

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2026

AUSTIN WOMAN'S CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Reflections from Anna

Dear Ladies of the Austin Woman's Club,

What a wonderful December! We owe heartfelt thanks to our Christmas Elves who decorated our building so beautifully for the holidays. Many hands made the work a pleasure.

First and foremost, we thank Harry West for moving all the decorations from the A-level and arranging them in the ballroom for easy access. He set up the trees, hung wreaths and garlands with Jacob's help, and assisted—always with a smile—in countless ways throughout the decorating process. Lorraine Maslin, Sandy Cangelosi, and Dot Swanson provided refreshments for our Elves. Most importantly, everyone had a good time!

Many thanks to Meredith Wood for planning a beautiful Christmas in Paris soirée. Her special French menu, executed by Chef Vi, gave us a delicious taste of France in a beautifully decorated Chateau Ballroom. Everyone enjoyed dancing and listening to the Nash Hernandez Orchestra. Charlotte Dalby set up and artfully displayed our auction, offering wonderful items for us to bid on throughout the evening. Thank you, Charlotte!

To be sure we were fully in the Christmas spirit, Dot Swanson organized a very special Live! performance by Russian pianists Anton Igubnow and Andrei Zimbalist. They performed excerpts from Handel's Messiah along with traditional Christmas carols. Guests enjoyed Christmas cookies and beverages. Many thanks to Sidney and John Jones for underwriting this concert. What a wonderful way to celebrate the season!

At the end of October, Claire Wendlandt delighted us with her spectacular Halloween decorations. As a special treat, she also decorated for Thanksgiving, providing a wonderful holiday surprise.

AWC members and guests also enjoyed another beautiful clothing exhibit presented by Human Ecology students from the University of Texas under the direction of Gail Chovan. The students studied our founding members and designed clothing they might have worn in the 1920s and 1930s.

We look forward to another beautifully planned Wine Dinner by Leslie Thomas on January 27. Leslie always selects a sumptuous meal with outstanding paired wines, and the Austin Wine Merchant shares fascinating stories and facts about each wine. It is always a wonderful evening.

We are also looking ahead to the Style Show on February 26 chaired by Cammy Jones and executed by The Gift Solution. This is a favorite AWC event.

Stacey Brewer and Meredith Wood are planning a Gala for the AWC on March 28. It will be a special evening for all of us to enjoy. More information to follow!

Happy New Year!

Anna Marie



**Economic
Development**
CITY OF AUSTIN

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

J. Jaye Smith Getman

(Sponsored by Laura Caskey and Claire Wendlandt)

Nancy Behnke

(Sponsored by Karen Watford and Claire Wendlandt)

Vera Fischer

(Sponsored by Karen Watford and Mary Ann Golden)

Andrea Mercury

(Sponsored by Karen Watford and Mary Ann Golden)

RESERVATION PROCEDURES

Reservation Procedures

- Reservations need to be made no later than noon on the Tuesday before the luncheon by clicking the reservation button below.
- You will now 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.
- **Please note, If you select to Pay at the Door, be advised that you will be required to pay for your lunch even if you do not attend unless you cancel by noon on the Tuesday before the luncheon.**
- 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.
- 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).

