

### *Inside this Issue:*

President's Message	p 2
Silent Auction	p 3
Winter Drinks	p 3
November Meeting Recap	p 4
Remembering Mary Humke	p 5
Monthly Branch Program Meetings	p 5
Member Spotlight	p 6
Interest Groups	p 7
New Member Bios	p 9
Frances Malmberg Scholarship	p 11
Texas Freedom Network	p 11
STEM	p 12

## **AAUW Austin Branch Virtual Winter Social Sunday December 6 3-4:30 p.m.**

Join your fellow AAUW Austin Branch members to share your experiences during the pandemic shutdown, your plans for the holidays and your hopes for 2021. Prepare and consume your favorite alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage as we share recipes and toast the coming year. Please join the Zoom meeting:

### **Zoom Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83447627571?pwd=Vm5hQjBubjFUY2tZWVBiZFJzcnZYZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 4762 7571

Passcode: 411473

### **Call in by Phone (audio only)**

Phone Number: (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 834 4762 7571#, the # again

Passcode: 411473#



### ***Newsletter Editor:***

Shirlene Justice  
[shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)

Items for January  
Newsletter **DUE**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2020**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Spring Planning Update:** At the November 17th meeting, members of the Austin AAUW Board voted to keep Branch meetings “by Zoom” through the end of the AAUW year. The Hiking Group and other Interest Groups able to make arrangements for safe in-person activities should go ahead with those plans.

Fortunately, programs by Zoom can be as informative and inspiring as in-person presentations. At the November Branch program, speaker Rosalee Martin discussed *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander. Those of us who heard that presentation asked, “What can I do?” I recommend looking to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for help with verbalizing guiding principles. The SPLC pledges to fight hate, teach tolerance, and seek justice. Building on fundamentals such as these, each of us can set a course for individual action.

Conviction on a criminal charge can be a lingering impediment to the right to vote. AAUW’s statement, Where We Stand: Voting Rights (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-voting-rights/>), gives background information on the history of voter rights in the U.S. and points to action we can take in support of better voter protection, including the rights of those who have served jail time.

Continuing with the theme of voting, if you remember from the last column, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on August 18, 1920 shortly ahead of the presidential election of 1920. In some states, officials declined to take any special effort to allow registration in time for the election; in some states, the usual deadline dates were adjusted; and other states already allowed women to vote at least in presidential elections.

The 100-Years-Ago column of the Tuscola (Illinois) *Review* --- from my hometown --- gives these interesting details of separate voting. This excerpt is from October 21, 1920, and refers to the fact that Illinois was one of the states with presidential but not total female suffrage:

“County Clerk Hawkins has received a letter from the Secretary of State stating that separate ballots must be printed for men and women, and that they must be deposited in separate ballot boxes and then returns to the Secretary of State the total men and women ballots must be given separately, the same as heretofore. After the question of women voting on all propositions have been positively settled for all time, the separate ballot and ballot box will be dispensed with.” Reprinted in the Tuscola Review (October 21, 2020; p 4)

It seems as though the future path would have been clear to everyone but it sounds as though the Secretary of State was still adjusting. The next week’s paper had this encouraging note:

“It is the first election in which women will have full suffrage and they will have the opportunity to vote for every office. The names of all known voters have been registered by the officers in charge of the work, so no one need hesitate for fear of being embarrassed by their name not being registered. The chances are 500 to 1 that your name is registered even if you did not attend to it yourself and even if it has not been, you may vote by making affidavit of your rights.” Reprinted in the Tuscola Review (October 28, 2020; p.4)

Thank you for being this kind of person. Like the “officers in charge of the work,” you look for ways to give opportunities and to eliminate barriers. Keep it up!

**Larayne Dallas**

Austin Branch CO-President

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



# SILENT AUCTION

The AAUW Austin Branch fundraising team is holding a virtual auction the week of December 1st through the 8th. Notification of awards will be on December 10. Members have donated many interesting items ranging from paintings, photo prints and other art objects to bottles of wine. There are signed copies of **Marian Wernicke's** new novel and **Jan Rooker's** college essay book and services. Available adventures include a three-night stay in Port Aransas, Texas, or closer to home, two nights of glamping at Ardor Wood Farm in Red Rock near Bastrop. For more information about the auction items, check this link: [AAUW Silent Auction Items](#). To bid on an item go to this link: [BID](#).

