

JULY - AUGUST 2024

## AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB

### NEWSLETTER

#### **A Note from Incoming AWC President, Dot Swanson**



Finishing my year as President-Elect, I want to take just one short moment to reflect and appreciate every single experience. Sara Jane paved the way for significant change for the AWC. This gave me a unique opportunity to apply business principles and past experience as we transitioned into a new way of doing business.

Our Club is unique in the fact that we must combine private donations with earned revenue to sustain our historic Chateau Bellevue; while at the same time operate a social club focused on historic preservation, charity work, outreach, and learning.

Woven together, the skills and experience of our Board of Directors represents a talent pool second to none. We manage employees, plan and execute events, maintain the grounds and building, host social and charity events for members, strategize the long range future of the AWC and historic preservation, and continuously apply for Grants to offset significant replacement and repair costs.

The underpinnings all require constant communication and member recruitment to keep the AWC vibrant. In parallel, longer range initiatives such as the establishment of an endowment and corporate sponsorships is on-going. We must entice city, state and federal leaders to recognize the significance of Chateau Bellevue rather than on building new structures.

A sincere thank you to President Sara Jane Cantwell and the '23-'24 Board for the insightful and fulfilling year. Your work to lay foundation for our future is significant. It was a challenging year, and yet, you persevered.

Tough decisions had to be made and changes were inevitable.

As I take the reins for the Austin Woman's Club, I personally commit to be your President who is present and listening so that we continue to evolve and remain an organization focused on the success of both the operational business pathway and the preservation of our beautiful historic site. I will do my best and give my best this year.

Sincerely,

Dot Swanson

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Fredell

Cheryl Renna

Ashley Ross

Mary Alice Feeney

[Click here to Get to Know Them](#)

## RESERVATION PROCEDURES

We have a new email address for reservations, seating requests, and dietary requests:

[reservations@austinwc.org](mailto:reservations@austinwc.org)

Please use only that email address for those items. Of course, feel free to email [cristal@austinwc.org](mailto:cristal@austinwc.org) for any other non-reservation matters or questions you may have.

Reservations can also be made online by clicking below.

The cutoff time of 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays for that week's AWC luncheon reservations and cancellations.

Reservations for the same week will not be accepted after Tuesday, and cancellations made after Tuesday will be charged.

To-go meals (while available) at the luncheons are \$10 per plate which includes entree and sides only (no starters or desserts).

[Click to Make a Reservation](#)



# JULY 2024 EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

Club closed for Independence Day!



THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

11:30 - 1:00

*Terri Freeland and Brian Grothues*



*Terri Freeland* is a cellist with 30+ years of teaching and playing experience. She maintains a private cello studio at her home in Lakeway, Texas and plays as a freelance cellist in the Austin area. Terri earned a master's degree in music from UT Austin and has played with various ensembles, including the Austin Symphony, Sienna String Quartet, and the Zelos Trio. She loves playing chamber music and has coached student ensembles for Austin Chamber Music Center and Chamber Music for the World. She is a member of the American String Teachers Association, a board member of Austin Chamber Ensemble, a member of Music Club Austin, and a former UT String Project Teacher.



*Brian Grothues* is a pianist, teacher, and avid sailor in Austin Texas. He pursued music at The University of North Texas in Denton, earning his Bachelor's Degree Cum Laude in 2005 under the tutelage of Gustavo Romero. In 2008, Brian completed the Master's Degree in Piano Literature and Pedagogy from the University of Texas under the guidance of celebrated pianists Gregory Allen and Sophia Gilmsen.

He has studied piano and music history in Vienna, Austria as a member of the IES study abroad program. Mr. Grothues performed at Lincoln Center, New York in 2007 on scholarship to the Dorothy Taubman Seminar. In addition, he has studied with the acclaimed Sheila Paige from 2006 to present.

Brian has collaborated with a multitude of instrumentalists and vocalists in concert, and keyboardist in Magnifico, a Queen tribute band. In 2016 Mr. Grothues performed solo and chamber music in Sulzbach-Rosenberg Germany. He also performs solo and chamber repertoire frequently at Music Club Austin.

