

MAY - JUNE 2026

AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Reflections from Anna

Dear Ladies of the Austin Woman's Club,

Many thanks to Sylvia Imhoff for her diligent work in procuring three grants for the AWC. Through her incredibly hard work and perseverance, we will begin repairing the doors in the Chateau Room plus one door on the third floor and remove the lead paint and repaint the third floor. Kudos Sylvia!

What wonderful programs Claire Wendlandt and her committee have arranged for us this year! We have wondered "Who Owns the Moon" and celebrated our nations' 250th birthday through art with Karen Pope. The Lunch and Learn speaker luncheons are off to a great start with speakers like Roy Spence of GSD&M and Chris Currens explaining the Capitol complex mall renovation. Now, Susan Ashworth is adding to our lunch experience by offering to play the piano in the ladies' parlor after our luncheon once a month. Take the time to relax, listen to beautiful music, enjoy your friends, and sip a glass of bubbly!

We continue to open the club to the public and tourists for events they may find interesting. These events include the fun Game Day planned by Patti Hirsh and the delicious South African wine dinner orchestrated by Leslie Thomas. Thank you, Patti and Leslie!

Antique furniture was recently donated by Alice Scarbrough to the AWC. Peggi Purcell has found places for each piece. Please tour the building and enjoy our beautiful "new" antiques. Thank you Alice for your very generous donation.

In April we elected our incoming Board of Directors. Thank you all for volunteering your time and expertise to lead the Austin Woman's Club.

Best Wishes,

Anna Marie Speir

President Austin Woman's Club

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

No new members this time, but let's remedy that at our May 7th Membership Drive and Luncheon featuring Mary Margaret Quadlander and her wonderful book - Grace Jones of Salado!

RESERVATION PROCEDURES

Reservation Procedures

- ◆ Reservations and cancellations need to be made no later than **noon on the Tuesday** before the luncheon by clicking the reservation arrow below. Cancellations made after that are non-refundable, and no-shows will be charged.
- ◆ You have the option of paying in advance online, or you can choose the "Pay at the Door" option so that you can pay by cash, check (payable to the Austin Woman's Club), or credit card at the door. A QR Code for free online credit card payments will also be available at check-in.
- ◆ For seating and dietary requests, please contact the office at office@chateauatx.com
- ◆ For event specific requests like reserving a table, tables settings, decorations, etc., please contact Maci at events@chateauatx.com.
- ◆ 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 -2027 BOARD

Board of Directors

- *President: *Mary Ann Golden*
- *President Elect: *Karen Watford*
- *Recording Secretary: *Sarah Gale*
- *Treasurer: *Lisa Alverson*
- *Parliamentarian: *Melissa Goodrich*
- *Immediate Past President: *Anna Marie Speir*

Chairs of Standing Committees

- *Advisory: *Anna Marie Speir*
- *Building: *Andrea Mercury*
- *Communication: *Noel Roberts*
- *Development: *Tricia Moose*
- *Finance: *Jill Klucher*
- *House: *Ruth Ann Eledge*
- *Insurance: *Lorraine Maslin*
- *Membership: *Debbie Cochran*
- *Nominating: *Claire Wendlandt - Chair*
Nancy Naylor
Melissa Goodrich
Genie Nyer
Sandy Cangelosi
- *Program Coordinating: *Sandy Blevins*
1st Thursday: *Ann Russell*
2nd Thursday: *Susan Ashworth*
3rd Thursday: *Karen Haschke*
4th Thursday: *Dale Van Sicle*
5th Thursday: *Andrea Stone*
- *Strategic and Long Range Planning: *Nancy Naylor*
- *Treasurer-Elect: *Catherine Camillone*

Standing Committees

- Club Activities/Social: *Ellie Fitzgerald, Sylvia Arabian*
- Public Relations: *Vera Fischer*

Sub-Committees

- Corresponding Secretary: *Diane Hunter*
- Fine Arts and Furnishings: *Stephanie Wilson*
- In House Fundraising: *Claire Wendlandt, Cammy Jones*
- Grants: *TBD*
- Grounds: *Anne Yeakel*
- Membership Treasurer: *Paula Coopwood*
- Scholarship: *Cyrilla Ivey*

MAY 2026

Friends of the Chateau Reception

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

*Friends of the Chateau:
Let's Begin Again*

Sunday, May 3, 2026
4-6 in the afternoon

*Friends of Chateau Bellevue -
You're invited to a fresh start - and a toast - to a
New Year for the Friends of Chateau Bellevue.*

Join us for a short, lively program about the Chateau's history, its future, the role Friends play in supporting this remarkable building and organization, and the benefits of being a "Friend of the Chateau."