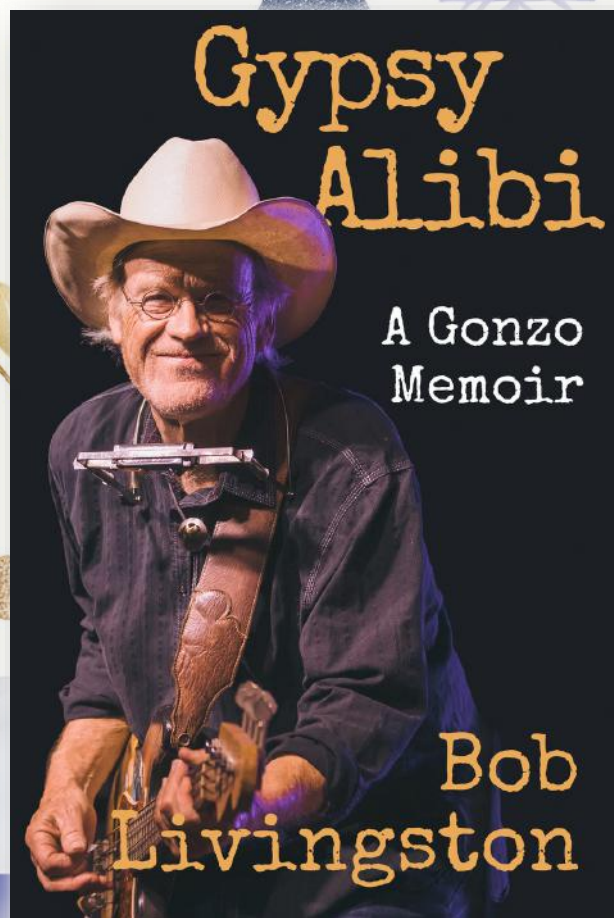
[Click to make a luncheon reservation.](#)

JANUARY 2026

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Susan Ashworth



Texas troubadour, Lost Gonzo Band founding member, and globe-trotting musical ambassador **Bob Livingston** is pulling back the curtain on a wild and storied life in his long-awaited memoir, ***Gypsy Alibi: A Gonzo Memoir***. ***Gypsy Alibi*** is a raw, rollicking ride through the golden age of Texas progressive country music, told by one of its most colorful insiders. From backroad honky-tonks and recording sessions with **Jerry Jeff Walker**, **Michael Martin Murphey**, and **Ray Wylie Hubbard**, to surreal tours through **26 countries as a cultural ambassador for the U.S. State Department**, Livingston shares a bird's-eye view of a life lived at full volume.

Whether recounting all-night jams, festival madness, or finding himself in a revolution in Bangladesh, ***Gypsy Alibi*** delivers the humor, heart, and cosmic insight of a man who's spent more than 50 years chasing—and catching—the muse around the world.

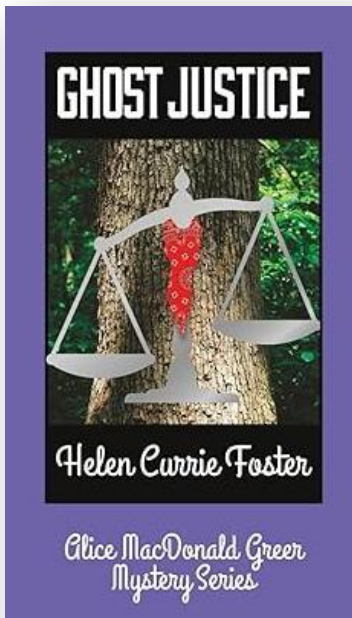
He will sing a few songs and tell stories from his life as a troubadour and ambassador for Texas music.

Bob Livingston is a storyteller whose lifelong journey in music has taken him from honky-tonks and folk clubs to concert halls and stages across the world. A founding member of the legendary Lost Gonzo Band, he played a pivotal role in the rise of progressive country and outlaw music scenes of the 1970s and beyond. With six acclaimed studio albums and performances throughout the US and in more than twenty-five countries as a cultural ambassador for the US State Department, Livingston has built a career grounded in curiosity, creativity, and connection. ***Gypsy Alibi: A Gonzo Memoir*** is his first book.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

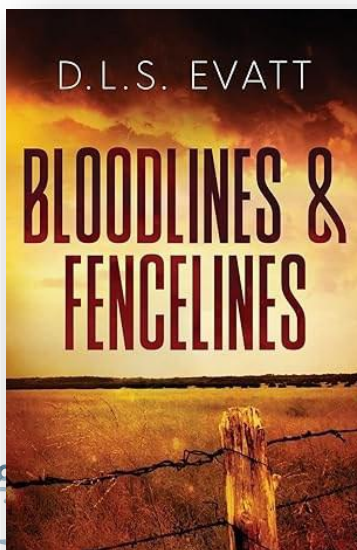
Introduction by Karen Haschke



Helen Currie Greer lives and writes north of Dripping Springs, where she is loosely supervised by three burros. “I left Austin for Wellesley College, then entered graduate school at UT Austin and later the University of Michigan Law School where I grew intrigued by dirt and water law. Current preoccupations include human prehistory, water issues, boogie-woogie piano.

