



AAUW Austin Branch February Meeting

When: Saturday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.

Where: ZOOM, a link will arrive in the invitation

Speakers: **Thomas Jesús Garza**, Ed.D., Associate Professor, UT Austin
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Ph.D., Associate Professor, UT Austin

Topic: **Mother Russia is Calling: Russian Women from Catherine the Great to Ksenia Sobchak**

Contact: Joyce Pulich, joycepulich@sbcglobal.net

There is a persistent image of Russia as very masculine from Peter the Great to Lenin, Stalin, Krushchev and certainly today's Putin. At the same time, from Russian Orthodox veneration of the Blessed Mother, to Catherine's skill and ambitions to Sobchak's commercial, media and political resilience and resourcefulness as one of the only candidates to oppose Putin, women

have played a crucial role in determining the culture and destiny of the Russian, Soviet and now Post-Soviet State. To understand and appreciate this paradox, join us as we explore and learn about a selected gallery of great Russian women and the impact they have always had from the dinner table to the Duma.

Information about the speakers is on the following page.



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Items for March Newsletter



DUE February 16, 2022

shirlenejustice@gmail.com



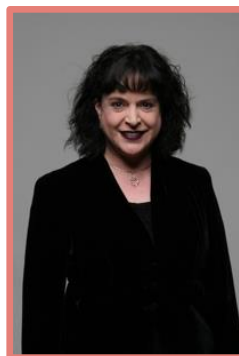
About the Speakers.....

Thomas Jesús Garza, Ed.D, is a University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and Founding Director of the Texas Language Center. He teaches Russian language and literature, foreign language pedagogy and contemporary Russian culture. He has been traveling to and researching in Russia since 1979 and has lived in Moscow for over six years. A native Texan, Dr. Garza received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1987. During his more than 30 years at UT, he has received numerous prizes for undergraduate and graduate teaching, including the Texas Excellence Award, the President's Associates Award and the Harry



Ransom Award. He was also inducted into the University Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2003, selected for a Regents Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009 and chosen a "Texas Top Ten" instructor by the Texas Exes in 2018. He recently completed a book manuscript on filmic portraits of *machismo* in contemporary Russian and Mexican cultures and is currently working on a new project on Russian actor and bard, Vladimir Vysotsky in the Americas in the 1970s.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Ph.D., is a UT Regents' and Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of English at UT Austin. She serves as the Director of UT's Program in Comparative Literature and was the chief administrative officer of the American Comparative Literature Association from 2002-2011. She is an affiliated faculty member in the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Program in the Human Dimension of Organizations. She holds degrees from UC Berkeley, Oxford University and Columbia University and has held both Mellon and Fulbright Fellowships. She writes on Oscar Wilde, theatre, the Gothic, detective stories and literary theory. She teaches diversity and inclusion through literature and the fine arts and works actively in eight world languages. In recognition of her multimedia approach to teaching has been awarded the Chad Oliver Plan II Teaching Award, the 16th annual Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship and the Minnie Piper Stevens Teaching Award. She was elected to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2004 and was awarded the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February is often known in our country as President's Month. The third Monday in February is President's Day and is a federal holiday. George Washington, our first President, Abraham Lincoln, William Harrison and Ronald Reagan were born in February and all American presidents are honored on President's Day for their leadership and exemplary role in making our country great.



AAUW goals identify Leadership as an important national and local focus area of AAUW. A 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awards Winner for World Class Leadership is the Director General of the World Trade Organization, **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**. This award is given to a past recipient of an AAUW Fellowship or Grant who has attained outstanding success and distinction in their chosen profession. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is also named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021. To learn more about Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and her work, click on the following links: [World Trade Organization](#) and [Time Magazine](#).

