

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2026

AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

Musings from Mary Ann

What a fast start we are off to!!! If you see a lady running hard to keep up, be nice to her because it is me trying to keep up with all that is going on in our club!

In recent months (due to our grant writer Sylvia Imhoff and the constant work of our Building Chair Andrea Mercury), we have seen much progress in our restoration activities: lead paint has been identified and removed; walls and peeling paint have been scraped and removed; and doors on the third level have been removed and restored in a historically accurate manner. The entire third level has been repainted, including our amazing metal ceilings, and work is set to begin on the ballroom doors. Interim reports are being written (so we can get the next 40% of our grant), and a big thank you to Gayle Hight and Andrea Mercury for writing them. There is much to be done, and today we are seeking a grant to stop water intrusion in our beautiful building by installing a new roof.

Now on to the next two months. I need each of you to come to the club not just for an amazing program and delicious food, but because of the following events:

9/10 - our first General Meeting of the new board. Please come and learn what's going on.

9/17 - Our French Fall Fete Fashion Show featuring the styling of the Gift Solution. Bring friends and family. (**Claire Wendlandt and Cammie Jones**)

9/20 - Austin Museum Day. Come and help with tours, greetings, security, and the children's area. We will need you! (**Sandy Cangelosi and Anita Edwards**)

10/1 - Past President's Luncheon where we will honor those ladies who helped us become the wonderful organization that we are. (**Sylvia Arabian and Ellie Fitzgerald**)

10/13—Our fall wine dinner. Exceptional food and fabulous wines. (**Leslie Thomas**)

10/17 - Chrome and Chandeliers—our first Classic Car and Harley Davidson Show. It will be in our parking lot, and we will need help with tours and people control. (**Sandy Cangelosi and Anita Edwards**) AANW Parking and Valet put it together and is free. We are encouraging families to come.

11/1 - An art show featuring Gay Gaddis and her work. It will be from 4-6 and is complimentary. Bubbles and bites will be provided.

Now can you see why I am out of breath?

Don't forget - communicate, say yes, and be positive!! See you at the club!!

Mary Ann

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Greer
Sharon Guess
Elizabeth Lawrance
Lori Sours

Lunch 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 Reservation](#)

SEPTEMBER 2026

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Gayle Hight



Wild Women for Good: Stories of Conservation in Texas

Come join Austin Woman's Club at Chateau Bellevue to learn about Jennifer L. Bristol's latest book, *Wild Women for Good: Stories of Conservation in Texas*, which chronicles the remarkable women who have shaped the Texas landscape over the last 150 years. Through more than 60 compelling profiles, Bristol highlights their tireless efforts to protect wildlife, preserve natural landscapes, influence environmental policy, and safeguard the state's natural heritage for future generations.

During her presentation, Bristol will focus on foundational figures who were instrumental in preserving Central Texas. Among them is Mamie Powell, an Austin resident who played a pivotal role in establishing the Texas state park system in the 1920s.