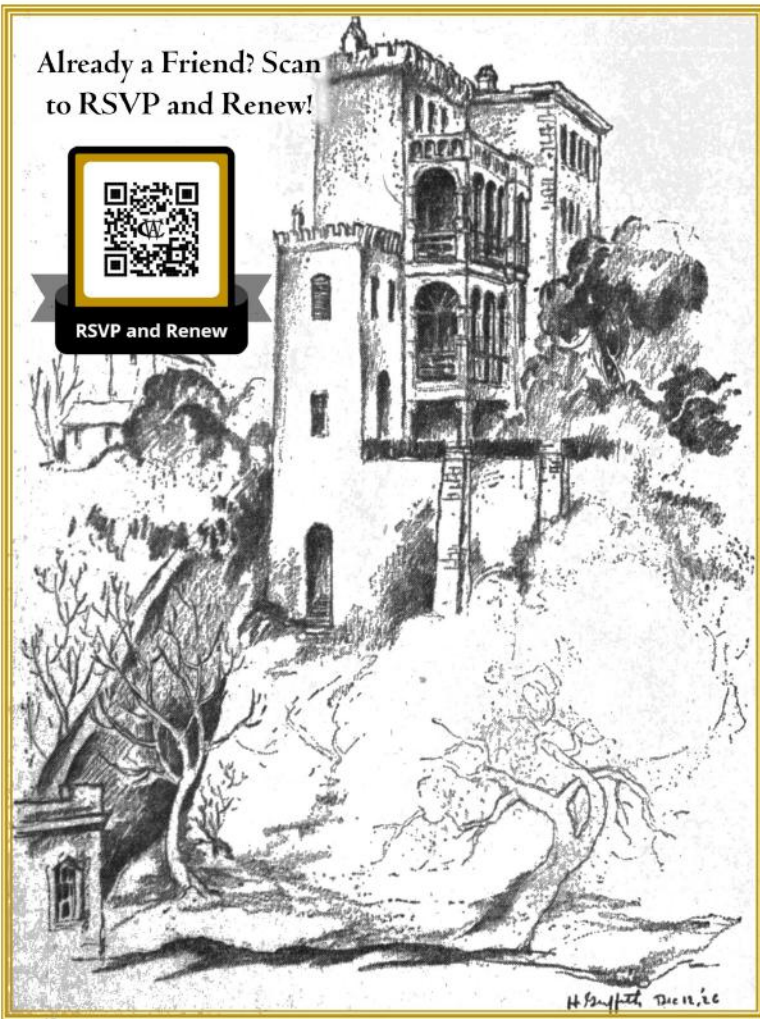
*Renew Your Membership and Join Us!
Wine and cheese will be waiting!*

Chateau Bellevue
708 San Antonio
(Free onsite parking 8th & Nueces)
www.friendsofthechateau.org

Not a Friend Yet?
Become One!



Become a Friend



Austin
Arts, Culture, Music
and Entertainment

Capital improvements at Chateau Bellevue are supported in part by a Heritage Preservation Grant of Austin Arts, Culture, Music, & Entertainment.