Together, they will perform They will be playing Brahms' Cello Sonata in E minor, Op. 38, published in 1866; and also playing Amy Beach's Four Sketches, Op.15. Published in 1892.



## JULY 2024 EVENTS (CONT.)

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

11:30 - 1:00



### Texas Towns with Weird Names!

Jo Virgil

Every town has a story about where its name comes from, but there are many towns in Texas that have strange names and interesting stories about where they came from. Most are tiny towns that had to struggle to come up with a name that hadn't already been chosen by another town; some of the names are just the result of weird mistakes. But they are all fun to look at and they might make you laugh!

Jo Virgil, recently retired, has had a full career working in journalism and community relations. She worked as a freelance reporter for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and has had pieces published in various magazines and books; she served as Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble; and she was the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. She has a Master of Journalism degree with a minor in Environmental Science, reflecting her love of writing as well as her deep appreciation and respect for nature. She loves researching, writing, learning new things, and traveling to explore and learn. She is also a long-time member, and now the Vice-President, of the Texas Folklore Society, a wonderful organization that meets once a year in various towns in Texas to share folklore stories, fun visits with members from all over the state, and hoot-nanny music.

## JULY 2024 EVENTS (CONT.)

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

11:30 - 1:00

### *Treasures of the Chateau*

Peggi Purcell, Chair Fine Arts and Furnishings

Susan Gatlin, Chair Archives



Seasoned members and newer members of the Austin Woman's Club will learn of heirlooms the Chateau has been bequeathed over these many, many years. Our treasures have been catalogued and photographed by Peggi and Susan and they have graciously agreed to share their extended knowledge with all of us!!! Our treasures are on display throughout the Chateau's 3 floors. You will be inspired to explore and seek out!!!



As part of our celebration for our 150th Anniversary for our Chateau, our Austin Woman's Club will be hosting a Teacher Appreciation Tea on **Sunday September 29th from 2 until 4 PM**. We are inviting history teachers from AISD, EISD, and numerous private schools.

We have sent out a SAVE the DATE to the principals of these schools. They were then asked to forward the Save The Date to their history teachers. Another invitation will go out at the end of August. All history teachers will be our special guests so will be given complimentary tickets. We hope many of you will join us to celebrate these teachers. Tickets for non-teachers are \$25.00. Our Appreciation Tea will include light snacks, coffee, tea, water and lemonade. Our docents will give tours of our Chateau, and our guest speaker will be Betty Bird, a 30 year history teacher from Crockett High School who will be interviewed on "Reflections of a Former Teacher."

We are looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of our beautiful tea. Would you please help by sponsoring some teachers at \$25.00 per teacher? You can sponsor a teacher by clicking below or giving a check to Karen Watford or at the office. Please be sure to designate the money for sponsoring a teacher.

[\*\*SPONSOR A TEACHER\*\*](#)

## AUGUST 2024 EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

11:30 - 1:00



Please join us as Book People presents the newest must reads for 2024. As always, this will be a great time to learn about newly published works and buy one or two for yourself or as gifts for friends and family.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

11:30 - 1:00



We're still working on this one - stay tuned!

## AUGUST 2024 EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

11:30 - 1:00

### **Amazing Hummingbirds of the Americas**



A San Antonio native, a St. Mary's Undergrad and U of Delaware PhD in physical chemistry, Dr. Sanchez joined the Chemical Engineering Dept. at UT in 1988. He was elected to the US National Academy of Engineering in 1997, the highest recognized honor in engineering. Married to Patty Praytor for 21 years, between them they have 4 sons and 14 grandchildren. He was on the Board of Foundation for the Homeless, a Coordinator of Feed My People, and is an Elder at Westlake Presbyterian. At 13 he became infatuated with birds and to this day remains passionate about birds and bird photography.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

