

MARCH - APRIL 2025



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AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB

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NEWSLETTER

**A Note from Dot...**

Greetings AWC Members!

Oh how I love the thought that Spring is on the way. I've never been the girl who loved cold winter days, darkening before I'm ready. I love long days of sunlight so I have more time to enjoy my day. I found this definition when I was thinking about what to say to all of you lovely ladies and I think it does conjure up all my thoughts as I count down the days to Spring.

“Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations; it's a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over....” After months of cold temperatures and dark evenings, we can all look forward to a hopeful future. Look around you and find the joy, the funny moments, and the connections.

AWC is all about relationships and connections. Sometimes I'm amazed at the people I meet through our Organization. Whether it's through volunteer work or a social event, you will always stay connected if you nurture your relationships. I hope each of you will make it a point to join us at Chateau Bellevue whenever you can to keep the connections flourishing.

With Much Gratitude,

*Dot Swanson*

President, Austin Woman's Club



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Beverly Griffith**

*(Co-Sponsored by Karen Haschke and Judi Mettlen)*

**Ann Roe**

*(Sponsored by Lisa Holzgrafe)*

**Christena Alcorn**

*(Sponsored by Katy Lindsay)*

**Ashley Hyten Reischman**

*(Sponsored by Stacey Brewer)*

## RESERVATION PROCEDURES

This is the 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 luncheon reservation.](#)

MARCH 2025

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025  
*JOINT MEETING WITH THE*  
*AMERICAN HISTORY CLUB*  
11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

**Cindy Stone**

**Of the American History Club**

Cindy will present a program of the Native Americans of the Southwest – Apache, Navajo, and Pueblo.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025  
9:50 - NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION  
LUNCHEON - 11:30 - 1:00 P.M.



**Introduction by Susan Ashworth**

***"I miss my mom. I don't get to see her much, so her reading means the world to me!"***

Women's Storybook Project of Texas is a women's prison program that connects children with their incarcerated mothers through the joy of literature. Their primary goal is to reduce the rate of reincarceration among incarcerated mothers by strengthening the mother-child connection through literature. This project requires volunteers to travel to Texas female prisons to record incarcerated mothers as they read stories to their children.

These recordings provide a chance for children to hear their mother's voice while they are away. Connecting the children and mothers helps provide a reason for the mothers to work hard not to return to prison. The Storybook Project is a nonprofit organization.

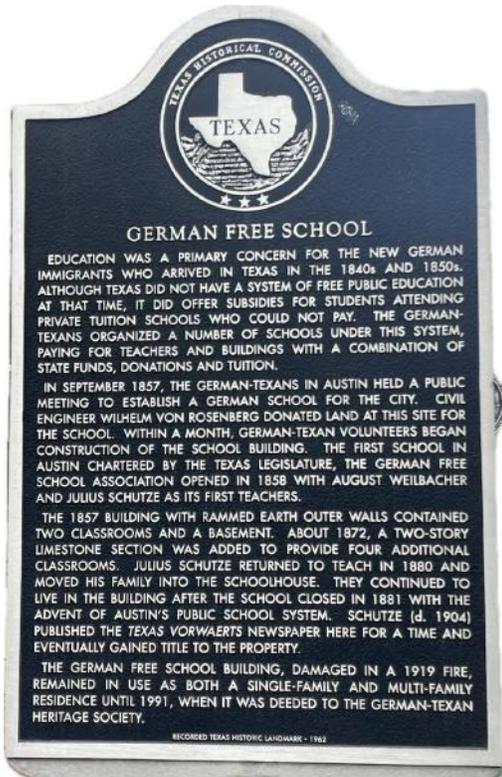
# MARCH 2025

## THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Karen Haschke

## Discover Austin's Best Kept Secret: The German Free School with Christopher Markley



Nestled in the heart of the Red River Cultural District, the German Free School is more than just a historic treasure—it's a testament to the spirit of community and education. Built in 1857, it stands as Austin's third oldest building, crafted with rammed-earth construction, making it incredibly durable and timeless.

This iconic landmark is one of the birthplaces of Texas public education and now serves as the home of the German Texan Heritage Society (GTHS). Today, GTHS thrives as a hub for promoting German-Texan culture, offering festivals, educational programs, and exciting opportunities for both children and adults to engage with this rich heritage.

