

MARCH—APRIL 2026



AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB



NEWSLETTER

Reflections from Anna

Dear Ladies of the Austin Woman's Club,

Thank you all for your patience while I have been recuperating from rotator cuff repair surgery. A special thanks to Mary Ann Golden for assuming the responsibilities of President while I have been at home. Hopefully I will soon be able to take off the sling, drive my car, put on make-up with my right hand, and fix my hair without my husband's help!

Many thanks to Leslie Thomas for chairing another wonderful wine dinner. The wines were beautifully paired with the delicious dinner prepared by Chef Vi. It is always fun to learn about new wines from around the world and California while visiting with friends!

I also wish to thank Patti Hirsh and Charlotte Dalby for the wonderful game day in January. All had a great time getting to know each other while playing games and eating a scrumptious ladies' lunch. The plentiful door prizes were delightful! Everyone was a winner! We plan to do it again April 30th.

Claire Wendlandt brought her lovely Valentine Day decorations to brighten our General Meeting while Debbie Cochran congratulated the February birthday girls with a thoughtful gift. These two ladies made our General Meeting feel festive and fun. Thank you!

At the end of February Cammy Jones is coordinating a magnificent Style Show Luncheon presented by The Gift Solution. It is always a fun way to shop, lunch and visit with our friends. The food will be delicious and the fashions beautiful. Thank you in advance for shopping since The Gift Solution gives us a percentage of their sales.

I look forward to a busy and beautiful Spring.

Best Wishes,

Anna Marie Speir

President Austin Woman's Club



**Economic
Development**
CITY OF AUSTIN

**This preservation project is supported in part by the
City of Austin Economic Development Department.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Suzanne Mueller

Sponsored by Nancy Mueller and Debbie Cochran

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.

MARCH 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

A Joint Meeting with the History Book Club



Who WANTS TO BE A BILLIONAIRE?

This program will focus on Cornelius Vanderbilt, a man who never pretended to be nice when profitable would be just fine. His methods, when compared to today's billionaires, would feel oddly familiar—relentless scale, strategic charm when necessary, and a firm belief that competition is best remembered, not experienced.

The Commodore built an empire by owning the tracks everyone else had to ride.



MARCH 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

9:50 A.M. - 11:30 P.M.

New Member Orientation

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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

Introduction by Susan Ashworth

The Make It Movement

Roy Spence

Founder & CEO, The Make It Movement



Roy and his partners, upon graduation from The University of Texas at Austin, built GSD&M from scratch into purpose-based marketing, advertising, and idea machine -building iconic brands such as Southwest Airlines, Don't Mess with Texas, The PGA Tour, Walmart, The United States Air Force, Goodyear, American Institute of Architects, and Dream-Works.

Roy has always held a deep belief that purpose-inspired marketing can be a force for good. He and his partners continue to be among the first to donate their time and talent, creating powerful PSAs in response to disasters such as

9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. He has created historical moments, including bringing together every living former U.S. President to create a powerful PSA when Hurricanes Harvey and Irma hit in 2017.

Roy is now on a mission to harness the power of purpose-based marketing to bring America together on higher ground and begin putting the US back into the USA.

Roy's most passionate endeavor is The Make It Movement (MakeltMovement.org), which he founded and leads as CEO. Working with CTE educators, high school counselors, teachers, parents and employers, the Purpose of the Make It Movement is to use marketing as a force for good to bring critical awareness and inspiration to millions of middle and high school students to start discovering careers with purpose - while they are in school - so that they have a path to become Financially Independent - soon after graduating from high school.

[Click to see the Make It Movement Video](#)

MARCH 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

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

Introduction by Karen Haschke



Let's celebrate our Nation's 250th Birthday in style by wearing your most patriotic **red**, **white** and **blue** and enjoy some Great American Images presented by our own **Karen Pope**!

MARCH 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

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



WHO OWNS THE MOON?

CYNTHIA LEVINSON

Why *Who Owns the Moon?* is a really timely book!