The Wild Basin Connection

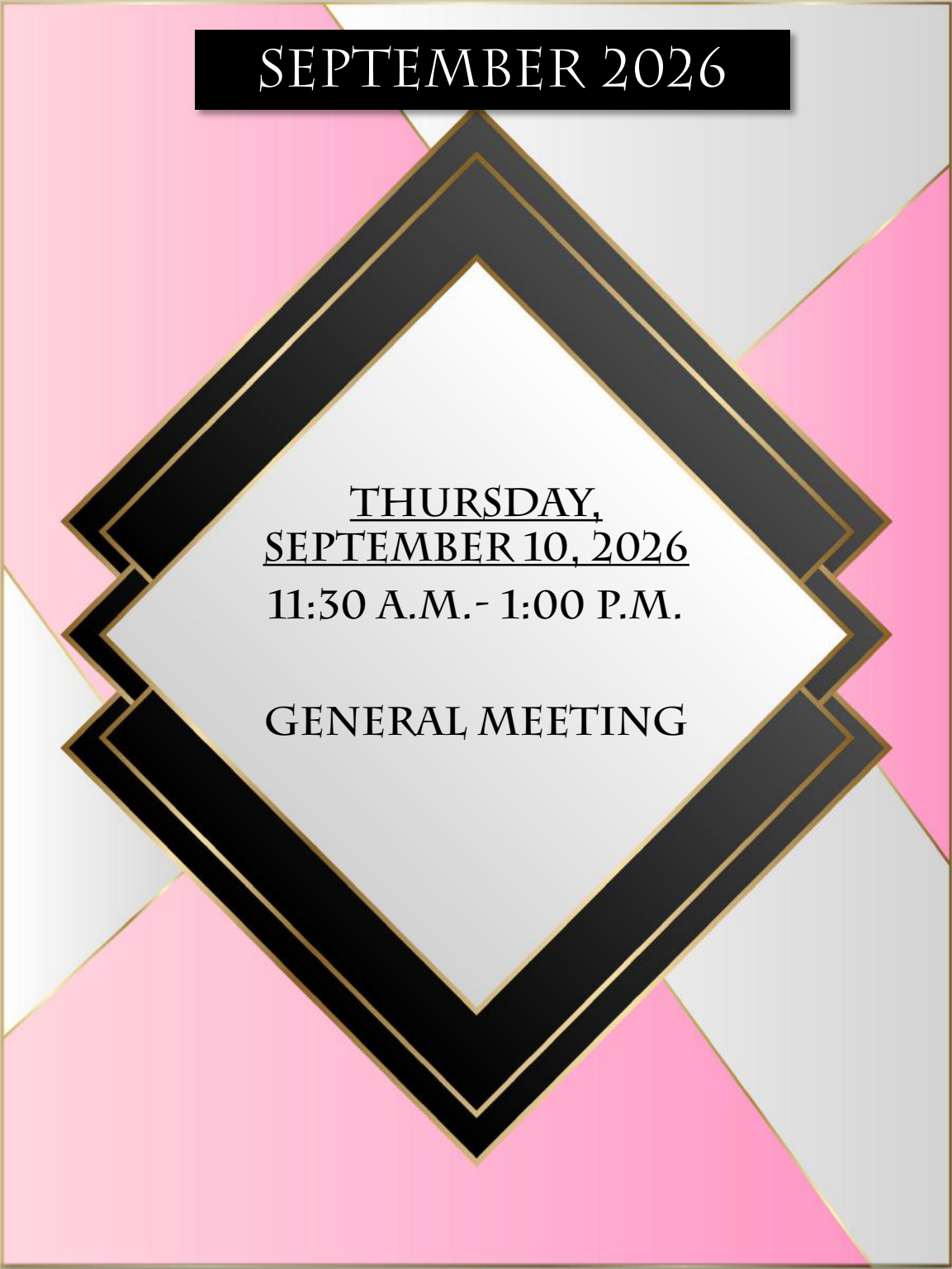
Few groups demonstrated more tenacity—or had more fun—than the seven women who fought to protect the 300-acre Wild Basin Preserve. In 1975, the Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, famously known as "the seven little old ladies in tennis shoes," (see center picture in photo collage) launched a grassroots fundraising campaign ranging from community garage sales to fashion show benefits.

Their dedication paid off. Over the following three years, they raised \$284,000 in cash and secured more than \$370,000 in donated land for Travis County. These efforts were bolstered by \$654,000 in federal matching funds to complete the purchase. Today, Wild Basin Preserve stands as a premier example of urban wilderness and a testament to their legacy.

Bio

In addition to *Wild Women for Good*, Jennifer Bristol is the author of *Parking Lot Birding: A Fun Guide to Discovering Birds in Texas* and *Cemetery Birding: An Unexpected Guide to Discovering Birds in Texas*.

A dedicated advocate for the Texas landscape and its future stewards, Jennifer serves on the City of Austin Environmental Commission. She also directs the Victor Emanuel Nature Scholarship Fund, which provides underserved youth with life-changing opportunities for outdoor immersion.



SEPTEMBER 2026

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2026

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

French Fall Fete!

A Fashion Show Extraordinaire!

Thursday, September 17, 2026



Enjoy a mimosa while you and your friends browse the new fall collection from the Gift Solution. Sarah Summers never disappoints her Austin clientele, outfitting us with the latest trends. Come early to shop!

10:00 a.m. Doors open for Shopping
11:30 a.m. - Style Show followed by a Delicious Lunch

\$65 Per Person

On the Menu

Berry Salad with Edible Flowers
Chicken Crepes
Roasted Veggies
French Onion Soup
Lemon Tart

[Make a Reservation](#)

SEPTEMBER 2026



Sunday, September 20, 2026, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Save the date to share our beautiful Chateau Bellevue along with dozens of Austin Area museums for free in a celebration of art, culture, history, music, nature, science, and play!