### Featured Speaker:

Christopher Markley, is a 5th-generation Texan with a global perspective. With a successful career in the wireless industry spanning the USA and Europe, Christopher now serves as the Executive Director of GTHS. Under his leadership, GTHS has been transformed into a vibrant organization, enhancing memberships, boosting festival attendance, and elevating exposure across Austin and beyond.

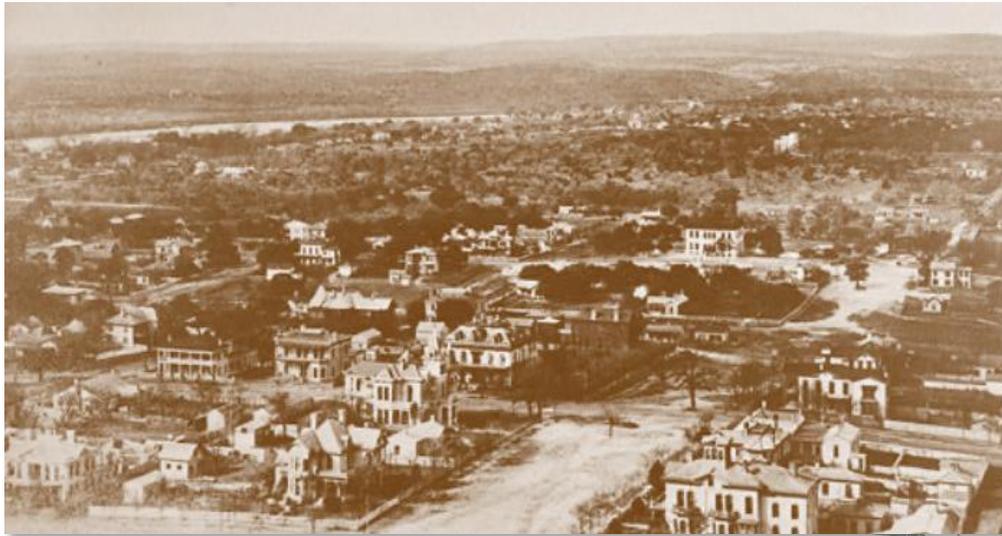


# MARCH 2025

## THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

### 11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

#### Introduction by Gayle Hight



## AUSTIN'S GILDED AGE: WE WERE JUST A LITTLE WEIRD BACK THEN, TOO

Austin, like the rest of Texas, tried its darndest to copy the Eastern industrialists in the hauteur and obscene wealth that marked the American "Gilded Age." However, Texans were still just a little too close to the frontier to bring it off, a little too haunted by their own recent history of being land-rich and cash-poor, still wedded to their disdain for pretense. And Austin, inevitably, went its own way altogether, with the celebration of lucre complicated by uppity women, a progressive Supreme Court, and even back then, all those liberal do-gooders.



JAMES L. HALEY has been a force in Texas history for fifty years. He is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and a fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. He is the author of twenty-five books, he has won the Western Writers of America Spur Award twice and the Texas Historical Commission book award twice, in addition to the Tullis Prize, the Parmelee Award for Original Research, and numerous other accolades. He will have a selection of his books to sign and sell (for cash or personal check, no credit cards) after the program, including his prize-winning biography of Sam Houston, his history of Texas titled *Passionate Nation*, and others.

# APRIL 2025 EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

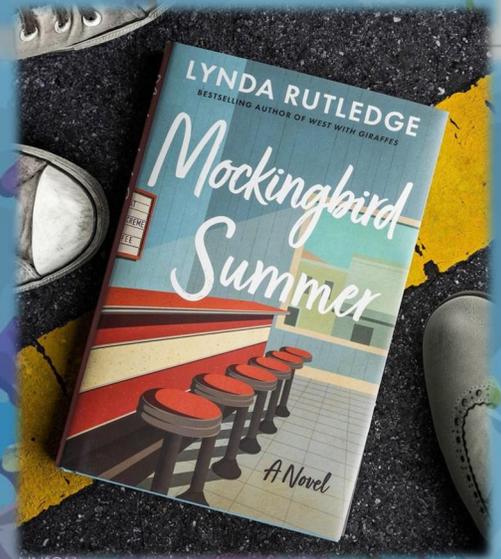
11:30 - 1:00 P.M.