Our Austin Branch is well represented in Leadership at our AAUW State Level:

Terry Whaley	AAUW Texas Program Vice-President
Marsi Liddell	Central District Representative
Pat Rehm	Public Policy
Ann Berasley	By-Laws/Parliamentarian
Pam Wolfe	Past State President/Website and Facebook
Janani Janakiraman	Website
Marina Rivers	Branch Services

An impressive twenty-five current Austin Branch members have served at least one term of office as Branch president. Many of these past presidents continue to serve our branch in vital roles where their expertise is valued and they serve as role models and mentors for other aspiring members. As many as twenty continue to serve as leaders of our Branch Interest Groups.

Our commitment to building leadership among our members is embedded in the Branch Strategic Plan and 2020-2022 Goals. The goal of Strategic Focus #5 states "Foster the potential in members by providing leadership opportunities through branch activities, interest groups and committees as well as by, possibly, sponsoring a leadership workshop."

***IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE,
AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.***

John Quincy Adams, American President (1767-1848).

*Evelyn Farmer
Co-President*

January Meeting Recap

Thank you to the approximately forty members who attended January's Zoom meeting and presentation. Matthew Dugan, our guest speaker, serves as the Division Manager of the City of Austin Housing and Planning Department. He delivered interesting and timely information about the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. The plan, approved unanimously by the City Council in 2012. By City Charter, the Planning Commission reviews the comprehensive plan annually and may recommend amendments to Council.

The distinctive benefit of a comprehensive plan is that it confronts big issues in a big-picture way. The Imagine Austin vision statement, developed with the input of thousands of residents, describes the Austin we aspire to be in 2039, the 200th anniversary of the city's founding. "Our city will be one of a 'complete communities' that is natural and sustainable, prosperous, livable, mobile and interconnected, educated, creative and which values and respects all Austinites." Other City of Austin plans are more focused and deal with topics such as parks, solid waste, transportation, water or smaller geographic areas. But only a comprehensive plan fully considers how the whole community's values, needs, people and places are interrelated and interdependent.

Mr. Dugan shared the challenges faced and successes achieved when implementing a plan of this scope and duration. Because Austin is just part of the Central Texas metropolitan area, working with other governmental agencies and outside municipalities while aligning with other City of Austin departmental plans, is important in maintaining forward momentum.

A lively question and answer session followed Mr. Dugan's presentation. It is obvious that this topic was of great interest to our members and future presentations on related topics are already being discussed.

For those of us who are interested in learning more about Imagine Austin and related topics, Mr. Dugan shared several links to supplemental information.

[Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan](#)

[The Growth Concept Map](#) ties the Imagine Austin vision statement to the city's physical development.

[The Data Set](#) used to develop the Growth Concept Map.

Other Related Plans of Interest to our Members

[Age Friendly Action Plan](#)

[Water Forward Plan](#)

Reminder: Named Gifts Nominations are Open for 2022

Each year, members of the Austin Branch are selected to be honored as recipients of "Named Gifts." This reflects the great work of our Funds Committee and their helpers. The more money they raise, the more Named Gifts awards we give. The fund-raisers have been busy, so we need to identify many deserving recipients.

Please download or copy the [Nomination Form](#) and submit your nominations by April 1, 2022, to **Larayne Dallas** at ldallas@austin.utexas.edu or by mail at 8118 Cardin Drive; Austin, TX 78759-8737.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

CHECKLIST FROM THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Lists seem to be big deal this time of year! It's also a good time in which to consider the concept that the sum of the whole is greater than its parts — that the total effectiveness of a group of things each interacting with one another is different or greater than their effectiveness when acting in isolation from one another. If each of us follows a checklist of realistic public policy actions, the sum of those actions just might result in some much-desired changes in public policy at the national, state and local levels.



- ✓ Make sure you have an up-to-date voter registration. Remind family members, friends and neighbors to do the same. VoteTexas.gov » [Register To Vote](#)
- ✓ Vote in every election: primaries, regular and special elections and any resulting runoffs. Everything you need to know can always be found at (<https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/departments/elections/>)
- ✓ Be an informed voter by following the news, attending candidate forums, consulting such non-partisan voter guides as those produced by the League of Women Voters (<https://lwvaustin.org>) and AAUW (<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-issue-guide/>).
- ✓ Work for the candidates and issues that are important to you.
- ✓ The Texas Legislature is not scheduled to be in session this year, but legislators and their staffs, as well as committees, various agencies and boards (especially the State Board of Education), are working, meeting and holding hearings. Stay informed and speak out when appropriate.
- ✓ Write, email or call your Senators and U.S. Congressional Representatives to let them know your position on specific legislation, appointments and critical issues.