In ***Ghost Justice***, the newest and tenth book in her series, the fictional town of Coffee Creek is in an uproar when outsiders seek permits to build a huge concert venue which threatens the town’s water supply—and its identity. When the mayor demands help, lawyer Alice MacDonald Greer agrees: she’s already determined to solve the bizarre death of the young engineer hired by the venue developers. With her wedding day approaching, Alice and her

barrel-racer assistant Silla have their hands full untangling a web of skullduggery and a vicious murder—while confronting the eternal question: what is justice?



A former political reporter at the *Austin American -Stateman*, **Dixie Evatt** also taught writing at Syracuse University after earning a PhD at the University of Texas. ***Bloodlines & Fencelines***, her first solo mystery was described by Kirkus reviews as, “A twisty whodunit that’s crafted with care and saturated with down-home Southern charm.” The second and newest book in that series is *Gravel Roads & Shallow Graves*. In this one Sheriff Ray Crawford Osorn’s vacation in East Texas doesn’t turn out well. He is bamboozled into helping solve a fifty-year-old mystery. A distant relative who walked out on his family has been found dead under suspicious circumstances. In his

search for answers Osborn navigated an assortment of liars, tramps, thieves, and swindlers. He is shot and left for dead on a country road but keeps digging for the truth even after returning home to Lantz.



JANUARY 2026

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

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

Introduction by Andrea Stone

Clair Ryan
The Mahjong Lady

Are you curious about mahjong? Come learn about the history, cognitive benefits and rules of play of this fascinating game from local instructor Claire Ryan of Mahj with Claire.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

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

A Ladies' Luncheon Social

Join us for Bellinis, Games, Mahjong & Cards

Please Bring Your Favorite Games

Guests Are Welcome!

Box Lunch Menu (\$30):

Chicken Salad on Croissants

or

Chicken Salad Cup

Caprese Kabobs

Fresh Fruit

Assorted Cookies



JANUARY 2026

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026
6:30 P.M.

CALIFORNIA
WINE
DINNER
\$95



TUESDAY
JANUARY 27, 2026
6:30 P.M.

FEATURING THE FOOD
AND WINES OF
CALIFORNIA

MENU TO COME...

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT LESLIE THOMAS AT L-THOMAS@ATT.NET

MENU AND PAIRINGS
COMING SOON!

FEBRUARY 2026

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

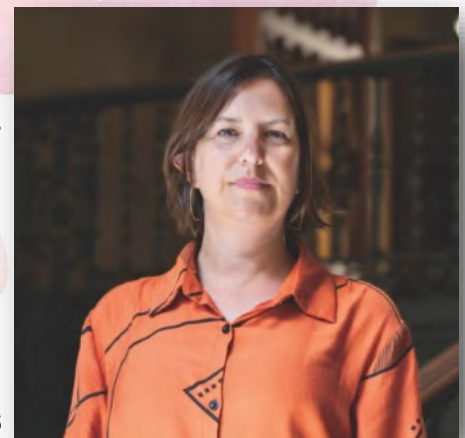
Introduction by Gayle Hight

Kim Barker, UT Austin

Kim Barker, UT's historic preservation architect, is leading the multiyear effort to restore, revitalize and reimagine our historic UT Tower — an iconic, enduring symbol of the University. This marks the first meaningful investment in the Tower since its completion in 1937. Exterior restoration began in November 2024, following The University of Texas System Board of Regents' approval of the \$70 million budget in August. Based on the original 1933 master plan, the goal is to bring the Tower back to its original grandeur and enhance the experience for the UT community and campus visitors. It is scheduled for completion in Summer 2027. In addition to the UT Tower, Barker has preservation projects at Battle Hall, Littlefield Home, Carriage House and Little Campus.