Since 1998, the Austin Museum Partnership has coordinated Austin Museum Day, a community event offering free admission and special programs and activities at museums and cultural institutions across the area. Austin Museum Day is held on Sunday, September 20th.

We are asking for members to come from 12-4 to be visible as greeters and watch for sticky hands. The docents will share information about Chateau Bellevue, The Woman's Club, and Major Evans.

If you still have your period dress from the Gala, please wear it! Others may wear period dresses. Amazon has great options!

We have requested student volunteers to help with our children's stations.

Activities include: antique greeting card design, coloring stained glass windows, Cookies by Chef Vi for donations, piano players, a sketch artist, and a digital scavenger hunt.

If you are interested in participating, please let Sandy Cangelosi know at sandy.cangelosi@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 2026

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

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



Historic Houses and History of Natchez, Mississippi Tammy Pack

Introduction by Dale Van Sickle

Historic Natchez has over 60 antebellum homes and three (rather competitive!) garden clubs, each hosting fabulous home tours every fall and spring.

Natchez and New York City had the same number of millionaires during the 1840-1860 period, and they built grand homes filled with the finest decorative arts.

If your idea of perfect days is visiting fine, beautifully appointed historic homes, learning about petticoat tables and other period furnishings, schmoozing with the owners for the latest, getting to know the locals, and sipping tea on a serene veranda, then you will be in heaven in Natchez. Only about 7.5 hours driving from Austin, with flights from Houston.

Speaker Tammy Pack of Fredericksburg and Natchez is excited to share with you in photos the history, houses, and charm of Natchez, from its early days in the 1700s as the final stop on Natchez Trace to current times where historic preservation is still at the forefront of life in Natchez.

She first visited Natchez when she was 23 years old after seeing an article in Southern Living. The history and charm of Natchez won her heart, and she told herself she would do her best to purchase and rehabilitate a historic home in Natchez someday. She visited whenever she could over the years, always touring as many historic homes as possible.

In 2021, she and her husband, Wes, made a trip from their home in Texas to her favorite town, Natchez, and took numerous home tours... both of the wonderful museum homes of Natchez... but ALSO of several homes for sale.

It may have taken over 30 years for her to acquire a historic home in Natchez, but in 2021 she and Wes purchased Holly Hedges, built in 1746, and began a two-year major rehabilitation project. They enjoy opening the home seasonally for tours and sharing Holly Hedges' history with all their guests.

Tammy Pack is a trial attorney, owner of Absolute Charm Real Estate, retail stores, B&B rentals, and Absolute Charm B&B Reservation Service, marketing 200 Fredericksburg properties.



OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

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

PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON

FEATURING

ANN MCNAIR,
GENERAL MANAGER FOR CONSPIRARE

Introduction by Syliva Arabian

Ann McNair serves as Conspirare's managing director, producing the organization's local, national, and international performances and recordings. She actively forges new Conspirare partnerships in Austin and beyond. Ann began her career in student affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Master of Music in Higher Education Administration. She is a mom and loves to bird and enjoy Austin's music and theatre scene with friends.



OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 8, 2026

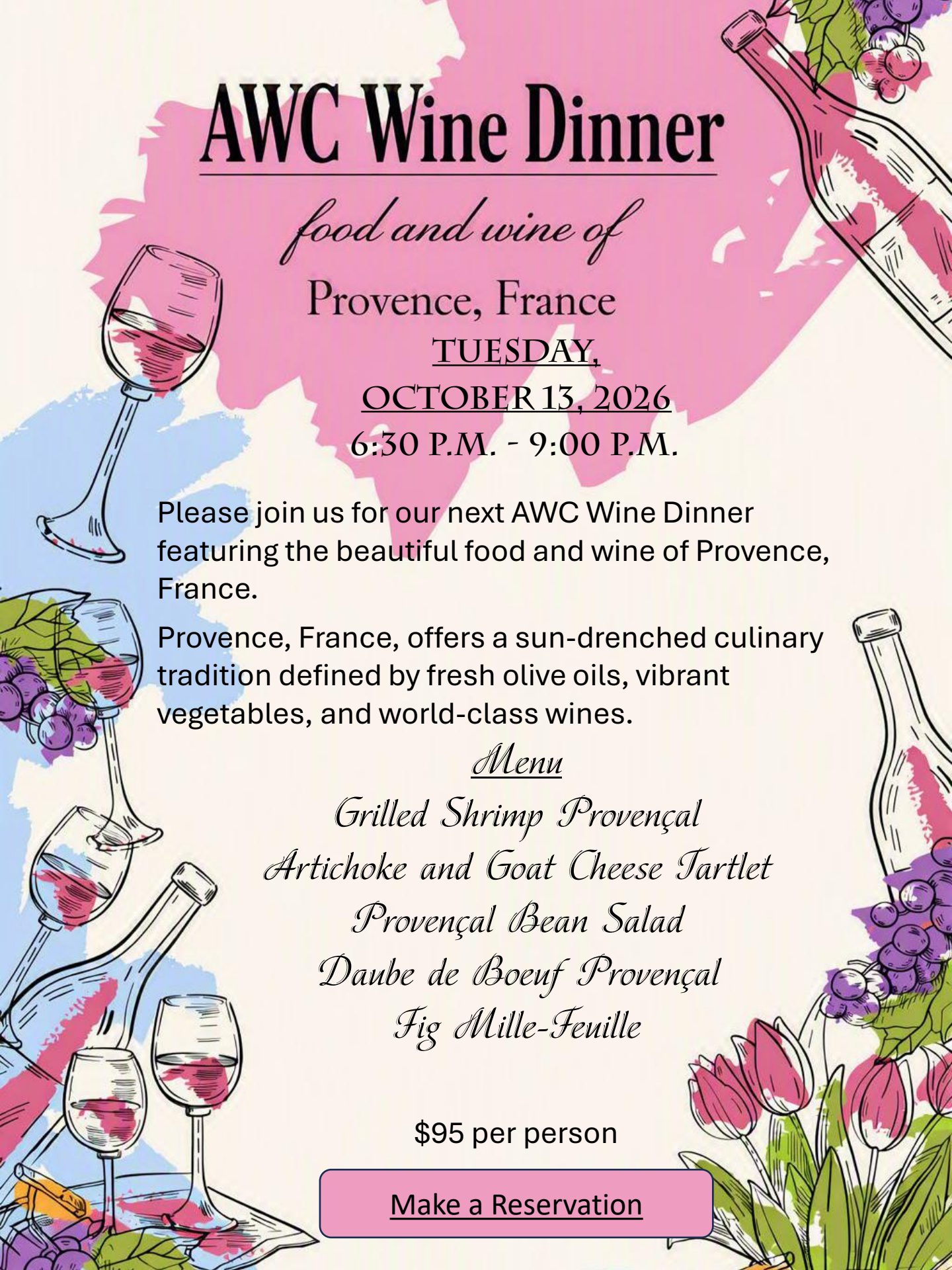
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Susan Ashworth

TITANIC. THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE BY JOHN ASHLEY

Step inside the Titanic's true story. Explore authentic artifacts, life-size recreations, and the real stories of its passengers.

Created by Musealia and Titanic historian and expert Claes-Göran Wetterholm, this experience separates fact from fiction like never before. An audio guide in English and Spanish will serve as the narrator that will guide you throughout the experience. Testimonies of passengers and crew will take you back to 1912. Unravel the true story of the ship as you embark on a trip through time bringing you closer to the myths, stories and the real history of the Titanic.



AWC Wine Dinner

food and wine of

Provence, France

TUESDAY,

OCTOBER 13, 2026

6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Please join us for our next AWC Wine Dinner featuring the beautiful food and wine of Provence, France.

Provence, France, offers a sun-drenched culinary tradition defined by fresh olive oils, vibrant vegetables, and world-class wines.

Menu

Grilled Shrimp Provençal
Artichoke and Goat Cheese Tartlet
Provençal Bean Salad
Daube de Boeuf Provençal
Fig Mille-Fenille

\$95 per person

[Make a Reservation](#)

REGISTER TODAY TO COMPETE!

