



Inside this Issue:

President's Message	p 2
November Meeting Recap	p 3
Online Auction	p 3
Policy Update	p 4
New Member Profile	p 5
Year Book Delivery	p 5
Yearbook Updates	p 6
Adult Enrichment Opportunity	p 7
Interest Groups	p 8-10
STEM Update	p 11-12
Nancy Pelosi Steps Down as Speaker	p 12

Items for January Newsletter

DUE December 14 2022

shirlenejustice@gmail.com



AAUW Austin Branch Winter Social



When: Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.

**Where: St. Francis Anglican Church,
[3401 Oak Creek Dr.](#)**

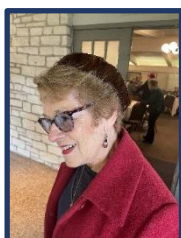
The Austin Branch past presidents invite all members to join us for the annual Winter Social. This is a time to celebrate our successful year, visit with friends, meet new members, and enjoy some tasty treats.

This is also a great opportunity to introduce your friends and family to AAUW. Please invite people who might be interested in joining the organization. They're eligible for the 50% discount on National dues through the Shape the Future promotional. We will gladly welcome them.

Directions: Go north on MOPAC and exit on Scofield Ridge Parkway (last free exit), at this light make a U-turn under MOPAC to the south on the access road, turn right on the first street, Oak Creek Drive, and the church is on the left. There is ample parking.

Expect an Evite soon. Please RSVP for you and your guests.

Happy Birthday Austin Branch - Celebrating 99 years!



Anita Knight



Elaine Penn &
Linda Welsh



Larayne Dallas



Beverly Locklin



Pam Wolfe

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a treat we had for our 99th Birthday Celebration! **Thais Perkins**, owner of Reverie Books gifted us with beautiful songs and stories in response to the thought-provoking interview by Shirlene Justice about Thais' life and current passions. Look for information about the safe and nurturing community she created at Reverie Books for LGBTQ young people. I can't wait to visit! And as a prequel to Thanksgiving, we feasted on a tasty buffet of turkey and all the trimmings. The birthday cupcakes were adorable and yummy. Thanks to the Balcones Country Club staff and our awesome Co-VP Programs **Brenda Hahne** and **Jackie Hardee**!



Jackie Hardee gave a passionate plea for action on several public policy issues. Please check the November newsletter for information on how to move the Equal Rights Amendment forward. **Now is the time!** In this newsletter look for information about demanding that the state release the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity report which shines a light on the risks faced by Texas pregnant women and the racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes, especially for Black women. The report must be released for our state representatives and senators to act to remedy our deplorable support for women of color and poor women. **Please take action!**

As we move into the holiday season, the message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in *The Book of Joy* cowritten with Douglas Abrams offers guidance on how to face our personal challenges and the sad circumstances of the world around us. The Archbishop shares that "Joy is much bigger than happiness. While happiness is seen as being dependent on external circumstances, joy is not." He goes on to say, "Discovering more joy does not, I'm sorry to say, save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartbreak. In fact, we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily too. Perhaps we are just more alive. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennoble rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken."

And the Dalai Lama shares, "We create most of our suffering, so it should be logical that we also have the ability to create more joy." He went on to say, "Joy is something different than happiness. When I use the word *happiness*, in a sense I mean satisfaction. Sometimes we have a painful experience, but that experience, as you've said with birth, can bring great satisfaction and joyfulness."

The book noted that recent research by psychologist Sonja Lyubomirsky indicates that much of our ability to be joyful depend on three factors: 1) reframing our situation more positively; 2) gratitude; and 3) being kind and generous. These three factors are mirrored in Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama's eight pillars of joy: 1) perspective; 2) humility; 3) humor; 4) acceptance; 5) forgiveness; 6) gratitude; 7) compassion; and 8) generosity.

What a privilege to be with joyous women who embody these eight pillars of joy every day in their lives and buoy my spirits in your presence. See you and a friend at the Winter Social!

With much love and gratitude,

Linda Welsh, Ph. D.

November Meeting Recap

Thais Perkins, owner of Reverie Books, shared stories about her personal journey and the events and people in her life that supported and nurtured her along the way. Leaving academia to perform as a traveling singer/songwriter gave her the space and support to learn who she really was and feel comfortable with herself. Thais also inspired and entertained us with her beautiful voice and guitar music. Building on her life lessons and experiences, she opened Reverie Books in South Austin. This unique book store has become a safe haven for young people who are looking for a place to be welcome and belong no matter their race, gender or how they self-identify. Reverie Books offers titles for every type of reader but there is a special emphasis on young adult literature that reflects the diversity and challenges young people experience today. Here is a short video about Reverie Books that Thais showed during her presentation - [Reverie Books Film](#). For more information about Reverie Books, check out their website listed below.