And you might consider joining the Branch public policy committee. We don't meet very often and then it is to learn, share and take action as needed. At the January 6 ZOOM meeting you would have seen **Myrtle Bell, Sylvia Garcia, Zosia Hunt, Anita Knight, Rosemary Morrow, Elizabeth Newell, Joyce Pulich, Brenda Scholin, Mary Ellen Scribner and Cathy Werner.** Jackie Hardee was not present because she was participating in a Vigil for Democracy and we look forward to hearing all about it. Contact Mary Ellen at maryscribner@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Nurit Yaskil was born in Israel. At age eighteen Nurit was required to serve in the military. She served in the Israeli Air Force for 3-1/2 years. She then attended Haifa University where she earned degrees in geography and archeology. Now married, Nurit and her husband chose to travel before starting their “real” life in Israel. Their next stop after Europe was the United States. Once they arrived in San Diego, they literally decided to set down roots and start a landscaping and contracting business, using skills her husband had mastered growing up on a *moshav*, a farming village where each family works its own land. About four years ago, after twenty-six years of running a family-owned business, the Yaskils decided to follow their grown daughters to Texas. Nurit landed in Austin, joined a HYDRO-FIT class where she met **Marsha Endahl-Kramer** and was recruited to join our Austin branch mission and interest groups.

Linda Bailey is a Texan at heart despite being born in Arizona. She relocated to Austin in 1980 ostensibly to work for IBM, but her true purpose was to return to Texas. She has ancestors that pledged to The Republic of Texas and hence her love for Texas is deep rooted.

She earned her BBA/EA+D at Texas Tech University in 1971 and her MSIE from Georgia Tech in 1979. Linda worked at Gifford-Hill in Lubbock as a computer systems analysis, at IBM Austin for fourteen years in management, and at UT as an Adjunct Professor in the Business School Management Information Systems for seven years. She has also owned an almond processing company in Brooklyn, NY that was sold a few years ago.

She is now retired and spends time as a neighborhood advocate participating on boards that do zoning and site plan activities. She volunteers on boards such as the 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, Lake Austin Collective and the Glenlake HOA. She is also a member of 12E, a political group that advocates for women’s issues.

Linda grew up in an Air Force military family, so traveling is something she learned to do early and still enjoys. She now travels with her cousin to research their shared Prussian and Dutch ancestry. She joined the Cloud Appreciation Society and loves looking at and learning about clouds. Her hobby is fused glass art and cooking. Linda is married and has step-grandchildren. She is new to AAUW and is looking forward to meeting other members and getting more involved soon.



In Memoriam

Sylvia Gregory

November 03, 1931 - December 06, 2021

(submitted by Mary Ellen Scribner)

Sylvia Gregory was a true Texan living the entirety of her fulfilling life of ninety years in the state of her birth. She was born Sylvia Anne Trundle in Port Arthur on November 3, 1931, and peacefully passed away on December 6, 2021, in Austin, or more specifically in Cedar Park where she moved in her final years to be close to family members. Sylvia graduated from Port



Arthur's Thomas Jefferson High School in 1950 and came straightway to Austin to enroll in The University of Texas where she received a B.S. in pharmacy in 1954. In 1959 she became the Director of Pharmacy at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation working there until 1991 when she retired "with many memories and friends".