ANW PARKING & VALET PRESENTS

CHROME & CHANDELIERS

Car Show

AT CHATEAU BELLEVUE | HISTORIC BUILDING TOURS
715 NUECES STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78701

*Chateau
Bellevue
Austin Woman's Club*



FAMILY FRIENDLY
FREE ENTRY

SAT, 10/17
9 - 12 PM



OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2026

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

Introduction by Karen Haschke

Houdini's Library

Presented by Isabella Martinez

Ransom Center Manager of Visitor Experience

Discover the hidden treasures of *Houdini's Library*, an exhibition that delves into the life and extraordinary collection of Harry Houdini, one of history's most famous illusionists. On stage, Houdini crafted his performances with a deep sense of history and the magicians who came before him. Off stage, he spent years building a collection of books, manuscripts, and ephemera documenting the long global history of magic and theatre. From a first edition of Reginald Scot's 1584 classic *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* to the handwritten travel diary of legendary actor David Garrick, delve into how Houdini's collection reflected his quest to preserve history—a tradition continued by the Ransom Center since it acquired his collection in 1958. Commemorating the centenary of Houdini's death in 1926, *Houdini's Library* invites visitors to explore the intersections of magic, history, and collecting.

OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

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

Introduction by Dale Van Sickle

"Solving the Cold Case of the Disappearance of Madalyn Murray O'Hair by Following the Money"

Edmond J. Martin, CFE, TBCI

Principal/Chief Investigator



Come hear and see the story of the lurid and macabre end of the life of America's Most Hated Woman from the IRS Criminal Investigations Special Agent who solved the mystery of her disappearance.

Edmond J. Martin was an IRS Criminal Investigations Special Agent, and he was the lead agent and instrumental in solving the shocking, twist-filled 5-year mystery of what happened to Madalyn Murray O'Hair and her two adult children (1997-2000).

He investigated fraud and money laundering cases, including payroll tax fraud, advance-fee schemes, and the Ponzi schemes of Russell Erxleben (1998-1999) and Brian Stearns (1999-2000).

In New Orleans, in the Intelligence Division of the US Treasury Department as a Special Agent with the IRS, he joined the DOJ Strike Force investigating District Attorney Jim Garrison and the New Orleans Police Department for public bribery by the local pinball industry. In 1975, Martin and his family moved to Austin, Texas. He has also served as a Supervising Examiner for the Texas State Securities Board.

Martin has been seen on television programs including the Forensic Files, the documentary Good Riddance, and Murder by the Book, all concerning his investigation of the disappearance of Atheist Leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair and her family. He is also featured in the books "Ungodly: The Woman Who Ended School Prayer in America" by Ted Dracos and "America's Most Hated Woman" by Ann Seaman, both about Madalyn Murray O'Hair.

OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

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

Introduction by Andrea Stone



Dianne Odegard with the Austin Bat Refuge

Diane Odegard will be talking about their work to rehabilitate and release bats.

Rehabilitation

They rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned bats 24/7. They're the alternative to euthanasia for bats in Central Texas.

Conflict Resolution

They consult with businesses, homeowners, and local governments to find solutions that help people and save bats.

Education

They conduct public education programs to promote appreciation and support for bats as crucial members of local ecosystems.

Bat Radar

Since 2011, they have compiled radar data nightly, covering the Significant Bat Area of Central Texas.

Membership Moment

Hello Fall!

We have much to look forward to as we head into the welcomed fall months: cooler temps, college football, and of course, outstanding AWC luncheon programs!

Check out the September and October programs in this newsletter. Think about which of your friends, family, and acquaintances would enjoy our delicious luncheons and the most engaging speakers on these relevant, interesting topics.

We love to host/meet your guests and possibly interest them in AWC membership. Become a guest hostess or new member sponsor this fall!

Cheers from your AWC Membership Committee,

Sarah Galey
Paula Coopwood
Suzanne Mueller
Velyna Morales
Nancy Mueller
Debbie Cochran, Chair

Website Tidbit

As you may have noticed, we are starting to offer some of our wonderful programs and events to the public. We have a new section on our website called ***Community Events: Lunch, Learn and Have Fun***, where we present these events in a fun and informative format with links to their ticketing pages. We hope this additional exposure will bring in more donation dollars, increase membership, raise public awareness of Chateau Bellevue, and help us apply for grants.

SNEAK PEEK INTO
NOVEMBER 2026

GAY GADDIS

FOUNDER. AUTHOR. ARTIST. TRAILBLAZER.

Passion For Painting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

4:00–6:00 PM



CHATEAU BELLEVUE EXHIBITION

708 SAN ANTONIO ST

Surface parking available at 8th & Nueces

Enjoy bubbles & bites

Original artwork & unique gifts available for purchase.



Admission is complimentary, but space is limited.

AUSTINWOMENSCLUB.COM | CHATEAUATX.COM | GAYGADDISART.COM

RESERVATIONS