No Program - Closed for Private Event

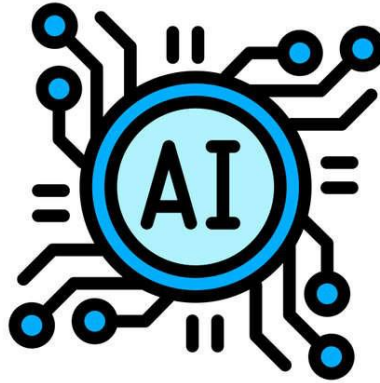




## AUGUST 2024 EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

11:30 - 1:00



# AI and Everyday Life

In this introduction to AI, Jaime Cantú will share insights on how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing daily life. The presentation will highlight the significant changes and opportunities AI brings.

Jaime Cantú is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Austin Community College. His academic background includes a BS in Biomedical Sciences, an MS in Biology, and an MBA from Texas A&M-Kingsville. Currently, he is pursuing a doctoral degree in Bilingual Education, focusing on STEM education and Critical Discourse Analysis, aiming to close achievement gaps for first-generation college students. As part of his doctoral studies, he is involved in a National Science Foundation-funded graduate research addressing air and water resource solutions in coastal communities. Additionally, Jaime has actively used AI (artificial intelligence) in his teaching and pedagogy to help bridge the gap, contributes to the development of an AI teaching institute at Austin Community College, and serves as a facilitator on the Project Advisory Group for the Adapting to Innovation Initiative under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Division of Digital Learning.



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

1:00 p.m.

**CHATEAU BELLEVUE UPPER TERRACE**

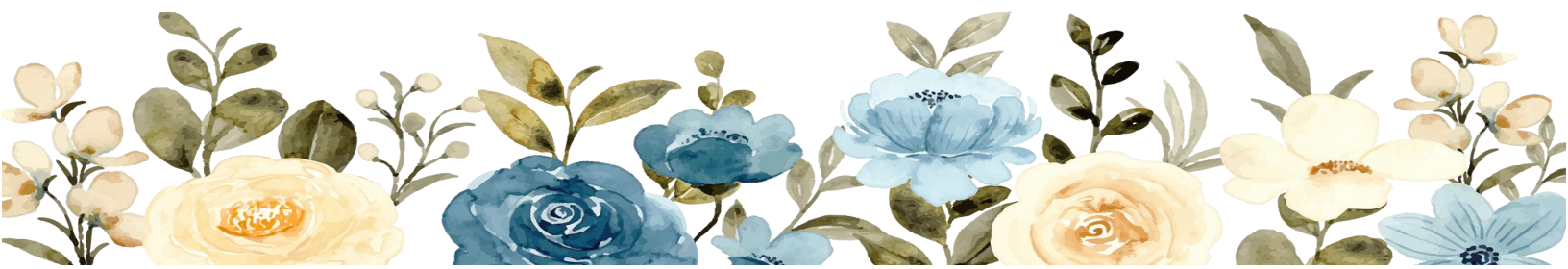
*Please join the Thankful Hubbard Chapter of the DAR in the dedication of a beautiful new meditation bench that they have donated to our enhance our Upper Terrace.*



## Austin Museum Day

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Since 1998, the Austin Museum Partnership has coordinated Austin Museum Day, a community event which offers free admission and includes special programs and activities at museums and cultural institutions across the area. Austin Museum Day is held on the penultimate (second to last) Sunday of the month of September. We are delighted to be participating again this year. Please mark you calendars to come help and greet our guests that come to see our beautiful Chateau!





## *The Gilded Age: A Musical Journey Gala*

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

Come and celebrate this Chateau Bellevue's 150th Birthday with the customs and music of the late 1800's. Enjoy this momentous occasion and help us preserve the Chateau in all her glory.

Be on the lookout for more information and your personal invitation. We encourage you to bring your family and friends for our biggest bash of the year!