Sylvia joined AAUW Austin in 2000 and participated fully in its work and activities. She was an avid mah jongg player and especially enjoyed the Branch group and playing with good friends Dorothea Berasley and Janie Patterson, both now deceased. Sylvia and Dorothea also worked together on Branch communications and notifications. With her pharmacist's eye for detail and her old school grounding in grammar and rhetoric, Sylvia was an ideal proofreader when Mary Ellen Scribner transitioned the Branch newsletter from Xerox copy to digital via email attachment. Sylvia enjoyed wearing hats and was always delighted when the Branch celebrated some anniversary by wearing vintage hats. She loved to spend time with her family, travel, play games and as she described it "to indulge in some crafts" such as colorful hat making.



Jean Elizabeth Dixon-Bessent

June 28, 1960 - December 27, 2021

(Submitted by Anita Knight and Marsha Endahl-Karmer)

Jean Bessent lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on December 27. This is a deeply-felt loss to the Branch and to many personally. A member of the Austin branch of AAUW since 2013, she contributed so much to AAUW having served in numerous roles: Chair of Public Policy and UT Fellowship Committees, Program VP, member of the Funds Committee, active participant in branch meetings & luncheons, as well as in Art Tours and Culture & Cuisine.



Jean Elizabeth Dixon was born in Tyler, Texas. Because her father was an oil geologist, her family lived in Midland, Texas, and moved to Algeria when she was a young child. From Algeria she was lucky to travel around Europe and she became fluent in French. Her father died when she was ten and she and her mother returned to Texas where her mother went back to school at UT in Austin. Jean attended O'Henry Middle School and Austin High. She obtained a B.A. in Political Science from SW Texas State U. in 1984 and a degree in Real Estate and Environmental Law from St. Mary's Law School in 1990. Jean worked in environmental law at the Texas General Land Office.

Jean is survived by her devoted husband of thirty-eight years, David, numerous cousins, son Kris Camblin and his wife Kathy and daughter Valerie. Six cousins are sisters who considered Jean their seventh little sister. After cremation, Jean will be interred with her parents at the family cemetery plot in East Texas (between Athens and Canton).

Despite years of suffering with rheumatoid arthritis and numerous joint surgeries, and surviving the past year of difficult cancer treatment, Jean was always loving and accepting, full of wit and wisdom. According to David, she was caring and had a "special quality of a childlike soul and an adult demeanor". She often carried money in her car to give to homeless people in need. Her many interests included horses, OLLI NOVA, women's issues, water aerobics and creative things like art and writing. She loved hosting special events, like the reception on the night before TX State Lobby Days and the 2017 Russian C&C dinner with David and Don Knight in Putin t-shirts.

Mary Ellen Scribner concurs that Jean was brilliant, funny and caring. Jean would frequently say, "It is true that I am five feet twelve inches tall" and Mary Ellen always felt like Jean was a six-footer in all that she did. Other comments and compliments from AAUW friends include: "She was truly an engaged and engaging woman, gone way too soon;" She was an intelligent, giving, loving human being, a dynamo, "a can-do woman"; who supported members who worked on her committees (such as the public policy sex-trafficking sub-committee).

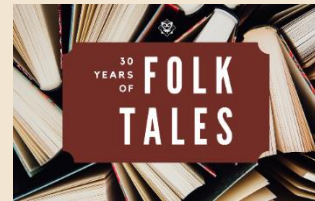
Jean energized and inspired others, and she was at peace at the end of her life, believing that "Spirit lives on." Jean was assured by many friends in cards, texts, e-mails and in-person visits that her life on this earth made a difference in the lives of those she touched. The footprints she left in the hearts of many will also live on.



Jackie Hardee, a member of the STEM interest group, will be working with Girlstart every month for an hour or two. They reached out to me asking for a volunteer and Jackie responded. Thank her when you see her for keeping our volunteer work with Girlstart alive.

Report prepared by Nancy Andren

Carver Museum ATX Folk Tales Book Club



The Folktales Book Club has been meeting at the Carver Museum for thirty years. Founded by Rozalind Oliphant, who also founded Austin African American Book Festival, Folktales is a monthly book club hosted by the museum and co-facilitated by Peggy Terry and Carol Wright. Open to everyone, this year's meetings start back up in February. Here is the spring reading list:

- February 18: *No One Is Coming To Save Us* by Stephanie Powell Watts
- March 18: *You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays* by Zora Neale Hurston (Author), Henry Louis Gates Jr. (Introduction), and Genevieve West (Editor)
- April 15: *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

To Register for Folktales Book Club, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about Carver Museum activities, go to their website at [Carver Museum ATX](#).