Click the drink recipe picture below to see a larger version or print.

## Favorite Festive Winter Drink Recipes from Branch Past Presidents

### Glühwein (German hot wine punch)

- 1 bottle Burgundy wine
  - 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
  - 2 tablespoons sugar
  - 1 cinnamon stick
  - Dash nutmeg and cinnamon
- Bring wine and other ingredients to boil. Stir till sugar dissolves. Let stand briefly. Serve in mugs with cinnamon sticks.

My mother's favorite on cold winter nights or for a cold - **Anita**

### Cranberry Bourbon Cocktail

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 2 cups bourbon
- orange peels, for garnish

1. Combine the cranberries, orange juice, sugar and cinnamon sticks in a small saucepan over medium high heat
2. Bring to a simmer and cook, stirring, until the sugar dissolves and cranberries start to pop, about 5 minutes
3. Let cool completely, then combine with the bourbon in a pitcher.
4. To serve, pour over crushed ice and garnish with an orange peel.

**Note:** I have cut down the alcohol considerably from the original recipe, so you may want more. The crushed ice melts and also helps dilute it.



**Elaine**

### Spiced Cinnamon Eggnog Coffee

- Ingredients:**
- 1 1/3 cups cinnamon spiced eggnog
  - 2 1/2 cups hot coffee (dark roast is best)
  - Whipped cream and ground nutmeg, optional

#### Instructions:

1. Place eggnog in a saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat until heated through (not boiling).
3. Stir in the coffee.
4. Pour into mugs and garnish with whipped cream/nutmeg if desired.



**Mary Ellen**

### Traditional Swedish Glogg ("glue-gh")

- 1 bottle red wine
- Optional: 1 1/2 cup of bourbon (or vodka)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons orange zest
- 2 tablespoons raisins (plus 1 teaspoon for serving)
- 1 tablespoon cardamom pods
- 2 tablespoons ginger (fresh root; sliced)
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 8 cloves
- 2 tablespoons almonds (blanched and slivered)
- Garnish: orange slices

Combine the wine, bourbon or vodka (if using), sugar, orange zest, raisins, cardamom pods, a slice of ginger root, cinnamon stick, and cloves into a 2- to 3-quart pot. Heat to 175 F and let simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand and steep for 1 hour. Strain to remove the fruit and spices and gently reheat the punch. Add a few almonds and raisins to each serving glass and garnish with a slice of orange. Serve and enjoy!

**Marsha**



### Fruited Mint Tea

- 3 cups boiling water
- 4 regular-sized tea bags
- 5 cups cold water
- 12 fresh mint sprigs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Garnishes: fresh mint sprigs, fresh orange wedge

1. Pour boiling water over 12 mint sprigs and tea bags. Cover and let stand 5 minutes.
  2. Remove and discard mint sprigs and tea bags, squeezing tea bags gently. Add sugar, stirring until dissolved. Stir in cold water, orange juice and lemon juice. Serve over ice. Garnish if desired.
- Yield about 2 1/2 quarts.

**Judy**

### Mango Margarita for All Seasons

- 1 can Zing Zang margarita mix
- 1 cup HEB Organics mango chunks
- Shot of tequila

Put in blender with ice. Blend.

**Milli**



### Cold Eggnog

- 6 fresh eggs
- 1/2 lb. granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 oz rum
- 1 pt bourbon
- 1 pt heavy cream
- 1 pt milk

Beat yolks. Beat whites separately adding the sugar to the whites. Add well-beaten yolks to whites and beat both thoroughly together. Stir in the rum. Add the whiskey, the heavy cream and the milk. Stir all ingredients well.