Music, Food, Cocktails and more

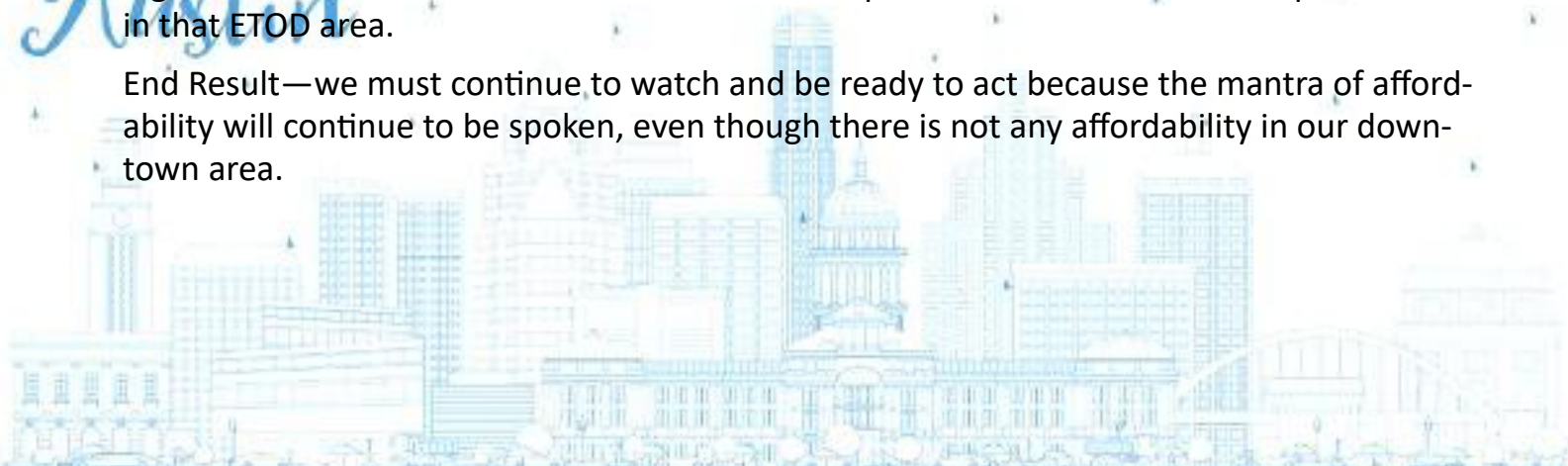
## What Happened with the Request to City Council to Protect Historic Districts and Landmarks?

That is a really good question. Thanks to Mary Gay Grigg several of us were able to speak with the Zoning policy advisor for the mayor. Alexis Garcia who was helpful and offered some information.

1. The zoning changes' protection for city, state and national landmarks should not change.
2. The zoning changes that were under consideration are proposed so that Project Connect will receive a higher score on a federal grant application for additional funding for mass transit.
3. There are two major changes. Included in the applications. A) a change in single family home lot side from 5,000 feet to either 2,000 proposed by City Staff or 1,500 feet proposed by Planning and Zoning Commission. B) is the one that most impacts our building. The propositions would allow for an additional 120 feet of height in the zoning now on a piece of property within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of the Project Connect routes. We already have a number of tall buildings surrounding us. I believe that the route we would be closest to is on Guadalupe and we would fall within that distance.
4. What happened at City Council? Ask me about the 700 people who showed up to protest these changes and what happened to them! But here is what passed.
  - City council got a super majority (9 votes out of 11 total) to pass both A and B with some compromise primarily coming from the mayor whose vote was needed to get to a supermajority. On A the lot size was compromised at 1800 square feet per dwelling.
  - The 120 feet of additional height was given to those within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile (instead of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and 90 feet additional height to those within the  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Project Connect. The additional height is supposedly given only to lots currently zoned multifamily or commercial and the new zoning is for residential properties only.
5. What does this mean for us? I am just not sure. I suspect very strongly that there will be legal challenges to this in the future. I believe it will have something to do with property owner notifications as it has in the past. It will keep a number of tall buildings from coming even closer. I think that  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from Guadalupe is Rio Grande which does put us within that ETOD area.

End Result—we must continue to watch and be ready to act because the mantra of affordability will continue to be spoken, even though there is not any affordability in our downtown area.