RSVP, Renew Your Friendship or Become A Friend

MAY 2026

AWC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

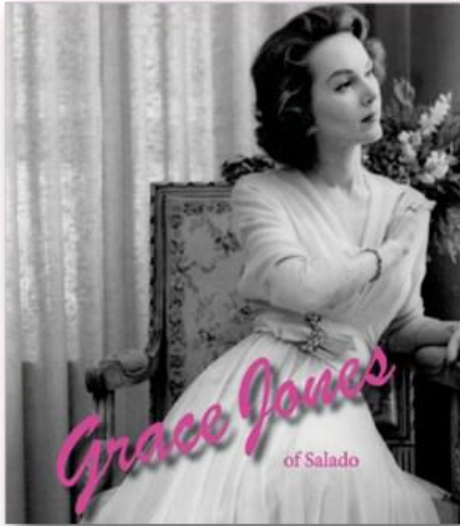
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Gayle Hight

Queen of Texas Fashion: Grace Jones of Salado and Her Extraordinary Life

A Biography by

Mary Margaret Quadlander



The improbable rise of **Grace Rosanky Putnam Jones** is a quintessentially Texan story. A country girl from Smithville who volunteered as a pilot during World War II, Grace served as a member of the legendary Women

Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Following the war, she made a daring pivot from the cockpit to the catwalk, moving to New York City to become a successful fashion model.

After marrying the celebrated "Ace" fighter pilot, Lt. Col. Jack Jones, the two traveled the world as a true American "Power Couple." When they eventually retired to the quiet roadside town of Salado, Texas, Grace stunned the fashion industry by opening a world-class haute couture boutique in 1962. For over forty years, her store was the premier destination for top designer collections—including Lacroix, Valentino, and Balenciaga, and Beene—becoming the primary rival to Neiman Marcus and serving "Texas Royalty" such as Lady Bird Johnson and Liz Carpenter. Many of her customers came to shop by flying in their private planes, landing on Grace's private runway.

Mary Margaret Quadlander A fifth-generation Austinite, graduated from UT Austin in 1979 before following her passion to New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. After a distinguished 23-year career designing her own line—sold at Neiman Marcus and Grace Jones of Salado—she returned to academia to teach at UT Austin and St. Edward's University.

As the founder of the Austin School of Fashion Design and a dedicated historian of Texas style, Mary Margaret will join us to discuss her book, **Grace Jones of Salado**.

Book Signing: Mary Margaret will be available to sign the 2022 second edition of Grace Jones of Salado following the presentation.

MAY 2026

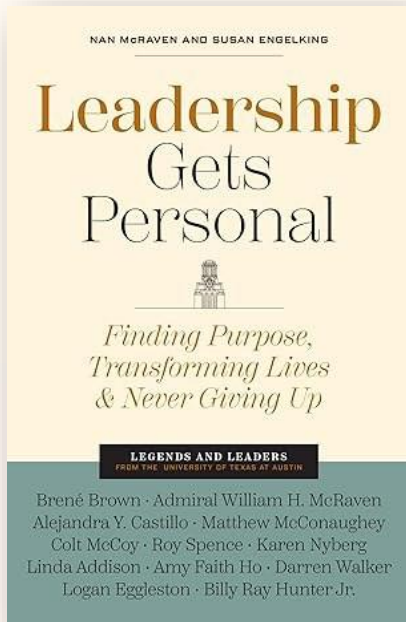
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

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

Introduction by Susan Ashworth

Leadership Gets Personal: Finding Purpose, Transforming Lives, and Never Giving UP

Nan McRaven and Susan Engleking



The new book features stories (12) with UT graduates Brené Brown, Admiral William H. McRaven, Alejandra Y. Castillo, Matthew McConaughey, Colt McCoy, Roy Spence, Karen Nyberg, Linda Addison, Amy Faith Ho, Logan Eggleston, Billy Ray Hunter, Jr., and Darren Walker.

Through interviews with these accomplished graduates, the authors learned about personal struggles and self-discovery for each that occurred during their college years. McRaven and Engleking found that postsecondary education time was key to helping these leaders find their calling and develop into the principled, respected, effective leaders we need today.



Susan Engleking

While this book features alumni from The University of Texas at Austin, their stories can be found in colleges and universities around the country.