Volunteer Opportunity for the History Buff

You can volunteer and experience history without leaving your house. The Smithsonian Institution and Library of Congress are looking for volunteers to digitally transcribe historical documents. The projects range from African American history and women's suffrage to the personal letters and journals of historical figures. The digital transcriptions are aimed at helping to make the documents more widely available for the public and more accessible for people with vision impairments. No special training or experience is required and volunteers can jump right in and get started. To learn more about this interesting way to stay engaged, you may visit the transcription center websites for the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress by clicking the links listed below.

[The Smithsonian Institution Transcription Center](#)

[Library of Congress, By the People](#)



50th AAUW Texas Conference 50th Anniversary of Title IX

You are invited to a “Golden Opportunity” to celebrate the 50th AAUW Texas Conference and the 50th Anniversary of Title IX with fellow AAUW members. We have decided for the safety of our members and their families to make the conference an all-virtual event.

The state AAUW Texas board has approved funds to make the conference free to attend for all members. Registration will be required to obtain the Zoom link, but there will be no charge. Registration instructions will be sent starting in mid-February, so watch your email for AAUW Texas communication.

The speakers for the conference include:

- **Malinda Gaul** - AAUW National board member and former AAUW Texas president
- **Kevin Stewart** - AAUW Texas lobbyist to the Texas Legislature
- **Jackie Littleton** - AAUW member and author of *The Lady and the Letters* about Esther Brunauer, long-time employee of AAUW
- **Raegan Pebley** - TCU head women’s basketball coach will give a tribute to the legacy of Title IX
- **Dr. Taharee Jackson** - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion expert will inspire us to a more diverse future

We hope to see many AAUW Texas members at the April 2022 conference. It will be a wonderful opportunity to be inspired by the speakers. You will get to know your new state board and help celebrate AAUW Texas accomplishments.

AAUW National Wants Your Feedback

Did you know that, as an AAUW member, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to our organization's bylaws before they are put up for a member vote? As we prepare for AAUW's national election in the spring, now is the time to share your thoughts! **The comment period is open and we invite members to weigh in through February 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET.**

The changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee this year would streamline two important organizational functions: nominations for the board and timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections.

To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the election page on the [AAUW Website](#).

February Interest Groups

Please note that all in-person Interest Group meetings are subject to change depending on the COVID situation at time of meeting. Group leaders will notify group members if a change of venue or date is going to occur.

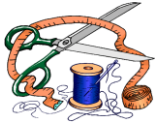
Creative Arts

Art Tours:



What: Street Artist Stephanie Distefano, hand crafted ceramics and mosaic tiles
When: Wednesday, February 23, 10:00 a.m.
Where: [Flamingo Ranch](#), 204 Walker Street, Smithville, Texas
Planner: Anita Knight and Joyce Pulich
To RSVP: Marsha Endahl Kramer, MEKSpirit66@gmail.com, (512) 906-6566

Creative Stitchery:



When: Wednesday, February 16, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Home of Jackie Hardee, 1811 Running Brook Drive
Hosts: Jackie Hardee and Elaine Penn
Project: Quilting Block Exchange
To RSVP: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Bridge Groups

Group A

When: Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Contact: Elaine Penn, elpenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 579-4545



Group B

When: Second Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Lynn Cooksey, lcCooksey@austin.rr.com, (512) 477-2774

Group C

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, (512) 633-6178

Please call first to check with the hostess and the location for Bridge Group B. Groups A and C are full but are accepting substitutes.

Book Clubs and Literary Exploration

Central Book Club:



When: Monday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.
Where: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Book: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*
Editor: Kim Michele Richardson
Facilitator: Maggie Kadlec
To RSVP: Mary Lou Bell, maryloubell@gmail.com, (512) 940-6480

Contemporary Literature:



When: Monday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom
Book: *The Widows of Malabar Hill*
Author: Sujata Massey
Leader: Beverly Locklin
To RSVP: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryescribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:



When: Friday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Church of Christ, 310 W 43rd Street
Book: *Fast Into the Night*
Author: Debbie Clarke Moderow
Reviewer: Evelyn Boyer
Hostess: Evelyn Boyer
Contact: Judy Reinhart: jareinhart@att.net, (512) 345-5936

Mystery Book Club:



When: Tuesday, February 22, 11:00 a.m.
Where: BJ Brewhouse, The Shops at Arbor Walk, 10515 MoPac
Topic: Setting in a Large City (NYC, Paris, London, etc...)
To RSVP: Pam Wolfe, piwolfe@yahoo.com, (512) 925-7865

Southwest Book Club:



When: Monday, February 14, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Jan Rooker's home, 404 #2 West Alpine Rd.
Book: *The Vanishing Half*
Author: Brit Bennett
Facilitator: Sylvia Garcia
Host: Jan Rooker
To RSVP: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317

Friends, Food and Conversation



Culture and Cuisine:

When: Thursday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Home of Lynn Cooksey, 2208 Matthews Drive
Theme: France
Co-Hosts: Lynn Cooksey, Anita Knight and Brenda Scholin
To RSVP: Shirlene Justice, shirlenejustice@gmail.com, (512) 507-1003

Culture and Cuisine would like to share cookie recipes collected and shared at our annual holiday cookie exchange and international dinner. You may access the recipes by clicking the image below.



Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, February 15, 11:15 a.m.
Where: Hyde Park Bar and Grill, 4521 Westgate
Planner: Judy Bergum
To RSVP: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051



Pears:

Pears will not meet in February.



Wine Tasters:

When: Tuesday, February 20, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Where: 2300 Westway Circle, 78704
Theme: Texas Wines
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

STEM



STEM Coordinating Group:

The STEM Coordinating Group will not meet in February.

The Great Outdoors

Hiking Group:

Hike 1

When: Friday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.
What: Mueller Park Trail
Where: 2501 Tom Miller Street
Leader: Jackie Hardee
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rw@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697



Hike 2

When: Saturday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.
What: Greenway Primitive Trails at Beecave
Where: [16209 Rockie Run Summit](#)
Leaders: Nancy Andren
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rw@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697





Black History Month wouldn't have been possible without Negro History Week's creation in the United States in 1926. Famous historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History proclaimed the second week of February to be observed as Negro History Week. Since the inception of this event, the main focus was to encourage the teaching of the history of Black Americans in educational institutes, particularly at the primary level. The departments of education of Delaware, North Carolina and West Virginia were very cooperative. The overall reception was lukewarm, but Woodson considered it a success and "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken by the Association."

In February 1969, the idea for Black History Month was promoted by Black students and educators at Kent State University, followed by the first celebration of Black History Month on campus and local surroundings one year later. Fast forward six years and Black History Month was widely being celebrated across the country, and not only in schools, colleges and community centers. In 1976, President Gerald Ford praised Black History Month, urging all citizens to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Ideas for Observing Black History Month

1. Visit a museum

History comes alive in a nation's museums. Many of these institutions have events, conferences and celebrations surrounding Black History Month. Get out there and see first-hand the American nation's collective historical treasures.

2. Contact an elected official

One of the best ways to get the ball rolling toward a better society is by contacting members of Congress. Ask them what they have planned for Black History Month and what specific legislative actions they plan to take to ensure that your community never backtracks in its pledge to provide opportunities for each and every person.

3. Read, read and read some more

Libraries and bookstores — not to mention online repositories and booksellers — are positively overflowing with amazing works of Black literature, history and biography. Find a book about a piece of Black history that you were previously unaware of and get educated.

---Excerpted from [National Today](#) ---

Suggested Reading Options

Black History Month 2022

To learn more about each book, click the title below.