Reverie Books

5330 Menchaca Rd Ste D

(512) 368-4455

<https://reveriebooks.com/>

Online Silent Auction - December 5 – 8, 2022

Following up on the tremendous success of the last two years of online silent auctions, we decided to try it a third time. This year's online event will take place **December 5-8** and is open to anyone in our branch, and to friends and family, too. This is a great way to do Christmas shopping from the comfort of your home and support the AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund. Winners will be notified on December 10, so keep your cell phone handy!



We already have some wonderful donations and hope to receive more by the November 30th deadline for contributions. To add items to the auction, please email a description and photo to Joyce, Elaine or Cathy and they will enter them into the auction site.

The link to the donation site is [AAUW Austin 2022 Auction](#) and it should be viewable by December. **You can start bidding at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, December 5 and bidding ends at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 8.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Cathy Werner** at cathy.werner3586@gmail.com, **Elaine Penn** at epenn9915@gmail.com, **Joyce Pulich** at joycepulich@sbcglobal.net, or **Debbie Starr** at dbbstrr@gmail.com.

Policy Update from the Public Policy Committee

Submitted by Policy Chair, Mary Ellen Scribner

The 2022 midterms have mostly come and gone—some of us will need to vote in runoffs. For example, Austin residents still need to choose a mayor. Runoffs have notoriously poor turnout, so if there is one in your future, please don't ignore it!

As the League of Women Voters reminds its members post-election: *As we know, Election Day is NOT results day. It is important to keep reminding ourselves and all voters of this important fact. We are thankful to the election workers who are busy making sure all our votes are counted so that every voice is heard. Meanwhile, there's so much we can do to defend our democracy. From fighting mis- and disinformation to writing to your representatives, discover the [post-election actions](#) you can take!* One of the links on that site is Demand Congressional Action, and that is where you can find the information you need to take action to enshrine [equality of the sexes](#) in the Constitution with the Equal Rights Amendment; prevent [voter discrimination](#) with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; create more [financial transparency](#) in elections, or support [gun control](#). All these actions are in line with AAUW goals!



We worked hard to GOTV (Get Out the Vote) by registering voters, encouraging those same voters to go to the polls, and advocating for fairness in all aspects of voting. Now we turn our attention to the upcoming 88th session of the Texas Legislature which convenes at noon on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. You probably want to invest \$10 in a [2023-2024 Texas Legislative Handbook](#). It contains phone numbers, office locations, chiefs of staff for all members of the legislature. It also identifies which members are on which committees. It has contact info for state leadership (gov., Lt. gov., Tx AG, etc.), as well as Texas congressional representatives and senators. [Source: Jackie Hardee]

AAUW Texas has announced that it will be working with Kate Kuhlmann of Hillco Partners to find legislation to support (or oppose) in its quest for equity. Everyone is invited to meet Kate via Zoom on an AAUW Texas Zoom program on *December 1 at 2 pm*. Mark your calendar now and be on the lookout for the invitation email for your opportunity to join this discussion.

Two state-level issues are of immediate concern. Now that election fervor has subsided, perhaps the SBOE (State Board of Education) can reconsider its decision to delay the revision of the social studies TEKS for a year. Please email all board members (<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/leadership/state-board-of-education>) and reiterate the need to bring the old standards up to date, remove political myths and falsehoods, and help students in Texas's diverse classrooms learn about the experiences and contributions of people like them in our history. The need to do this is also immediate so that it can be a part of the 2023-2024 funding cycle. Perhaps you are also aware of the need to contact Governor Abbott and urge him to appoint a new Texas Health Services executive commissioner (post is vacant) and authorize that person to release the latest report by the Texas Maternal and Morbidity Committee. A CDC analysis reveals that Texas is 10% above national stats, and Texans have a right to know this. [Source: Anita Knight]

Would you like to receive public policy information and actions needed more frequently than the monthly newsletter can provide, especially through the legislative season? We would like to provide it through periodic emails to branch members. Let us know what you think!