Our Moon has a powerful allure. Not only do we see it almost every night, but it also pulls our ocean's tides and inspires our stories, music, and art.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to land humans on the Moon within a decade. Working feverishly, brilliant engineers and scientists at NASA met the president's goal. By 1972, twelve intrepid Americans had walked on the surface of the Moon. Then, lunar landings came to an end so the country could focus on other missions, including the International Space Station.

Now, the US is planning to return to the Moon. And we are not alone in our ambitions. Several countries as well as some private companies are engaged in the quest.

What will happen when Earthlings from different countries meet on the lunar surface? How will we get along? What guidelines do we need to ensure harmony, cooperation, and shared scientific knowledge that will benefit everyone?



APRIL 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

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

Introduction by Gayle Hight

CHRIS CURRENS

STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX MALL RENOVATION

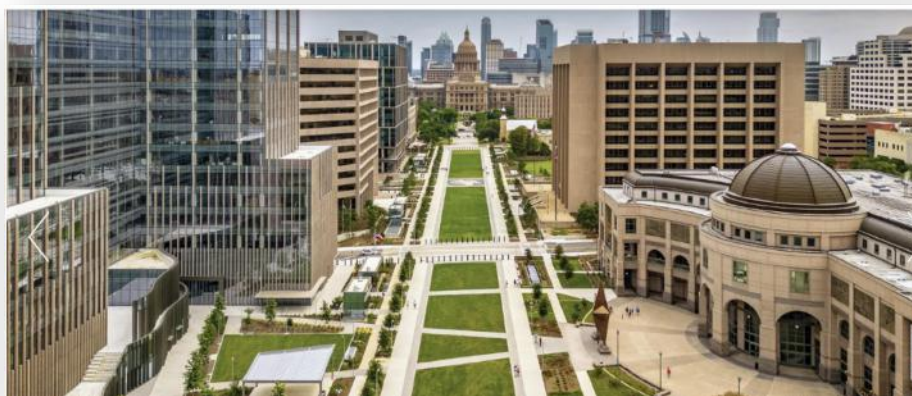
THE RIVALRY THAT BEGAT AUSTIN AND HOW THE CAPITOL MALL CAME TO BE



The Texas Capitol Mall project is transforming the upper tier of downtown. Once the dust settles on a decade of construction, Austin will have a four block long esplanade lined with live oaks. This new urban green between the University and the Capitol will be a new civic space rarely possible in a city of close to a million people. It is also the working seat of government with 13,000 state employees officing in four new buildings.

The mall plan did not occur overnight. One could say it has its roots in the founding of Austin in 1839. From Austin's inception, plans and renderings aspired to elevate old Waterloo into a grand capital city. The program will trace back over these beginnings so that we can learn how the new mall came to be. It's a surprising story with a twisting plot line.

Chris Currens has spent his 45 year career in the Capitol Complex, working for the House of Representatives, the Legislative Council, and, for the last 27 years, the State Preservation Board. He has been a part of the Capitol Restoration and Expansion Project, the construction of the Texas State History Museum and several state office buildings. Most recently he helped guide the creation of the Capitol Mall. Chris graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983 with a BA in Latin American Studies. He enjoys the vibrancy, culture, and history of Austin.



APRIL 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

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

GENERAL MEETING



THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

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

Introduction by Gayle Hight

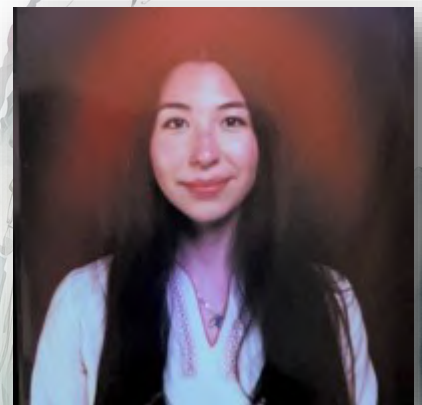
Particles of Color

Rhea Eckenrod

“Particles of Color” is coming to AWC on April 16 after the recent exhibit at the UT Science and Natural History Museum! This exhibit dives into the world of modern fashion embellishment while tackling the industry's environmental footprint.