Barker grew up outside Chicago and earned her bachelor's in interior design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There, she took a number of classes related to historical architecture but did not know that the field of historic preservation even existed. She moved to Austin the first time in 2000. Three years later, Barker began a master's at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After graduating and bouncing around for a few more years, she remembered Austin fondly and, embracing the sun and warm weather as many Midwesterners do, returned to the capital city in 2008 and has been working here in preservation ever since.



FEBRUARY 2025

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

11:30 - 1:00 P.M.

Introduction by Gayle Hight



More than 60% of structures in Austin are within 1.5 miles of the wildland-urban interface and is at risk for wildfire. *Are you prepared for wildfire risks?* [Check out your risk of wildfire here.](#)

Austin City Council Member Marc Duchen sponsored the new Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUIC) which was adopted in July 2025. The new code supports the Austin Firewise Alliance of 2011 that was established after the devastating wildfires in Bastrop, Steiner Ranch, and Spicewood.

WUIC requires that any homes or businesses built or renovated in these areas need to be “hardened” against burning. Builders and owners will have to use fire-resistant materials, install tempered glass and cover vents with metal screens.

A few “wildfire” facts:

- Austin ranks sixth in the nation in number of homes at risk of wildfire
- 51% of Austin's habitable land is now in a risk zone, up from 38% a decade ago
- New at-risk areas include much of South Austin and neighborhoods just west of downtown, in addition to historically high-risk West Austin

Austin City Council Member Marc Duchen was elected November 2024 to represent District 10, which includes parts of West, North, and Central Austin. His expertise in municipal policy, public safety, and effective community advocacy is built on a foundation of data and financial analysis. Marc is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and holds an MBA.

Council Member Duchen’s areas of policy focus include public safety, wildfire preparedness, environment and parkland, affordable housing, as well as efficient use of public funds.



FEBRUARY 2025

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

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

Tropical Spring Fling Fashion Show!

Mark Your Calendar! | Invite Your Friends!

**Plan to Attend the Tropical Spring Fling Fashion Show at
Chateau Bellevue!**

Thursday, February 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. - Doors open for Shopping

11:30 a.m. - Style Show with Mimosas followed by a delicious lunch

Sarah Summers from The Gift Solution Boutique will present the
latest fashions modeled by members of AWC.

***Come shop 'til you drop and support the preservation of beautiful
Chateau Bellevue.***

Tickets \$65

Menu

Shrimp Mac n Cheese
Garlic Bread
Caesar Salad
Cherry Cobbler
Mimosas
Coffee/Tea Station



Leaders Wanted!

Our Nominating Committee is excited to begin the process of selecting the future leaders of the Austin Woman's Club! Please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, a Committee Chair or if you would like to recommend some of your fellow members. Self nominations are encouraged!

All nominations are confidential. If you have questions or would like to discuss your interests, please contact the Nominating Chair: Karen Watford, kkwatford@aol.com, or 512-680-8800.

Website Update

Forgetting Faces and Names?

Did you ever meet someone at a luncheon, then promptly forgot their name or can't place their face? It happens to the best of us! We are trying to remedy that by getting photos of all our members for the online directory. It's a labor of love, but we're getting there!

Our directory is constantly being updated with photographs, emails, and new addresses. Take a moment to make sure your information is up to date by [clicking here](#). (Remember, the password is 'chateaubellevue'.) If you need to update your info or submit a picture of your self, [click here](#).

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

Membership Moment

As we think about growing our club membership and adding new members, it is also very important that we retain our members. One of the best ways to do this is by making our new members feel welcome. Mary Ann Golden recalls her experience as a new member at her first AWC meeting and she passes the lesson to all of us.

"I remember the first time I attended a meeting as an AWC member. I felt awkward and alone since everyone seemed to have a place at a table but me.

I remember a lovely woman coming up to me and saying, 'Won't you please join us?' Her name is not as important as what she did for me. I was included in the conversation at the table and made to feel welcome with that group of ladies.

Twenty years later, I remember her kindness, may each one of us strive to make a guest or new member feel welcome with the simple act of inclusion."

Mary Ann Golden

AWC President-Elect