New Member Profile

Submitted by Ruth Subramanian

Cecile Laura Schubert

Cecile was born in the Bronx, NY. Between the ages of two and three, she moved to Washington Heights, Manhattan. Living on the sixth floor (highest floor) of an apartment building she remembers going out on the roof (tar beach) and seeing the George Washington Bridge. Cecile attended P.S. 189 elementary and then George Washington High School where she graduated with an Academic Diploma. This indicated that she was college bound. During high school, Cecile studied voice with a voice teacher from Julliard as she had ambitions to be an opera singer.

Cecile received her Bachelors of Music degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. During her senior year, she met and married her husband, Kenneth Schubert who was a trumpet major at the university. Both she and Ken taught music (Cecile, vocal/chorus and Ken, band along with tutoring brass players). They taught for ten years in Indiana and then Ken accepted a job in Richmond, Kentucky, at Eastern Kentucky University's Laboratory School. In 1976, Cecile obtained a Masters in Special Education from Indiana University, certifying her to teach children who were labeled 'Learning Disabled, Emotionally Disturbed'. (An aside - of course, now those labels have many meanings but in 1975 that was the first year that Public Law 94-142 was enacted, citing Special Educational provisions for children in need of special services/education.)

In addition to teaching special education in the public school system, Cecile was adjunct faculty at Eastern Kentucky University, Special Education Department for sixteen years. She retired at age sixty and then taught part-time in the public schools for the next ten years - reading with elementary students. Her husband, Ken passed away in 2018.

Their son Sean and her daughter-in-law Regi have three sons who are now thirty-two, twenty-six, and twenty-one. Cecile moved to Austin at the urging of Sean and Regi, leaving Richmond where she had lived for forty-five years.

Having been a member of AAUW in Richmond and Berea, Kentucky, for over twenty years, she feels it was 'serendipitous' to have 'bumped into' Debbie Starr at an art show who connected her with AAUW again. Cecile is looking forward to meeting Austin branch members and engaging with Austin's AAUW.

Year Book Delivery Complete!

The yearbooks have all been delivered, either at a branch meeting, through a member who volunteered to hand-deliver the yearbooks, or via US Postal Service. Many thanks to the numerous members who volunteered to deliver yearbooks at the interest group meetings or by driving in nearby neighborhoods to hand-deliver them. Y'all rock!!



If, for some reason, you have not received your yearbook, please contact **Soon Mertz** at smerz_2000@yahoo.com. She will get a copy to you as soon as possible.

Yearbook Updates

Despite our best efforts, a few mistakes are made in the publication of the annual yearbook. New members join us and addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, often change from the time the information is submitted and the printing of the yearbook. Please make a note in your yearbook copy of the changes listed below.

Change of Address

Janet Cobb
494 High View Ranch Drive
Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Mary Kate Fredriksen 9320
Notches
Austin, TX 78748

Ginny Tannebring
7011 McKinney Falls Parkway,
Apt 2118
Austin, TX 78744

Berta Lloyd
1124 Wolf Hollow Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628

New Member

Cecile Schubert
Arborview12100 Archeleta Blvd
Unit 222
Austin, TX 78739
(859) 338-4448
cecilel@roadrunner.com
see new member profile on p.6

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

Change of Email

Anita Garcia
Sylgar36@gmail.com

Susan James
susanjames2@mac.com

Omissions

Shelley Bjorkman
2425 Lightfoot Trail
Austin, TX 78745
512-892-7719 (H)
512-934-4774 (C)
sbjorkman@att.net

Ramona Nance
10507 Spicewood Parkway
Austin 78750, TX
512-331-7699 (H)
No Email

Newly Renewed Members

Naomi Baker
5104 Delores Ave
Austin, TX 78721
703-582-5638 (C)
Baker_n46@comcast.net

Mary Ann Leitz
3121 Mediterra Point
Austin, TX 78732
512-362-8041 (H),
504-259-8173 (C)
leitz45@att.net

Newly Renewed Continued

Tara Peterson-McGarity
2001 Tillotson Avenue
Austin 78702-2834
512-423-5372 (C)
TLMcgarity@earthlink.net

H. Nell Peterson
2001 Tillotson Avenue
Austin, TX 78702
512-423-4261 (C)
nell.pete@yahoo.com

Dorothy Ramsey
2304 Barton Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78704
512-442-3841 (H)
jaamsey55@msn.com

Asmahan Rasool
P O Box 11639
Austin, TX 78711
512-469-9238 (C)
a_r@earthlink.net

Mercy Sosanya
6602 Mia Way, #102
San Antonio, TX 78233
512-967-2026
mercyore@yahoo.com

Linda Young
7000 Timarou Terrace
Austin, TX 78754
512-278-1959 (H)
512-423-0744 (W)
lindayoung24@hotmail.com

Adult Enrichment Opportunities



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin



The University of Texas at Austin Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (UT OLLI) is where curious adults 50 and "better" can enjoy classes in a relaxed community of friends, among leading scholars and experts, who share a fascination with exploring new areas of knowledge and traditional disciplines.