It features cutting-edge research from Dr. Jessica Ciarla’s Sustainable Materials Lab—most notably their **biodegradable sequins**. You’ll see how these eco-friendly sparkles are used on everything from clothes to accessories, featuring work by UT students and designers from around the globe. Plus, Rhea will be bringing a few of the garments from the show!

Rhea Eckenrod is a recent UT Austin Textiles and Apparel grad with a passion for design, archives, and experimental knits. She’s currently working in the industry and has her sights set on future research into sustainable textile systems and knitwear innovation.



APRIL 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

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

Introduction by Patti Greene

Sharron Anderson

Founder of ATX Theatre



Do you know how many theatre companies make Austin their home? Come find out at our April 23 lunch! Founding Executive Director of ATX Theatre, Austin's Theatregoing Hub, will let us in on how to stay up to date on all the latest theatrical adventures our city has to offer ~ and why theatregoing is more important than ever these days.

Stunning every skeptical observer, **Sharron Anderson** rounded up some 80 local producers to connect them through a new nonprofit network, ATX Theatre, which serves local audiences, artists and artisans as well. Combining her still youthful charms with "mom energy," she has revolutionized auditions, ticketing, theatrical awards, rehearsal spaces and much more. Change, positive change, can happen.



THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Game Day at the Chateau!

Bridge!

Mahjong!

Bellinis!



Mexican Train!

Canasta!

Bring your games and some Gal Pals for some fun at the Chateau!

Spinach Salad (served on tables)

Buffet:

Chicken Salad Cups
Small Croissants
Caprese Toothpicks

Dessert:
Fruit salad
Assorted cookies



Save the Date!

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

South African Wine Dinner

Details Coming Soon!

Here Come the 2025-2026 Dues!

We will soon be 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 (see link below) to the office (708 San Antonio, 78701) payable to "The Austin Woman's Club."

Website Tidbit

Did you know that the AWC website has a host of wonderful recipes that have been showcased either at the Chateau itself or from our two cookbooks - 1940 Treasure Pots or 2008 Austin Woman's Club Cookbook? From mushroom tarts to seared sea bass, you can check out and download tons of wonderful recipes!

[Click here to explore them!](#)

Have a recipe you'd like to share? Send it my way!

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

Membership Moment

Help Our Club Bloom!

Austin Woman's Club members, you are our greatest ambassadors.

When you sponsor a new member, you don't just grow our numbers—you expand our ideas, friendships, and impact across Austin. Think of the remarkable women in your circles who would thrive here and invite them to experience the inspiration, service, and camaraderie we share. A personal invitation is powerful, and your encouragement can open the door to someone's lifelong connection with this community.

Let's strengthen our AWC legacy by welcoming fresh voices, new talents, and future leaders. Sponsor someone this season and help our club flourish for generations to come.

UPCOMING IN MAY 2026

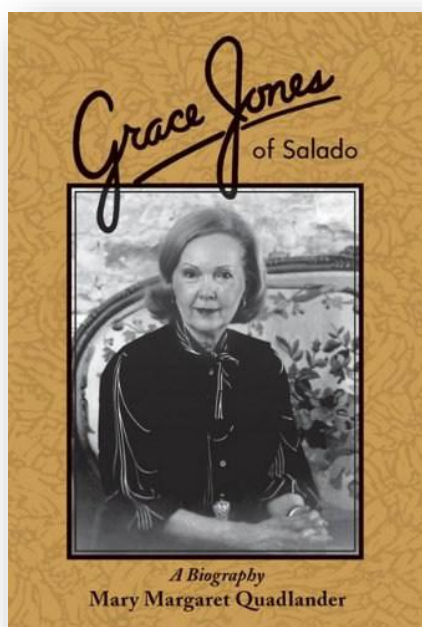
Save the Date!

AWC Membership Drive

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

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

Introduction by Gayle Hight



Grace Jones of Salado

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, Mary Margaret Quadlander 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.