Knight, Cindy Darilek, Judy Reinhart, Elaine Penn, Joyce Pulich, Nancy Andren, Sarah Averill, Pat Beal, Roberta Coffin, Terry Whaley, Shirlene Justice



Shirlene Justice serving Tongan Otai to Anita Knight and Phyllis Folarin.

### **Hiking Group at Red Bud Isle**



Ginny Tannebring, Laurie Altman, Margene Beckham, and Naomi Baker