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Items for February  
Newsletter **DUE**  
**JANUARY 20, 2021**

## **AAUW Austin Branch Meeting**

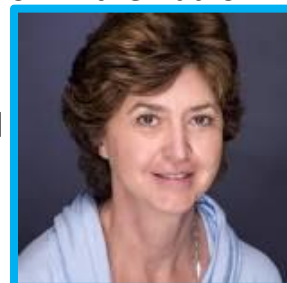
**When:** Saturday, January 16 - 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Zoom

**Topic:** "Women in Film"

**Speakers:** Professor Schiesari of UT Department of Radio-Television-Film and Local Filmmakers

**Nancy Schiesari** graduated with an MFA from the Royal College of Art, London, and is a full professor in production in the Radio-Television-Film Department of the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin. She is an experienced and award-winning director, producer and cinematographer on both broadcast documentaries and award-winning independent films. She has filmed in Europe, the USA, Africa, India, Pakistan, Iceland, and Latin America.



(More info at <https://rtf.utexas.edu/faculty/nancy-schiesari>)

Two of her graduates in the RTF MFA program, **Annie Silverstein** and **Monique Walton**, have produced a Cannes award-winning short and a feature film "Bull". Professor Schiesari will be joined by Monique and maybe Annie if she can pop in with her new baby (due end of December).

For the bios of the graduate students, see page 7.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring Planning Update: Remember that, excepting our groups with outside meetings, the Board decision is that we will have web-based meetings.

As always, a big “thank you” to our volunteers! Thank you for all you do for AAUW and for the community. This time, I want to give a special thanks to our past presidents, to members of the Funds Committee, and to members of the Newsletter Committee.

At the end of November and into December, the past presidents called all members of the branch to check in and to extend personal invitations to the Zoom Winter Social, which they then hosted. The Funds group organized and ran the Branch virtual auction in early December to benefit AAUW. Shirlene Justice and the rest of the Newsletter team have been learning the Constant Comment software and keeping us well informed with each month’s news.

Reflecting on another fundamental value of our organization --- besides volunteerism --- here is a reminder from the pages of national AAUW: “Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women’s graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world,” ([AAUW Fellowships and Grants](#)). Along with fellowships for domestic and international students, AAUW also funds project grants to assist the work of scholars.

Years ago, I was pleased to learn of AAUW’s support of the education of Cecilia Payne (later Payne-Gaposchkin), eventually the first female full professor at Harvard University. AAUW describes her [here](#). Her dissertation brought Payne-Gaposchkin to my attention. It was at the time described as, “the most brilliant PhD thesis ever written in astronomy,” ([Read the Article](#)). AAUW helped.

If you have a personal interest in this funding or know others who might benefit, please spread the word.

Finally, just noting an AAUW “sighting” that was unexpected but nice to see. For a recent discussion at my work, we were asked to abide by the AAUW “Community Agreement.” Terms were supplied to us but I found the content on pages 9-10 of [Designing Effective Planning Meeting](#).

Best wishes,

Larayne

**Larayne Dallas**

Austin Branch Co-President

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



## MEETING DATE CHANGES

Because attendance is better when the branch meetings are conducted on Saturday, the Program Committee has decided to change the dates for the January and March branch meetings. All other meetings are already scheduled for Saturday. Please make a note of the following meeting date changes.

### January Meeting

When: **Saturday, January 16** at 10:00 a. m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: "Women in Film"

Speakers: Professor Schiesari of UT Department of Radio-Television-Film and Local filmmakers

### March Meeting

When: **Saturday March 13** at 10:00 a. m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: "Racial Geography at the University of Texas Austin"

Speaker: Dr. Edmund T. Gordon, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Diversity, University of Texas at Austin



## SILENT AUCTION RECAP

The silent auction was very successful. There were 24 bidders and 64 bids. Seventy-eight percent of the items sold. The funds raised through the auction plus three donations generated **\$2,167** before transaction fees were deducted. Thanks to all of you who participated and contributed items. The energetic fundraising team consisting of **Jan Rooker, Brenda Hahne, Berta Lloyd, Cathy Werner, Sharon Babot, Anita Knight, Maggie Kadlecek, and Debbie Starr** did a great job planning this project. Special thanks go to **Cathy Werner** for setting up and managing the auction site and to Anita Knight for creating the attractive collage to advertise the items. We also want to thank people who aren't on the team who donated items: **Marsha Endahl Kramer, Larayne Dallas, Marion Wernicke, Jackie Hardee, Fai Chan, and Ines Garcia**. The team will be meeting again in January to plan 2021 fundraising events.

# INTEREST GROUPS

## January

### Art Tour

When: Wednesday, January 27, 10:00 a.m.

Where: St John Neumann Catholic Church, 5455 Bee Caves Road

What: See below for complete description.

Lunch: TBD

Planner: Brenda Hahne

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

It has been a long road to finish St. John Neumann Catholic Church, but when considering that Antoni Gaudi's famous Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona is still not finished after 134 years, this journey is looking a lot shorter.