UT OLLI is comprised of five programs to accommodate any busy schedule: **SAGE**, **DISCOVER**, **NOVA**, **FORUM**, and **SCHOLARS**. As a **SCHOLARS** member you are able to explore and participate in all the programs at your discretion. You are able to determine which days of the week work for you.

Each program boasts curriculum offerings that are academic in nature and cover an extensive range of subject areas including: fine arts, science and technology, history, business, public and lifestyle.

Winter 2023 session begins *Tuesday, January 17th, 2023* and enrollment is still open at a discounted price to participate in the remainder of the 2022-2023 program year.

For more information about courses, registration and fees, you may visit the UT OLLI website at <https://olli.utexas.edu/>.

Program	Day	Class Times
<u>UT OLLI SAGE</u>	Monday	9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 2:30 PM
<u>UT OLLI DISCOVER</u>	Tuesday	10:00AM, 11:30AM, and 1:45PM
<u>UT OLLI NOVA</u>	Wednesday	9:30AM, 11:00AM, and 1:00PM
<u>UT OLLI FORUM</u>	Friday	9:30AM, 11:00AM, and 1:00PM
<u>UT OLLI SCHOLARS</u>	Monday - Friday	Access to all programs.
(Online Thursday)	Thursday	9:30AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM, and 2:40PM

Please click on the program names for more information.

December Interest Groups

Creative Arts

Art Tours:

When: Wednesday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.
What: [Chicken Lily Studio](#), Katherine Taylor, Porcelain Sculptor
Where: 8201 Kellog Court, Austin
Planner: Nurit Yaskil
Contact: Sharon Babot, sharonbabot@gmail.com, (707) 373-1317
Note: Eatery suggestions will be distributed the day of the tour.

Creative Stitchery:

When: Wednesday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.
Project: Holiday Luncheon
Location: Home of Lynn Cooksey, 2208 Matthews Drive
Host: Lynn Cooksey
Contact: Beverly Locklin, bklocklin@outlook.com, (512) 633-2902

Bridge Groups

Group A:

When: Weekly Bridge on Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 579-4545

Group B:

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

Group C:

When: Fourth Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Senior Activity Center, 29th and Lamar
Contact: Sara Ezell: slezell@aol.com, (512) 633-6178

Book Clubs and Literary Exploration

Central Book Club:

When: Monday, December 12, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano
Location: IHOP, 1101 South MoPac Expressway
Facilitator: Joyce Pulich
Contact: Linda Quintanilla, quintalin@gmail.com, (713) 202-8525

Contemporary Literature:

When: Monday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.
Book: *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet* by John Green
Location: Zoom
Leader: Barbara Lighthead
Contact: Mary Ellen Scribner, maryscribner@gmail.com, (512) 698-5539

Friday Book Review:

When: Friday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, 310 West 43rd Street
Book: *The Secret History of Food* by Matt Siegel
Reviewer: Elizabeth Newell
Host: Elizabeth Newell
Contact: Judy Reinhart, jareinhart@att.net

Mystery Book Club:

Mystery Book Club will not meet in December.

Southwest Book Club:

When: Monday, December 12, 10:30 a.m.
Book: *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of an American Myth* by Bryan Burrough
Location: Home of Marsha Endahl-Kramer, 6807 Telluride, Austin
Facilitator: Ines Garcia
Contact: Debbie Starr, dbbstrr@gmail.com, (512) 771-4497



Kudos to Southwest Book Group for sponsoring a book drive for Williams Elementary School. The Williams librarian and several teachers involved with Kids Hope identified books that illustrate positive images and reflect Hispanic culture, the dominant culture of many Williams students. Multiple copies of each book were donated. Special thanks to **Debbie Starr** who took the lead organizing this project after our AAUW Board asked that Interest Groups choose a short-term project to help further our organization's mission. All fifteen book group members participated! Debbie and other team members plan to deliver the books in the next few weeks.

Friends, Food and Conversation

Culture and Cuisine:

Culture and Cuisine will not meet in December.



November Co Hosts, Pam Watson,
Shirlene Justice & Cindy Darilek

Out-to-Lunch:

When: Tuesday, December 20, 11:15 a.m.
Location: Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones Drive
Planner: Mary Ellen Scribner
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

Pears:

The December get together has yet to be determined. Please contact Milli Stecker if you are interested in joining this group. Milli Stecker, mstecker@austin.rr.com, (512) 468-1088

Wine Tasters:

When: Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.
Theme: Blind Tasting
Location: Home of Ann Gibbs, 5200 Rambling Range
Contact: Elaine Penn, epenn9915@gmail.com, (512) 970-5051

The Great Outdoors - Hiking Group

When: Thursday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Johnson City (about 50 miles west of Austin)
Leader: Jackie Hardee, Anita Knight, and Ginny Tannebring
Contact: Roberta Coffin, rwc@scriptacommunicates.com, (714) 679-8697



Grab a bite, a glass of wine or a craft beer and join us for a walk around the town to see the lights!

Although the official 11/3 hike was cancelled, new member **Lisa Sura** and **Debbie Starr** still made it out to Burnet's Canyon of the Eagles Park. While there were no eagle sightings, they were serenaded by tiny yellow butterflies and monarchs for the entire length of the trail.





As reported in our branch summer newsletter, there is no longer a branch board position dedicated to STEM. Last year, a small interest group was formed to keep the issue at the forefront of branch activities. For those of us interested in possible programs, STEM organizations and activities in the area, see the attached page with links compiled by **Nancy Andren** and **Anita Knight**. Nancy is planning to incorporate STEM ideas and activities in our various interest groups, e.g. learning about geo-caching on a hike. Does anyone have any other STEM ideas or questions? If so, you can contact **Anita Knight** at dbasknight@aol.com.

Five branch members enjoyed the annual Girlstart Game Changers fund-raising luncheon on November 4 at the JW Marriott, where we celebrated twenty-five years of Girlstart with their new ED Shane Woods. Many of our members have volunteered with STEM and GirlStart special events and projects over the years! AAUW has always encouraged girls to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (and of course the Arts). Let's continue to do that!!! for girls and for society!



Local STEM Programs

Women in STEM (WiSTEM): Closing the STEM gender gap

Contact Tricia Berry triciaberry@txgcp.org

Through **Texas Girls Collaborative Project**: connecting volunteer opportunities across Texas.

National Girls Collaborative Project: a network of networks

Girls' Empowerment Network Austin: partnering with 60+ Texas schools to improve educational outcomes for girls, parents and teachers

Greater Austin STEM Ecosystem: inviting all STEM organizations, schools, and individuals to join in the Google Group conversations and get connected to STEM happenings across Central Texas and beyond.

Out-of- School Providers

Girtstart: STEM education for girls.

Latinitas: STEM and media education for girls.

Learn All the Time: A network of OST providers, providing professional development and training.

Other Resources and Enrichment Activities to Explore Online

A Mighty Girl: The largest collection of books, toys and movies for smart and courageous girls.

National AAUW: Webinars

Organizations that Match Volunteers to Opportunities

Million Women Mentors: A mentoring network.

The Connectory: Offers the most comprehensive collection of STEAM opportunities and providers.

Skype a Scientist: Gives students the opportunity to get to know a real scientist and get the answers to their questions straight from the source.

Design, Connect, Create: Hands-on STEM camp experiences and the guidance of female role models.

Nature's Notebook: Program for observing and recording plant and animal life cycle events, like flowering and bird migration. Use this app to mark your sites, create a list of plants and animals, and going into the field to record observations throughout the seasons.

SciStarter: Volunteer opportunities that match topics you're curious or concerned about.

Exoplanet Watch: Become a citizen scientist collecting important data on exoplanets.

Code United Global Computer Programming courses: Helping women across the world become familiar with Computer Science.

Nancy Pelosi Steps Down as Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi made history in 2007 when she was the first woman elected to serve as Speaker of the House. She was elected again in 2019 - the only speaker in 70 years to have won the office twice. In 2013, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the American women's rights movement. In August, 2013, the Austin City Council welcomed House Leader Nancy Pelosi, who came to Austin to honor the occasion of Women's Equality Day (the day in 1920 when women gained the right to vote through the incorporation of the 19th amendment into the U.S. Constitution), and urged the citizens of Austin to encourage our federal elected officials to advance an economic agenda for women and families. To hear her entire speech to the House, click on [Nancy Pelosi Addresses the House](#).

