TMCA Hill Country Chapter is hosting an ATHENIAN DIALOGUE
Friday, September 13, 2019

To be held at:
The Ruff Haus
502 E. Austin Street
In Wine/Shopping/Historical/Scenic Country
Fredericksburg, Texas

8 a.m. - 2:30p.m. Dialogue
(workign lunch)
3 p.m. tour of Nimitz Museum

"The Girls of Atomic City:
The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II"
by Denise Kiernan.

You must obtain and read the book beforehand.

Facilitator: Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC
City Secretary /Communications-Legislative Director
City of Bryan, Texas
Mary Lynne brings passion, creativity, and lots of humor to her dialogues.

About our book:
The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II,
bv Denise Kiernan.

This is the incredible story of young women, many in their late teens, who played a crucial role in one of the most significant moments in U.S. and world history. The Tennessee town of Oak Ridge was created from scratch in 1942 as one of the Manhattan Project's secret cities. It didn't appear on any maps until 1949, yet at the height of WW II, it was using more electricity than New York City and was home to more than 75,000 people, many of them young women recruited from small towns across the South. Their jobs were shrouded in mystery, but they were buoyed by a sense of shared purpose – to support the war effort.

$75.00 per person, includes Dialogue, lunch, snacks, and tour of Nimitz Museum.
Checks payable to: “Hill Country Chapter”
Mail Check and form to: Margie Rivera, 126 W. Main Street, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
A room block has been reserved at the Fredericksburg Inn & Suites, 201 South Washington Fredericksburg, TX 78624 for the night of Thursday, September 12th and a few rooms for Friday, September 13th. Room book is under “TMCA Nimitz” until August 12, 2019 (830)997-0202

Questions? Contact Shelley Goodwin or Margie Rivera at (830) 997-7521 or sgoodwin@fbgtx.org
These young women who were recruited to work at "the Project" were not told where they were going, where they would be living or what their jobs would entail, only that they would be working on a project crucial to the U.S. war effort. They left their homes and embarked on a journey at a time in our country's history where most women stayed home, being wives and mothers. They traveled to Oak Ridge under secret conditions and once there, could not in any manner talk about their work. They worked and lived on the grounds of the Project, under the strictest security environment in the history of the U.S. These women knew something big was happening at Oak Ridge, but few could piece together the nature of their work until the atomic bomb "Little Boy" was dropped over Hiroshima, Japan, and the secret was out. The shocking revelation: the workers of Oak Ridge had been enriching uranium for the atomic bomb.

These young women learned unfamiliar technology and monitored gigantic panels covered in knobs and dials, some in side the largest building in the world, built specifically for the Project. They experienced the satisfaction of doing one's part to help the war effort, indeed many had family members fighting overseas, while dealing with the anxiety of war time. We can only imagine coupling this with living under extreme secure, secret conditions, in living quarters that where less than ideal and shared with strangers. These young women's world was a combination of pioneering spirit and propaganda, of scientific gains and personal losses, of deadlines and fear of saying the wrong thing to the wrong person, and of waiting for the war to end and secrets to be revealed. They labored in roles from janitor to machine operator, from secretary to engineer.

This book tells their story with surrounding scaffolding of the scientific fundamentals and the 1942-1945 technical development of the bomb. The narrative runs as a collection of individuals' life stories that recall circumstances of recruitment and the spartan conditions at Oak Ridge, on and off the job. Some commonalities of experience include secrecy in which the women worked and the discrimination they endured (racial and sexism). It's a story of how extraordinary young women put the needs of their country before their own with blind faith and a patriotic purpose, and how they faced unique challenges never before encountered by American women in the workforce. This is another story of the determination, courage, selflessness, intelligence, adaptability and heroism of females of the Greatest Generation.

REGISTRATION PLEASE MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK
TMCA Hill Country Chapter
Attn: Margie Rivera
126 W. Main
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

NAME: __________________________ TITLE: __________________________

CITY: __________________________________________________________________

EMAIL: __________________________ PHONE: __________________________