## Lynda Rutledge

Introduced by Sandy Blevins

A fifth-generation Texan, Lynda Rutledge has crisscrossed both literary and geographic boundaries in her writing career. She has written articles for major news-



papers such as the *Chicago Tribune* and books for such well-known organizations such as *Habitat for Humanity* and the *San Diego Zoo*. But her first love has always been fiction. She holds an MFA in creative writing, a BA and MA in American literature, and has won numerous awards and residencies for her novels. Her first novel *Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale* won the 2013 Novel of the Year from the *Writer's League of Texas* and was made into a French film starring *Catherine Deneuve*. Her bestseller *West with Giraffes* was chosen by the *Library of Congress-affiliated Texas Center for the Book* as their 2023 Great Read. And her most recent novel 2024 *Mockingbird Summer*, set in 1964, uses the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* to tell a tale about an unlikely young friendship on the eve of the landmark *Civil Rights Act*. After years residing in *Chicago* and *San Diego*, she now lives with her husband outside *Austin*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEETING

# APRIL 2025 EVENTS



TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025  
**SPRING WINE DINNER**  
**DETAILS TO COME!**

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

11:30 - 1:00

Introduction by Karen Haschke

## **Dell Medical School MD Anderson Expansion**

**Jessica Cernosek**

The establishment in 2014 of the Dell Medical School (Dell Med), the first ground-up medical school built at a top-tier American research university in 50 years, is arguably the most consequential project ever undertaken by the UT System and marks the beginning of a new era in healthcare delivery in Austin. In August 2023, the UT System Board of Regents – joined, among others, by Governor Greg Abbott, UT Austin President Jay Hartzell, and Dell Medical School Dean Claudia Lucchinetti – announced plans to embark on the next era for innovative care in Austin by expanding the University of Texas at Austin Medical Center (UTMC) and its presence in Austin’s burgeoning medical district, filling a critical void in quaternary care in the city and across Central Texas.

With construction anticipated to conclude in 2030, UTMC is an emerging academic health system that will revolutionize the delivery of healthcare. Anchored by Dell Med, UTMC will transform access to essential care with the creation of a visionary campus that includes a UT Austin tertiary hospital, the world-renowned University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MD Anderson), and a globally renowned research university working together to achieve healthcare excellence.

Jessica Cernosek leads a team of gift officers in Dell Medical School’s comprehensive development efforts and sits on the principal gift team of the University. With over 15 years of development experience in health care, she has most recently held leadership positions at Keck Medicine of USC and the Seton Fund at Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin.

Cernosek has focused her career on helping world-class medical institutions plan and execute major philanthropic campaigns. She is inspired by breakthroughs in medicine and is passionate about connecting people to causes that they care about. Her love of health care philanthropy was ignited during her nine-year tenure at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, Texas.



Cernosek received her B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin.

# APRIL 2025 EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

11:30 - 1:00

Introduction by Gayle Hight

## The Briscoe Center: Where History Comes to Life

**Erin Purdy**



The University of Texas at Austin is home to the Briscoe Center, one of the nation's leading research centers for historical study. But even the most fervent Longhorn fan may not be aware of the treasures that are part of our holdings—or how to access them. This overview of the center and its collection strengths will explore how one of the University's earliest special collections has evolved and its influence on how we understand our nation's past.

Erin Purdy is the deputy executive director for the Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin. She was a curator at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the editor-in-chief of Cleveland Magazine, and a researcher and writer for The History Factory before fulfilling her childhood dream of moving to Austin, Texas. Initially hired at the Briscoe Center in 2005 as an oral historian, her responsibilities increased to management of the center's communications and public outreach efforts, including exhibits, publications, and print and online communications. She left in 2016 to work for Texas State University in presidential, fundraising, and admissions communications, but greatly missed working in history. It was her great fortune to return to the Briscoe Center in 2021. Erin lives in Kyle, Texas, with her husband Chris Miller and Callie, their incredibly spoiled rescue dog.



**BRISCOE CENTER**  
FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN