

# Kendall County Area Democratic Women

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## From the President

Is it just me or is this year flying BY? The Obama administration is well under way and his support from the public remains HUGE. Soon we will be getting first quarter earnings reports and hopefully good news about an upswing in the markets. It has been tough and will continue to be, but no one promised that life would be easy or always smooth. I am sure that all of you, like the Robitailles, are working hard and finding ways and means to help the needy of our club and the community.

Never a group to stand still for long, we see that things continue to happen with our members and the statewide Democratic Party. We were off to a Planned Parenthood fundraiser, and an Earth Hour gathering was planned for the La Quinta Hotel. Michael and Claire Gluck spent more time than they wanted to at the Capital recently, but they hung in there and Claire got to read her statement to the Senate. See news about these events elsewhere in this issue. Yes, we are being noticed out and about in the community. Keep up the good work and enjoy these gatherings with like-minded friends.

John Weir announced that the 2010 State Convention will be held in Corpus Christi. What do you think about getting a group together and ]

renting another booth to sell our donkey pins and any other items we can think of? In the past, donkey pin sales at these gathering have been a great source of income. Think about it and let your 09-10 president know how you want to raise money.

As you saw in the March edition of the Voice, Bill White, the mayor of Houston, is running for the U.S. Senate. What you may not know is that he is the nephew of none other than Helen Shinn, a long-time member. Helen, maybe you can help us get Bill to stop in Kendall County during a campaign swing.

By the time this issue arrives in your mailbox, I'm hopeful that LaVerne Peterson will be home recovering from her fractured hip. Sarah White should also be recovering from her surgery. Katherine Long also had eye surgery since our meeting. There was sad news this month that Janice Shoemaker's brother passed unexpectedly. We send our love and caring spirits to these members and any we don't know about. If someone out there is in need of a caring card/phone call or more, please let me know. Only by helping each other can we make the world a better place.

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## April Program

Our guests for the April program will be the candidates for Boerne I.S.D. School Board positions. All open seats on the board are being contested, and voters must decide if it is time for a change. Some see the current board as rubber-stamping the actions of the superintendent, while others see the challengers as representing an even more conservative board. Come out, bring a guest, and meet the candidates before you go vote. Early voting starts the end of April.

**KCADW Officers**

<b>President</b>	Jean Robitaille
<b>First Vice President</b>	Committee (Gwen King, Cindy Offutt)
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Sarah White
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marcy Branham
<b>Secretary</b>	Judy McMillan
<b>Past President</b>	Gwen King
<b>Board Members</b>	Helen Burstein, Cindy Offutt, Joellen deBerg, Susanne Rupp, Mary Chapel
<b>Publicity Chair</b>	Cindy Offutt
<b>Program Chair</b>	Susanne Rupp
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Gwen King
<b>Voice Managing Editor</b>	Claire Oxley Gluck
<b>Voice Tech Editor</b>	Janice Shoemaker
<b>Proofreaders</b>	Cindy Offutt, Susanne Rupp
<b>Distribution Team</b>	Margaret Sanchez, Jean Robitaille, LaVerne Peterson, Stu Adamslundy

*Phone numbers and email addresses available in club directory*

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**April 2, 7:00 p.m.:** Boerne School District candidates forum, hosted by the Kendall County Democratic Club at the BISD Administration office on Johns Rd. in Boerne. Every candidate has agreed to come. Each one will be given the same amount of time to answer the same questions.

**April 9, 10:00 a.m.:** KCADW meeting at the Holiday Inn Express (see program note above).

**April 21, 10:00 a.m.:** KCADW Board meeting.

**April 21, 6:00 p.m.:** Blue Tuesday at the Dodging Duck on River Road.

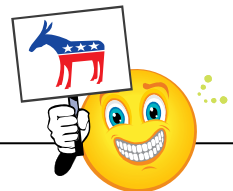
**April 27:** Start of early voting.

**May 16, all day:** Annual KCADW retreat at Sisterfarm (details below).

**SAVE THE DATE!** Our 11th annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner will be held on October 17, 2009!



This newsletter is intended to reach people interested in the work of the Democratic Party in general and of Kendall County Area Democratic Women specifically. To be removed from this mailing list, please contact the editor at [clairegluck@gvtc.com](mailto:clairegluck@gvtc.com) or 210-426-7749.



## Planned Parenthood Luncheon an Absolute Joy!

By Cindy Offutt



Twenty members of our group had a thoroughly enjoyable time attending the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon for The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Central Texas on March 26<sup>th</sup>. About 1,000 people attended the luncheon at the Grand Hyatt in downtown San Antonio.

The Planned Parenthood Trust is the oldest and largest family planning and sexual health care organization in South Central Texas. For 70 years, the Planned Parenthood Trust has proudly provided family planning and sexual health care services to women and men in our community with little or no income. The effort began in 1939 with eight brave and

committed San Antonio women who signed the Articles of Association of the Maternal Health Association of San Antonio—now the Planned Parenthood Trust. Their goal was to address the issue of “maternal health among the poor” by improving access to family planning information and services.

Today, San Antonio’s Planned Parenthood serves more than 27,000 women and men a year.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, world-renowned historian, author and political observer, was the guest speaker. She spoke on the subject of her best-selling book *Team of Rivals*—President Abraham Lincoln and his many unique leadership attributes. Among other things, Ms. Goodwin noted President Lincoln’s ability to listen to divergent points of view (sound familiar?)—especially from three men who had once been rivals but later served as members of Lincoln’s cabinet and, in the case of Salmon P. Chase, as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.



In addition, Ms. Goodwin regaled the room with recollections of her time working for President Lyndon Johnson. In the 1960s, Ms. Goodwin worked as a White House intern during Johnson’s presidency, and later, in the 1970s, she authored *Lyndon Johnson & The American Dream*. She also told a particularly poignant story about Lady Bird Johnson’s pleasure in listening to *Team of Rivals*—notwithstanding that Mrs. Johnson had already suffered from a stroke. It literally brought tears to the eyes of many of the luncheon guests.

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Although everyone recognizes Ms. Goodwin from her role as commentator on NBC and PBS, few know that Ms. Goodwin was the first female journalist to enter the Red Sox locker room. As noted in her luncheon speech, she retains a love for baseball dating back to her childhood, when she would recap for her father each and every play of the baseball games of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Ms. Goodwin's book *Wait Till Next Year: A Memoir* is about growing up in the 1950s in love with the Dodgers.

All in all, the luncheon was a first-rate field trip for our group and we hope to replicate its success in the future.

A big **Thank You** to Cindy Offutt for organizing our participation in the 2009 Planned Parenthood Luncheon. Well Done, Cindy!

Photos by Barbara Rangan, Susanne Rupp, and Paul Pederson



Photo by Judy McMillan

with such important information. Thank YOU, Carmen, and come back anytime.

New business was brief but very important to our fund-raising arm of the club. Gwen King has accepted the duties of Chairperson for the ER Dinner on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Gwen already has several co-chairs lined up, but if you would like to be in the early planning stages, please contact Gwen and see what she needs. What EVERYONE CAN DO now is start working on an item to contribute to the silent auction (see details in article below) and reserve the week before and the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> to help set up the dinner and then attend. There is something for everyone to do to make our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner another great success. Your PAC needs you!

Did you recognize the Sanchezes in the March 20th issue of the *Boerne Star*? They were in the travel section after visiting Ireland with a copy of the paper. Richard Caldwell made a good point about editorial cartoons not representing the true facts about mortgage bailouts and other issues. And of course, Judy McMillan and Claire Oxley Gluck continue to lead the way with the Progressive View articles.

Thanks to all for your time, support and effort . . . Yes We Can!

*Jean*

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Our speaker for March was none other than a member/lawyer, Carmen Samaniego. Carmen's focus for this meeting was to share her knowledge about elder law: wills and other things you need to know about for your care and the care of your estate as you age. Carmen stressed three important considerations for the process. First, don't be naïve. You never know about follow-through, so put your wishes in writing. Second, watch out and be careful. If it is too good to be true, it probably is. Third, your financial planner is not a lawyer, so deal with them with caution. It was wonderful to have Carmen with us, making time in her busy schedule and providing us

## Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

Preparations are already underway for October's big ER Dinner. Everyone's help is needed, so please volunteer to work on one of the subcommittees below. Contact Committee Chairperson Gwen King, [gwenjking@aol.com](mailto:gwenjking@aol.com), or contact the subcommittee chairperson listed below:

**Silent Auction Chair:** Bobbie Grover, [jbgrover1@hotmail.com](mailto:jbgrover1@hotmail.com), needs quality items for the auction (see details in article on the silent auction).

**Set up and decoration Chair:** Cindy Offutt, [fcoffutt@yahoo.com](mailto:fcoffutt@yahoo.com), needs plenty of helpers.

**Publicity Chair:** Cindy Offutt needs help folding, stuffing and addressing invitations

**Wine and hors d'oeuvres Chair:** Carol Carpenter, [carol3@gvtc.com](mailto:carol3@gvtc.com).

**Food Chair:** Claire Oxley Gluck, [clairegluck@gvtc.com](mailto:clairegluck@gvtc.com), needs cooks.

**Clean-up Chair:** Jean Robitaille, [brobit@gvtc.com](mailto:brobit@gvtc.com), needs plenty of helpers:

### Silent Auction: We need each one of you

The ER dinner this year will include a silent auction. The purpose is to raise as much money as we can to support Democratic candidates, especially women who will run in the 2010 elections. Bobbie Grover is in charge of this important event. Let her know (email, phone) what you can provide for the auction.

- ◆ **Artists, Crafters.** We need every member to use her talents to produce at least one item for our silent auction. We need you if you paint, sculpt, quilt, sew, knit, crochet or weave; if you make jewelry, pottery, batik, tie-dye; if you do woodwork or any other art or craft. Please start working on items to auction now. The ER Dinner and auction will take place in October, so consider what people might buy as holiday gifts and decorations.



- ◆ **Providers of Services or Hospitality.** Could you offer a service or hospitality for auction? How about a night at a B&B or your cabin? A therapeutic massage? Tax return preparation? Portrait photography? Or bake and decorate a birthday or wedding cake?



- ◆ **Benefactors.** Not artistic? Don't provide services? Consider putting together a **gift basket**. Buy high quality items and combine them in a festive basket or gift bag: chocolates and coffees, bath and spa items, wine with cheese and crackers, children's art supplies, or whatever you think would sell.
- ◆ **Collectors.** Do you have a lovely antique, art object, or collectible that you would be willing to donate to the auction? (No garage sale-type items, please).
- ◆ **Shoppers.** If we don't sell our auction items, we won't make money. Urge your friends, neighbors and family members to attend the ER Dinner and bring their checkbook to shop at our silent auction. They can get a head start on their holiday shopping.

## May 16 Retreat at Sisterfarm

On May 16 KCADW will hold our day-long retreat at Santuario Sisterfarm and you won't want to miss it. This unique farm offers a serene setting for us to get in touch with nature, ourselves, and one another. Take a virtual tour at [www.sisterfarm.org](http://www.sisterfarm.org). In the May edition of *The Voice*, we will publish a map and other logistical details, such as carpooling.

Santuario Sisterfarm was founded in 2002 as a collaborative effort between Dominican Sisters and Latinas from the Texas-Mexico Borderlands. Operating out of a seven-acre site in the Texas Hill Country, the nonprofit is dedicated to cultivating diversity—cultural diversity and biodiversity—and modeling ways of living in right relationship with the whole Earth community.

### Living Lightly on Earth

The sisters have created a small-scale model of sustainable living on the seven acres using “Permaculture” practices which stress Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share. These include a variety of composting practices to help build soil fertility and recycle wastes; organic gardening of vegetables and herbs with a focus on heirloom and non-genetically modified seeds; use of nontoxic and biodegradable household and office products; rain catchment, graywater, and other water conserving systems; and renewable energy and energy-saving devices, as well as environmentally friendly building materials. Educational tours for groups and individuals are available by appointment.

### Sor Juana Press

Santuario Sisterfarm has established Sor Juana Press in order to publish the works of women—particularly women of color and women religious—on topics related to Earth and spirituality. The name of the press invokes Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a Mexican Sister and scholar in the 1600s, who wrote plays, poetry, and music, and was eventually silenced after publicly advocating women's right to education.

### Latinas in the Borderlands

Santuario Sisterfarm has embarked on a journey—an eco-ethno-spiritual quest—with Latinas in the Borderlands to create a multilingual, multiracial, multicultural space where *mujeres* can go deep into the spirit of ancestral connections to the land, cultural traditions, women's ways of knowing, and struggles for justice. Led by Board President María Antonietta Berriozábal and Vice President Janie Barrera, the work is continuously unfolding, drawing on the gifts of each of the participating women.

This idyllic location should provide an excellent setting for our retreat, so we hope to see all of you on May 16 at Santuario Sisterfarm.

### DVD Recommendation

Have you seen *Iron Jawed Angels*? If not, **rent it!** This is the story of a group of suffragists led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, who band together to wheedle the United States into adapting a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Along the way, they incur the wrath of President Woodrow Wilson and anger other suffragist leaders, including Lois Smith. This movie has an excellent cast: Hilary Swank and Frances O'Connor star, and Anjelica Huston co-stars. It was directed by Katja von Garnier, produced in 2004.

## Why Does KCADW Raise Money?

KCADW was founded to promote the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women in Texas politics and government. **One of the principal ways by which KCADW fulfills this purpose is raising money to help Texas Democrats, especially women, get elected.**

Like it or not, money—and lots of it!—is absolutely essential to candidates so they can advertise on TV, radio, the Internet, and in newspapers; mount large events; send out mailings; buy yard signs and bumper stickers; and ideally, hire experienced staff to run a professional campaign.

Our club has been helping Texas Democrats since 2002. KCADW is unique among Democratic organizations in Kendall County because we have a Political Action Committee (PAC), which allows us to give money to candidates. Our PAC was formed in 2002 and has given almost \$30,000 to Texas Democrats and the Texas and Kendall County Democratic Parties.

In 2008, the KCADW PAC contributed to ten Democratic women and four Democratic men running for office in Texas. In addition, we have been able to support the Kendall County Democratic Party by funding much of the costs for its headquarters in the run-up to numerous state and federal elections.

**The 2010 election will determine the fate of the Texas Democratic Party for at least a decade** because the State Legislature that is elected will draw the Congressional and State Legislative district lines based on the 2010 census. It is possible that re-districting can be done throughout the decade, as happened in Texas in 2003, but this is not the norm.

If we want Texas to be re-districted in a fair way, we **MUST** achieve a Democratic majority in the Texas Legislature in the 2010 elections.

You may say, “I can’t help Democrats win in 2010. My savings have tanked, I’m living on Social Security, I have children for whom I must provide.” **YES, YOU CAN!**

By participating actively in KCADW fundraisers, **YOU CAN make a difference.** Here’s how:

- Help serve wine and hors d’oeuvres at the Spring wine-tasting fundraiser!
- Help set up and clean up at the Spring wine-tasting fundraiser!
- Urge everyone you know to attend KCADW fundraisers!
- Help set up and clean up at the Eleanor Roosevelt (ER) Dinner!
- If you create art or crafts, provide services, or collect valuables, contribute an item to the ER Dinner’s silent auction!
- If you are a good cook, help prepare food for the ER Dinner!
- If you are a gracious hostess, serve coffee and tea to ER Dinner customers!
- If you can stuff an envelope (*Yes, you can*), prepare ER Dinner invitations for mailing!



### Sign-ups for May Market Days Fundraiser

At the April meeting, be sure to sign up for a 2-hour block of time to work in our booth at the Boerne Market Days on May 9-10. We have ordered 500 colorful T-shirts in our efforts to bring in funds from the community outside our Democratic base. Here are some of the snappy slogans we'll be selling:

- "We Don't Need No Stinking Stimulus"
- "Universal Health Care Is for Wimps"
- "My Oil Well Can Beat Your Wind Turbine"
- "Wall Street Bankers Are Just Misunderstood"

All shirts are embellished with appropriate graphics and are expected to be big sellers, so we'll need at least four people manning the booth at all times. See Claire and Janice to sign up.

*Happy April Fool's Day!*

**Kendall County Area Democratic Women**  
**P. O. Box 2132**  
**Boerne, TX 78006**