Angela





# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It's wonderful to see so many new faces at our AWC luncheons! And even more exciting is that these

new members are jumping in and getting involved. We are into our lazy days of summer. It's a great time to bring one of your friends to the Chateau for lunch. If you have questions about sponsoring, please let me know. Thanks to all of our AWC members who have sponsored new members! Because of you, our last year was fantastic. We have 22 new members who have jumped into our club with a smile and a willingness to get involved! Welcome to all our new members and thank you for stepping up to serve in our club.

Let's continue to bring in more ladies to our Austin Woman's Club and share our beautiful chateau and the wonderful gift of friendships.

Karen Watford, Membership Chair

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- **Mari Jean Tritle** - *Always willing to do a tour at the last minute and intro/prayer at meetings!*
- **Ann Wilhelm** - *Producing our wonderful fashion shows!*
- **Karen Watford** - *Leadership with tea and membership!*
- **Karen Haschke** - *Working diligently on Nominating Committee to help us nominate an incredible Chateau Team!*
- **Susan Ashworth and her husband, Duncan Ashworth** - *Our grounds are beautiful because of this wonderful couple!*
- **Dot Swanson** - *Agreeing to become our next AWC President*
- **Sara Jane** - *Last President*
- **Mary Dickerson** - *Stepping up to the accounting plate at the last minute and has helped us tremendously!*
- **Claire Wendlandt** - *For producing incredible speakers/programs.*
- **Mary Ellen Borgelt, Penny Powell and Jare Smith** - *Incredible fund raising campaign.*
- **Nancy Naylor** - *All the hard work with Harry to make our building great!*
- **Noel Roberts** - *Our website and communications and emails!*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### *Marion "Bun" Mark*

It was 1930, just before the Great Depression years of the 1930's when I was born in the small town of Hayward, California, with a population of just 5,000 people at that time. My parents were medical doctors. My mother was a first generation American and did not speak English until she went to school; she taught her three children to speak and read the German language and write German script. Since my husband, Hans Mark, was an Austrian Native, and his family were German speakers, I continued to be able to communicate in that language.

Since I fortunately grew up in a mixed neighborhood of Catholic, Jewish, Protestant and atheist people, we never experienced any discriminatory feelings between the groups.

My mother came from a highly cultivated family, immersed in books, classical music, and cultural interests, which she gave to her children. We all three were pianists and my sister was also a violinist; my brother played the trumpet. We were members of our high school orchestra, and I was part of college orchestras and also enjoyed accompanying. I think I "peaked" technically in high school, when I played the "Rhapsody in Blue" at our annual concert!

I attended three universities: The University of California at Berkeley, Boston University, and George Washington University, where I was respectively awarded the B.A., M.S., D. Ed. Degrees. I was married to Hans Mark for seventy years. During that time we had two children, Jane and Rufus. I taught at all grade levels, beginning teaching remedial reading at the primary and elementary levels, secondary history, and literature and analytical writing (the essay) in college. I continued to teach throughout my marriage as a way of defining myself as an individual, in addition to being a wife and a mother. My lifelong interest has been history, biography and literature.

Travel to many different countries has been an enlightening experience; I have appreciated the different cultures and values of each one. Still, the polyglot and accepting nature of American has always been my preference! I have appreciated the importance of being a participant in society, with the responsibility for the development of each individual as a matter of enlightened self interest.

During the period that my husband was Chancellor, I was please to have the opportunity to demonstrate the connection between the University and the community! This was done by hosting social events recognizing, for example, the connection between the teacher of the year and the Department of Education by inviting each group together, to dramatize their connection.

Always I have felt a great fondness and responsibility for animals, particularly reflected in my "feline historiography"! But I also enjoy writing personal essays asserting my opinions on various matters, on which I then share.

I have benefitted from my membership in the Austin Woman's Club, as it expands my contacts with the Austin community. I was particularly interested in the recent program about the Constitution! The program about how to find the right husband was amusing, as almost the entire audience had already accomplished that!