Joanne Senn orchestrated the project as the pastoral associate for development. She was aided by a small, dedicated team of parishioners who spent 10 years researching the design and collaborating on the creation of the artwork. Joanne will be our host and guide.

"This is an historic moment in our history as we bring to fruition a decade long project that has been touched by priests, bishops, parishioners and designers," Senn said. "The theme for the church is 'Trinity Through the Cross.' It was created in a modern renaissance style that is typically found in Florence, where the Mellini Art Glass and Mosaics company created and fabricated the tiles," under the direction of liturgical designers Rohn and Associates.

The artwork everyone has been waiting for is the vibrant dome. It is composed of 10 million mosaic tiles in more than 1,300 colors and took more than two years to draw and three years to fabricate. This crown jewel is believed to be the largest mosaic dome in Texas and one of the ten largest in the country. A team of international artisans from Italy, Holland and Poland installed the artwork, making two trips to Austin: one in the summer 2014 and another in 2016.

A celebrated Italian master, the late Romano Cosci, created the artwork for the dome. His work is also found in the Vatican collection. Unfortunately, he passed away after creating the mosaics, on the first day workers began installing it: June 5, 2014.

This ceiling is one of the most beautiful artworks in our country and certainly in Austin. We hope that you will join us

### Bridge Groups

No January meetings

### Contemporary Literature

When: Monday January 4, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: *Wayfinding: The Science and Mystery of How Humans Navigate the World* by M.R. O'Conner

Leader: Mary Ellen Scribner

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

### Central Book Club

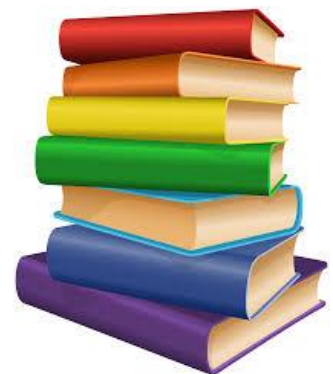
When: Monday January 11, 10:30 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Book: *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

Facilitator: Berta Lloyd

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



### **Creative Stitchery**

When: Wednesday, January 20, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Project: Crocheting with Zosia

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

### **Culture & Cuisine**

When: Thursday January 21, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Theme and Cuisine: South Africa, you are invited to **wear African jewelry or clothing and share your experiences of traveling to Africa.**

Host: Anita Knight, Fern Chester, Shirlene Justice

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

### **First Friday Book Review**

No January Meeting

### **Hiking Group**

#### **Hike 1**

When: Thursday January 14, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Segment of the Violet Crown Trail

Meeting Location: Spyglass Entrance

Leader: Kate DiPronio

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

#### **Hike 2**

When: Thursday January 28, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Brushy Creek Regional Trail in Cedar Park

Meeting Location: TBA

Leader: Nancy Andren

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

### **Mystery Book Club**

When: Tuesday January 26, 11:00 a.m.

Where: Zoom

Topic: Readers' Choice

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

### **Out to Lunch**

No January Meeting

### **Pears**

No January Meeting

### **Southwest Book Club**

When: Monday January 11, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Where: Online via Zoom

Book: *Hell and Other Destinations: A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Memoir* by Madeleine Albright, 384 pages

Facilitator: Debbie Starr

Online Host: Joan Lazurus

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

### **Wine Tasters**

No January Meeting



# Mental Health Learning Opportunity

AAUW member **Marsi Liddell** attended the December 5 meeting of the San Antonio Branch and was impressed by the speaker. She thinks the topic addressed by **Siri Bletzer** is relevant to our members as well. The San Antonio branch recorded the program and is sharing it on their website.

**Speaker:** Siri Bletzer, M.A., LPC, LMFT

**Program:** *Changing Thought Processes: Coping Skills to Get from Here to There*



## About the Speaker

During the last year all of us have experienced an extraordinary amount of stress in our lives. The impact of the recent campaign season and elections seemed to last forever. And coming during the Covid-19 pandemic with all of the life adjustments required for life under restrictions made it even more stressful. Siri Bletzer is a mental health expert who addresses the impact of recent events on mental health and prevention or mitigation of stress for a more positive life. Ms. Bletzer received a Master's DMs degree in Counseling from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She is a licensed professional

counselor and a licensed marriage and family therapist. As a member of the American Counseling Association since 1998 and a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy since 1995 she is known as a top professional in her field.

With 22 years of private practice she has worked with many people coping with anxiety and/or depression, anger and stress management, those going through career changes, and facing life transitions and crisis. She states, "I have always been fascinated by how people change, learn, and grow. I believe that given the right context, such as a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment, people can make the changes they need to make to live a happier, more productive and positive life. Given the right tools, everyone has the capacity to engineer their life in a healthier way."

You may download the program here. [Changing Thought Processes: Coping Skills to Get from Here to There](#)



# Holiday Recipes Courtesy of Culture and Cuisine

At the December meeting of Culture and Cuisine, holiday recipes were exchanged and a copy of these recipes are shared with the entire Austin Branch of AAUW. To download these recipes click on one of the pictures.