Nan McRaven

MAY 2026



MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

6:00PM COCKTAILS AND 7:15 DINNER

A NIGHT FOR OUR NATION

Members of the Austin Woman's Club are invited to join the Colonial Dames of America in Texas in Austin on May 18, 2026, A Night for Our Nation, for an evening of celebration to honor American heroism, our military veterans, and the patriotic service of **Lt. General Brad Webb.**

The Mansion, 2312 San Gabriel

Complimentary Valet Parking

Cocktail or Military Attire

[Click Here for More Details and Sponsorship Information](#)

MAY 2026

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

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

Introduction by Joy Stoddard

A Century of Courage: The Girl Scouts Legacy in Central Texas

Paula Bookidis



Paula Bookidis is Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Central Texas (GSCTX), where she leads an organization serving 13,000 Girl Scouts across the region. Since stepping into the role seven years ago, Paula has guided a cultural transformation at GSCTX, strengthening employee retention, boost-

ing volunteer satisfaction, and ensuring the long-term financial health of the council, all while advancing the mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Under her leadership, GSCTX continues to equip the next generation of young women with the skills to persevere, solve problems, and lead positive change in their communities and beyond.

Paula's connection to Girl Scouts began at the troop level, leading campouts, cookie sales, and hands-on experiences with her daughters. Before joining GSCTX, she served in leadership at Sense Corp, a management consulting firm.

A lifelong Austinite, Paula lives in Austin with her husband and their three Girl Scout daughters.

MAY 2026

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

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

Introduction by Patti Greene



Iliana de la Vega - Chef - Restaurateur

The Austin-American Statesman recently referred to Iliana de la Vega the “unofficial matriarch of the modern Mexican movement in Austin.” Chef de la Vega is a Mexican-born American chef and restaurateur who won the 2022 James Beard Best Chef in Texas Award. In 2019, she was a semifinalist for the Best Chef Southwest award. The food at her restaurant, El Naranjo, is known for complex sauces, particularly with moles. The layering of flavors is evident from cocktails, through starters, entrees, and desserts.

Iliana is a native of Mexico City and previously served as the Mexican Cuisines Specialist at the Culinary Institute of America. She opened her first restaurant in Oaxaca in 1997, moving to Texas in 2006, opening El Naranjo’s original location on Rainey Street in 2012 and moving it to its current location on South Lamar in 2019. Her daughter, Ana Torrealba, now serves as chef de cuisine.

Chef de la Vega is inspired to share the techniques, tools, and knowledge of Mexican cuisine, which she does not only through her restaurant, but also through Culinary Traditions, a travel business that offers rich culinary experiences throughout Mexico and South America for culinary and wine journeys. Why does she do this? “Travel has always been our way of discovering the world, and cooking is our language to connect it. Our mission is for you to experience each culinary destination from the perspective of a local celebrated chef with an open heart and palate, just as we would.” Keeping family traditions strong. She is supported in Culinary Traditions by her daughter, Isabel.

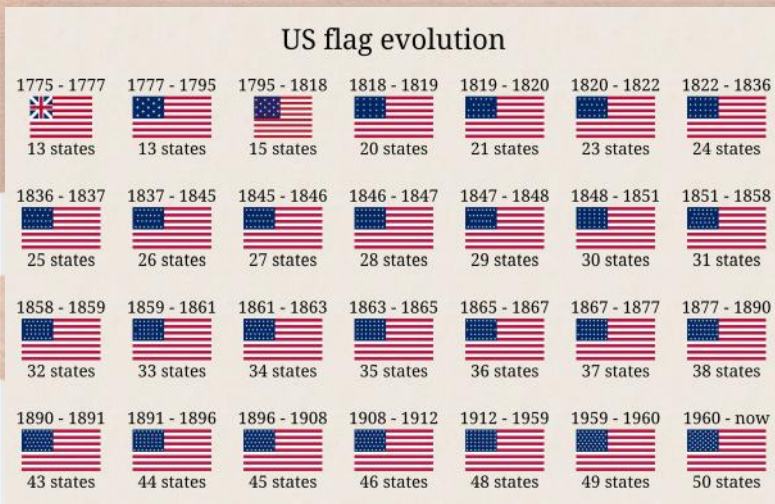
Isabel invites you to join her in learning how the love for food became a life changing path.