**Joyce**



### Rompope (Mexican Eggnog)

#### Ingredients

- 2/3 cup blanched almonds
- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups milk
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- Rind of 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 8 large egg yolks
- 1/2 to 1 cup aged rum or aguardiente

#### Directions

1. Pulse almonds with 2 tablespoons sugar until ground to a fine paste.
2. Bring milk, cinnamon sticks, lemon rind, vanilla, and baking soda to boil over medium-high heat in large heavy-bottomed saucepan. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Set aside.
3. In large bowl, whisk egg yolks, remaining 1 1/2 cups sugar, and almonds until thick and pale. Remove and discard cinnamon stick and lemon rind from milk. Constantly whisking, slowly add the milk to the yolk mixture.
4. Return mixture to pan and cook over low heat, stirring and scraping the bottom and sides of the pan constantly until the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon, 5 to 7 minutes. Set aside to cool completely, about 2 hours.
5. Stir in rum or aguardiente and serve.

**Inés**



# November Meeting Recap

For our November branch program, we were so lucky to have an important and timely discussion with 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. A total of 71 people participated, including five Huston-Tillotson University friends and students and **Dr. Pamela Waldron-Moore** of Xavier University in Louisiana.

It was an important history and conversation to share. If you want to read more, here are the books that were suggested on the Zoom call:

*A Lesson before Dying*, a novel by Ernest J. Gaines

*How to be an Anti-Racist*, by Ibram X. Kendi

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson

*Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabelle Wilkerson

*Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*, by Saidiya Hartman

*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo

If you are interested in viewing a recording of Dr. Martin's presentation, please contact Anita Knight, [dbasknight@aol.com](mailto:dbasknight@aol.com) or (512) 922-8575

(the lists were compiled by **Dr. Sylvia Garcia, Anita Knight, Dr. Martin** and **Sierra Mendez**)

## Austin Area Racial Justice Organizations

Click on name to learn more about each.

[African American Youth Harvest Foundation](#)

[Austin Justice Coalition](#)

[Black Lives Matter](#)

[Black Mamas ATX](#)

[Communities of Color United](#)

[Community Advocacy & Healing Project](#)

[Counter Balance: ATX](#)

[Creative Action](#)

[Grassroots Leadership](#)

[Huston-Tillotson University](#)

[Jolt Action](#)

[Latino Justice \(Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund\)](#)

[LULAC \(League of United Latin American Citizens\)](#)

[Mama Sana Vibrant Women](#)

[MEASURE](#)

[Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund](#)

[NAACP-Austin](#)

[Rosa Rebellion](#)

[Six Square](#)

[The Spark Change Project, Girls Empowerment Network](#)

[Texas Appleseed](#)

[Texas Civil Rights Project](#)

[The AFIYA Center \(Arabic name meaning "good health"\)](#)

[Undoing White Supremacy Austin](#)

[UT Center for Study of Race & Democracy](#)

[UT Precursors](#)

**Black-owned businesses to support, per i-ACT:** <https://www.kvue.com>  
**BIPOC** - an acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous, & People of Color

## Remembering Mary Humke

We recently lost a dear AAUW sister and friend to many of our members. Her daughter, **Erika Humke** sent us this message.

Dear friends,

Our sweet, dear, gentle mom flew away last night. Her passing was quiet and peaceful. We knew her time was near and she was so ready to leave her body behind, but our hearts are broken with missing her.

Mom lived life to the fullest, and kept on living with ALS for over six years. As many of you know, she and my dad visited all seven continents, traveling to Antarctica in 2015 just before my dad passed away. It was such a joy that she then decided to join us here in Austin, and we've been even closer these past nine months that she's lived in my home.

We are so thankful that Matt was finally able to travel from Guatemala and we all spent mom's final days together, looking at family photos, listening to music, reminiscing, and holding her hand.

We don't have plans for a formal memorial but feel as if we've been having an ongoing, living memorial service during these past weeks and months, wrapping mom in a blanket of love with all the memories, photos, and tender thoughts that so many have shared. In the longer term, we plan to scatter mom's ashes in meaningful places for her like Boulder and Wisconsin. We also promised her that we will continue to travel the globe in her honor, and so there will be many private remembrances around the world in years to come.

Mom and I have been listening to her favorite music throughout our time together, and one song in particular always really spoke to us. Feel free to have a listen, and wish her "goodspeed" as she flies away.

I'll Fly Away - Chris Thile with The War & Treaty - Live from Here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3iLqcAO8-E>

Love,  
Erika

## Monthly Branch Program Meetings

All monthly branch program meetings will be conducted via Zoom for the remainder of the program year. **Phyllis Folarin**, the Programs Chair states "I realize how difficult this decision must be for many to accept because social interactions are so very important to us humans, but we must consider the safety of the strongest as well as the frailest among us." If you have not yet participated in a Zoom meeting, please consider making the Winter Social your first Zoom meeting. The Programs Committee promises that you will be happy you did.

### Need Help with Zoom?

If you are concerned about your ability to navigate Zoom technology, please contact **Shirlene Justice**, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com). She will be happy to arrange a time to visit with you on the phone and set up a practice Zoom call.

## AAUW Member Spotlight- Elizabeth Newell

Teaching teenagers and teaching teachers has been the focus of most of Elizabeth Newell's life. She grew up in a rural area outside Lindale in northeast Texas. Her mother was a homemaker and her father was a truck farmer. From elementary to high school, she attended Lindale schools. Upon graduation, she went to Tyler Junior College before transferring to the University of Texas for her sophomore year. At UT, she earned a BA in Chemistry and then a Teaching Certificate.



Her first teaching job in the 60s was at Leander High School when Leander had only one high school and was not the growing metropolis it is today. As per usual in a small school district and to a new teacher, Elizabeth taught not just chemistry but ALL the sciences! In addition, she was the "sponsor" for the girls' basketball team. The team had a male coach so her job was to be the female presence at games, etc.

After a year and a half at LISD, Elizabeth joined Austin ISD, first at Johnston High School (now Eastside Memorial) for 13 years and then at Austin High School for 25 years. She served for many years as science department chair at AHS. She continued her own education by earning a M.Ed. at UT in Science Education. At Texas State University, she earned her certification in Curriculum and Supervision and Administration Supervision.

Dr. ViMarie Taylor and Dr. Inez Jeffery encouraged Elizabeth to join AAUW, which she did in 1991. She felt the organization was a good fit for her especially AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. She was impressed that AAUW was actually good at fulfilling their mission by lobbying for change and having activities that keep the members informed, educated and involved. Elizabeth was the AAUW Branch President in 2001 serving while being a full-time teacher. Currently, she enjoys the Central Book Review Interest Group.

She retired from AISD in 2003. Concerned about boredom, she joined UTEACH in the College of Natural Sciences and worked there for 15 years. In addition, she was recruited to work for TeachQUEST, an alternative certification program, where she was a Field Observer to apprentice teachers. She has also been an instructor for what was once called "Correspondence Study" and now is on-line or distance learning for UT Austin Distance Education Center for about 50 years. She is the instructor for high school Chemistry and IPC (Integrated Physics and Chemistry).

Elizabeth's husband, Robert is also a retired educator spending most of his career at Johnston High School. Elizabeth says he has been one of her strongest supporters in all of her activities and they will be celebrating 37 years of marriage this December. She has two children from a previous marriage, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter who they enjoy caring for on weekdays.

In addition to AAUW, Elizabeth is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma-Epsilon Kappa chapter, the Assistance League of Austin working for 10 years with Operation School Bell, and various activities with her church.

Elizabeth's advice to young women is what her own life has been about — **be informed and be involved!**

# INTEREST GROUPS

## December

### 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 December meetings

### Contemporary Literature

When: Monday December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout

Leader: Roberta Coffin

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

### Central Book Club

When: Monday December 14, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende

Facilitator: Linda Quintanilla

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



### Creative Stitchery

When: Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. (Tentative)

Where: Zoom

Project: Face Coverings and Adult Bibs

To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, [blocklin@austin.rr.com](mailto:blocklin@austin.rr.com)

## Culture & Cuisine

When: Thursday December 17, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Theme and Cuisine: Cookie Recipe Exchange

Host: Shirlene Justice

To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, [shirlenejustice@gmail.com](mailto:shirlenejustice@gmail.com)

## Frist Friday Book Review

To Be Determined

Contact for Details: Judy Reinhart, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net),  
512-345-5936

## Hiking Group

When: Thursday December 10, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Trails at MoPac and 45<sup>th</sup> Street

Meeting Location: TBA

Leader: Anita Knight

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

## Mystery Book Club

No December Meeting

## Out to Lunch

No December Meeting

## Pears

No December Meeting

## Southwest Book Club

When: Monday December 14, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Where: Online via Zoom

Book: *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle, 352 pages

Facilitator: Debbie Starr

Online Host: Sharon Babot

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

## Wine Tasters

No December Meeting



From October's C&C...Paella Night Recipes and Instructions, click below

[Paella, Sangria and Flan Recipes](#)

[Paella Recipe Instructions](#)

Culture and Cuisine Thanksgiving Recipe Collection, click below

[Thanksgiving Recipes](#)





# New Member Bios

**Dr. Lee Collins** holds a B.A. in mathematics, an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas. Additionally, she earned a D.B.A. from the University of Northumbria in Great Britain. Lee has worked in the software industry, financial service industry, and more recently in academics. Previously, Lee volunteered in marketing and PR for School Home Tour, Austin Museum of Art, and Austin Symphony for Simple Simon. She has been described as a technical brain with a marketing personality, which worked well in managing a software product line. Lee joined AAUW because of the interesting and thought-provoking discussions and speakers. Her interests include volunteer opportunities in education. Lee spent over twenty years outside the U.S. as an adult, and since returning to the US at the end of 2017, she has been unable to comprehend what has happened here and the attitudes she now encounters. She has a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren who live in London.

**Gail Daniels** received her B.A. in English and M.B.A. *magna cum laude* from Boston College and her M.A. in counseling *summa cum laude* from St. Edward's University. She spent twenty-five years as a high tech sales and marketing executive receiving numerous awards such as the first national AT&T sales contest in 1976. She was promoted to the position of vice president. In 2000 she started a software company. After a serious illness and a lot of reflection, Gail transitioned into a new career as a psychotherapist and has been in private practice in Austin since 2005. Gail is most proud of helping people alleviate their suffering, facilitate growth, and make positive changes. Married with two grown children, two grandchildren, and a calico cat, Gail joined AAUW because it supports women achieving their career and life goals.

**Marion Martin** joined AAUW Austin this summer after meeting members of the hiking group in January on a walking tour of public art on the UT campus. Marion has a bachelor's degree from California State University at Sacramento and an M.B.A. from the University of New Orleans. She is a career fundraising professional with over twenty-five years of experience in higher education, health care, and social services. She currently serves as the executive director and sole employee of the Texas Mamma Jamma Ride, an annual charity bike event that raises funds for local breast cancer support services. Through Mamma Jamma, Marion blends her personal passion and interests with her professional expertise.

Marion is a fifth generation Texan who grew up in Northern California and returned to Texas in 2006 after many years in New Orleans. She was happy to land in south Austin after Katrina and start her Texas story. In preparation for retirement someday, she is building a 900-square foot accessory dwelling unit (ADU) in her backyard, and once it is complete, she will move into it and rent out her house. Happily, her daughter moved to Austin after grad school in Boston and lives here with her partner and their three dogs and one cat. Marion loves to be outside, to learn, to travel, to read (especially contemporary nonfiction written by journalists and novels). Her current binge on Netflix is "Borgen", a highly compelling Danish TV series. Post pandemic Marion looks forward to returning to her weekly Sunday evening volunteer shift as a bedtime reader at Helping Hands Home.

# New Member Bios - continued

**Aileen Mapes** was a double major at Stephen F. Austin University earning a B.A. in sociology and a B.S. in dance. While there she was president of the Environmental Club for three years, running the Earth Day Festivals and Campus Clean Highway cleanup. She worked to protect the rights of the LGBTQ community club which allowed the club to meet without being harassed. Working with the dean of student affairs, she started the first campus women's festival creating a great partnership for bridging relationships between community and campus groups. At Arizona State University Aileen received her M.F.A. which is technically equivalent to a Ph.D. She was named Outstanding Graduate in Community Outreach. She connected the school to several art venues in downtown Phoenix to assist in practical education for undergraduates in the process of securing a venue, contracts, etc.

Aileen has dual careers! She is a dancer, dance teacher, lecturer, and choreographer. To make her life even more interesting, she assembles teams to go to remote new construction and to pull nails from boards to salvage material. She has a good eye for color and loves helping make someone's home special. Good ole hard labor work makes Aileen feel good! If she is not dancing, she still needs to be active to keep her balance. Aileen is a sixth generation Texan, and she and her five-year-old son have recently returned to Texas. She is looking to connect with other AAUW members and wants to instill in her son the ability to be a giving person. At this point in time, she is particularly concerned about women's rights. When we can finally gather in person, Aileen will be able to entertain our group as she can juggle, tap dance, and sing all at the same time!

Happy  
Holidays!

## Frances Malmberg Scholarship

The **AAUW/Frances Malmberg Endowed Scholarship** was established in 2004. The fund was made possible by and honors the legacy of AAUW branch member and former branch president **Frances Malmberg**. The scholarship assists female students, 25 years or older enrolled at Austin Community College. The Frances Malmberg scholarship recipients for the academic year (2020-21) are **Karina Mendoza** and **Teri Ruffino**. Each student was awarded \$2,100.



## AAUW Service Opportunities in Action - Texas Freedom Network

The Texas Freedom Network celebrated 25 years in October. Founded in 1995, the Texas Freedom Network is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization of more than 130,000 religious and community leaders who support religious freedom, individual liberties and public education.



AAUW Austin's own **Nita Hornbeck** was instrumental in starting the organization. Nita represented AAUW on the Coalition for Public Schools Board and assisted **Cecile Richards** in 1995 in founding the Texas Freedom Network. Nita, along with **Pat Ross**, program chair of Texas AAUW, and Cecile organized a group of Branch Public Policy chairs throughout Texas to monitor the State Board of Education, attending meetings and supporting issues. Nina encourages us to take advantage of the opportunities AAUW offers by stating "I never expected all the opportunities the Austin Branch gave me. What an interesting life I've lived in great part because of AAUW."

# **\* \* S T E M \* \***

**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**

Club Latinitas continues their free after school program online. This is available to girls ages 9-14 in schools in the Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Manor and Del Valle school districts. They distributed 193 home activity kits for this program. No matter what the future brings, remote programming will be part of Latinitas. They have had girls from 15 other states and many cities here in Texas ask to participate in various programs.

On Nov. 17th they hosted an online session with Atlassian software for girls 12-18 who are interested in pursuing a career or degree in technology. On Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Latinitas hosted a virtual open house and state of Latinitas. I attended and learned much about Latinitas and had the opportunity to meet people from other organizations that support Latinitas.

If you would like to help Latinitas there are two ways to do so.

- 1) Go to [Volunteer with Latinitas](#) and fill out the volunteer form. Currently they are signing up people to help with the Start Up Chica conference scheduled for February.
- 2) Join the Empowerment Circle which involves signing up as a sustaining donor for the year.

## **Girlstart**

Girlstart After School at Home for the fall semester will end December 7th. Every After School at Home 'club' has had the opportunity to visit with a guest speaker who is herself a highly accomplished female STEM professional. They are focusing on identifying the most frequently tested science and math standards to better prepare their girls if standardized tests are given in the spring.

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. They also had a virtual STEM kindness extravaganza in November. This provided three days of fun activities girls could do at home.

**The Women in Engineering** group at UT has a list of volunteer opportunities on their web site: [Women in Engineering](#). Below are some opportunities to connect with the current students at UT.

**Undergraduate Women in Chemical Engineering (UChEW)** is looking to host alumni and friends at general meetings and events and as part of a professional development series this year. Planned dates are 11/18 and 12/2 at 6 p.m. but other dates and times for coffee chats can be flexible. The opportunity is flexible and can be catered towards your availability, experience, and personality. Email [texasuchew@gmail.com](mailto:texasuchew@gmail.com) for more information.

**Women in Mechanical Engineering (WME)** is looking to host alumni and friends at general meetings and events and as part of a professional development series this year. The opportunity is flexible and can be catered towards your availability, experience, and personality. Email [texaswme@gmail.com](mailto:texaswme@gmail.com) for more information.

**The UT K-12 STEM Collaborative**, a network of departments, programs, groups and individuals across UT Austin leading K-12 STEM outreach and education programs, is collecting Longhorn STEM role model videos to inspire K-12 students about STEM pathways and careers. [Learn more and get all the guidelines for "Career Chat Videos" online.](#)