## FAVORITE HOLIDAY TREATS - 2020 from Culture & Cuisine Members AAUW Austin Branch

Nanoy Andren -	Lemon Cookies Shortbread
Roberta Coffin -	Holiday Briks (Fruiteake)
Lynn Cooksey -	Cheese Twists
Larayne Dallas -	Old Fashioned Sugar Cookies Caramel Cookies
Cindy Darilek -	Butter Cream Cheese Mints Thumbprint & Mexican Wedding Cookies
Ann Gibbs -	Apricot Oatmeal Bars Anisplatzohen (Anise Cookies)
Shirlene Justice -	Neiman Marcus Chocolate Chip Cookies New York Times Eggnog Snickerdoodles New York Times Black and White Brownies
Gayle Kanies -	Cocoa Meltaways
Anita Knight -	Crescent Cookies or Butter Pecan Cookies
Marsi Liddell -	Cookie Bar Recipe
Judy Reinhart -	Cathedral Candy Rolls
Nanoy Riley -	A Little Nut Cookie
Pam Watson -	Sugar Cookies Tiger Butter Chocolate Decorated Cookies

## Filmmaker Bios - continued from page 1

**Annie Silverstein** is an award-winning filmmaker and media educator based in Austin, Texas. Her films have screened at international festivals including Cannes, SXSW, Silverdocs and on PBS Independent Lens. Before attending film school, Annie spent ten years as a youth worker and community media educator in Seattle, and her film "Bull" reflects her career as a social worker. Her company NewFilmWorks has contracted with businesses, government institutions and non-profit organizations to develop and produce documentaries, web videos, PSAs, news cuts, promotional videos, and educational trainings. She has worked across the United States, South America, and Africa, as a producer, director, cinematographer, and editor. Annie has a B.A. in history from Macalester College in MN.

**Monique Walton** is a creative producer of director-driven fiction and non-fiction independent films, working with Bluestack Media. Her fiction feature debut, "Bull", written and directed by Annie Silverstein, was an official selection at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival - Un Certain Regard. It was awarded the Grand Jury Prize, Best First Film, and Critics' Prize at the Deauville American Film Festival. She was selected for the 2016 Sundance Creative Producing Lab and was named the Mark Silverman Honoree for "Bull". She has a B.A. with distinction from Yale University in Latin American studies. Special thanks to film-buffs **Janet Ridoff**, **Mary Kate Fredriksen** and **Anita Knight** for putting together this exciting program.

## **Mainspring Schools**

2021 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of our connection to Mainspring Schools; they will celebrate their birthday October 15, 2021. In July of 1941, our AAUW branch decided to start a preschool for low-income white children. Over the ensuing 80 years, Mainspring Schools has evolved to reflect the wonderful diversity of Austin.

With a mission “to provide children and their families with a **community** (emphasis added) for high quality early education and holistic support so each child and parent has the tools necessary for success and life,” Mainspring Schools had an enrollment of 95 children with 75% of the families receiving tuition subsidies<sup>1</sup>. AAUW is a proud part of the community that supports the families of Mainspring Schools. Mainspring has three central commitments<sup>1</sup>:

1. ***Innovative Learning*** comprised of low child-to-teacher ratios, child-directed learning, and focus on social, emotional, and executive function skills.
2. ***Physical and Emotional Health*** supported by farm-to-table meals, trauma-informed education and care, case management, and ample outdoor play and wellness learning.
3. ***Family-Centered Engagement*** through parent education on topics such as nutrition, discipline, personal finance and relationships and individual and group counseling.

As a long-term supporter of Mainspring Schools, AAUW celebrates their upcoming 80-year anniversary. If you are interested in finding ways to support our partner, contact Linda Welsh ([lawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:lawelsh@gmail.com)) to learn more or join our Mainspring Schools Advocacy Committee.

<sup>1</sup>*Mainspring Annual Report FY 2018-2019*

## **STEM**

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

### **Latinitas**

Latinitas has established the Virginia “Bibi” Lobo Somyac scholarship fund to honor **Bibi Lobo**, founder of the National Latinos Children’s Institute. She was on the Latinitas board.

Latinitas is also starting a Robotics team for 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls.

### **Girlstart**

Two of our members helped prepare kits for girls to use in the Girlstart After School at Home clubs in the next semester.

During DeSTEMber, Girlstart had activities every day for the girls to participate in. Materials lists were given at the beginning of each week for seven days of activities.

Once school begins in January, Girlstart will be there providing quality STEM activities for girls.

### **Other STEM opportunities:**

The Association for Women in STEM at UT is recruiting mentors for their annual mentorship program which pairs undergraduate students, grad students, and postdocs at UT with women in STEM careers for a year of meetups scheduled at the pair’s convenience and guided by supporting materials. A sign up form is available at: [Sign Up Here](#).



- ☑ **HAVE** hope
- ☑ **TRY** new things
- ☑ **BE** active
- ☑ **SEE** the good
- ☑ **SAY** "I Love You" more
- ☑ **CHALLENGE** yourself
- ☑ **CHOOSE** to be happy
- ☑ **EAT** better
- ☑ **ENJOY** today
- ☑ **FORGIVE** more readily
- ☑ **READ** more often
- ☑ **BECOME** your best you