JUNE 2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

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

JOINT MEETING WITH THE DAR



**A Salute to the
Stars and Stripes!**
*Celebrate America
250!*

Featuring John Knox, Patrick Henry, Sons of the American Revolution Chapter

The first flag was authorized by Congress on June 14, 1777 (now celebrated as "Flag Day"). The design has evolved from 13 stars to 50, reflecting the nation's growth - often referred to as the "Stars and Stripes."

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

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

AWC Luncheon and
General Meeting

JUNE 2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

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

Introduction by Karen Haschke

LIVES AND LITERACY IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Presented by Isabella Martinez

Ransom Center Manager of Visitor Experience

The UT Ransom Center is once again sharing their current exhibition with the AWC. It was developed by the Ransom in partnership with a curator of Manuscripts at the Rylands Research Institute and Library of the University of Manchester in Great Britain. UT contributors were the Ransom curator of Early Books and Manuscripts, the UT Chair in Biblical Studies, and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute for the Study of Antiquity and Christian Origins in the College of Liberal Arts.



On exhibit are rare, fragile, handwritten papyrus manuscripts, the early instruments of communication in the ancient world. You will see items such as a lost handwritten shopping list, early portions of the Bible and contested legal documents rarely seen by the public. The display covers the time from Alexander the Great to the time when Egypt was conquered by the Byzantine Empire. This exhibit offers an extraordinary glimpse into the lives of ordinary people and their blending of cultures and languages - Egyptian, Greek, Roman - along the Nile before, during and after the time of Christ.

The speaker will be introduced by Karen Haschke with credit to Mary Ann Golden, a Ransom Center docent who suggested the topic and arranged for the speaker.

JUNE 2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

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

Introduction by Patti Greene

BUILDING THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

MINDY LAIRD



Mindy Laird has served as Executive Director of the Dripping Springs Community Library since December 2023. She holds a bachelor's degree in Academic Studies and a master's degree in Library Science. Her professional background includes experience as a classroom teacher, elementary librarian, and Facilitator of Learning and Innovation, equipping her with a deep understanding of education, community engagement, and the evolving role of libraries.

Mindy is an active community leader, having served on the DSISD District Advisory Committee, as a member of the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, and as a core team member of Dripping Springs Community Heart & Soul. Under her leadership, the Library continues to grow as a dynamic community hub, supporting literacy, innovation, lifelong learning, local history, and economic vitality in the rapidly expanding Texas Hill Country.

Originally from the Houston area, Mindy has lived in Dripping Springs for the past six years with her husband and their three children. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time on the golf course with her family.

Don't forget your 2025-2026 Dues!

We are now collecting membership dues for our program year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The good news is that our Annual membership dues are still \$425 and are due by May 1, 2026. **Be an early bird and avoid a late fee.** (There is a \$25 late fee if received after May 1st.)

[You have two options on how to pay your dues:](#)

1. Pay online with a credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay or ACH; or
2. Send or drop off a check and the printed dues form to the office (708 San Antonio, 78701) payable to "The Austin Woman's Club."

Website Tidbit

Take a moment to check out our Preservation Corner Page - *Tips and Articles for Preserving and Understanding Your Antiques, Treasures and Traditions!*

Here you will find a treasure trove of fascinating articles covering everything from how to Preserve Antique Books to how to Start an Antique Doll Collection to a Vintage Sports Card Guide! New articles are posted every month.

[Click here to explore them!](#) Have an idea for a preservation article? Send it my way!

Questions or suggestions? Give me shout at communications@austinwomensclub.com.

Membership Moment

Member ambassadors of the Austin Woman's Club — invite your friends, family, and acquaintances to join us for our May 7th Spring Membership Luncheon!

This special gathering is the perfect way to share the warmth and purpose of our club with potential new members. Guests will enjoy an engaging program presented by Mary Margaret Quadlander, acclaimed biographer of Grace Jones of Salado.

Let's fill the room with friendly faces and future members as we celebrate our community, our connections, and an inspiring story. Bring a guest and help our club continue to grow and thrive!"