



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

West Harris County Board of Directors

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January Newsletter Deadline:

December 14, 2017

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org



HOLIDAY PARTY

December 3, 2017

5:00 P.M.

Yao Restaurant
9755 Westheimer Road

\$30.00 per person (spouse/guest invited)

Mail check payable to AAUW-WHC to:

Diane Roberts, Finance Officer
5607 St. Paul Street
Bellaire, TX 77401



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our branch has certainly been off to a challenging start this year! I do hope by November we've settled into our regular monthly branch meeting rhythm, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party on **December 3** at Yao Restaurant.

In the new year my hope is for our branch to organize and mobilize a group to lobby our elected officials on the issues most affecting women. AAUW's National Office has good resources explaining effective lobbying techniques; get ready to unleash your inner activists, WHC!

As always, please feel free to contact me with your ideas, comments, and concerns. Here's to a productive and successful 2018 for AAUW-WHC!

Anne Amador, WHC Branch President

WHC Branch Board Meeting

There will not be a branch board meeting in December.



Our Deepest Sympathy

It is with sadness that we report the October 23 death of LaNece Lomonte. LaNece was a very active member of AAUW WHC for several years until her health made participation difficult and she had a great many friends in our branch. Click on this [link](#) to read the Houston Chronicle obituary that she wrote. Our condolences to LaNece's family, including her sister Sharon Pope.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW has a strong mission on public policy. As stated on the AAUW Public Policy national website:

"Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls."

*"AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to advance our work to empower women and girls. With the member-endorsed **Public Policy Priorities** as our guide, AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women."*

"The AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department, with input from the member leaders of the AAUW Public Policy Committee, leads AAUW's lobbying and grassroots efforts."

What does this mean for our branch? As Texans, we see the need for advocacy in many of the areas outlined in the Public Policy Priorities guidelines. For example, gender pay gap, expanding voting rights, and increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient's rights are significant issues facing women at the state and national level.

The national median annual earnings of women compared with men's is 80%. For every dollar earned by a man, a woman in a comparable job would receive only \$.80. In Texas the median is 79%. Also, Texas is ranked as a state with poor equal pay protections as outlined by law.

Over the last few years health care and family planning services and voting rights are becoming increasingly restricted by our state legislature in Texas. Both issues have suffered setbacks in the last two state legislative sessions.

The AAUW Public Policy Committee provides a wealth of in-depth information and statistics to support informed and effective advocacy on the part of AAUW members.

Each month I'll include a news report on AAUW public policy and research in the branch newsletter. If you would like to add any ideas or comments, please contact me at marthaewell@att.net.

Martha Ewell, Public Policy Chair



FUNDS CORNER

AAUW Texas Says "It Is Time to Complete the Ann Richards American Fellowship!"

In October 2008, AAUW Texas established a new Educational Opportunities Foundation fellowship fund in honor of former Governor Ann Richards. It was approved by AAUW Board and assigned the fund number **4324**.

Ann Richards was an American politician and the 45th Governor of the great state of Texas! She began as a teacher and moved into politics. While Texas state treasurer, she came to national political attention when she delivered the keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. Her career path and achievements meshed with AAUW's mission: teacher, political activist, county commissioner, state treasurer (first woman elected to statewide office in more than fifty years), a candidate who appealed to suburban voters as well as to the traditional Democratic base, and then governor. Although officially she was the second woman to hold Texas' top office, Richards is considered the first woman elected governor in her own right.

AAUW American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations and scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave or for preparing completed research for publication. Fellowship funds must reach \$200,000 to be fully endowed and awarded.

Donations to the Ann Richards Fellowship received between now and the April 2018 state convention in Houston will be matched dollar for dollar by AAUW Texas. As an additional incentive, AAUW Texas created "Sisters of Ann" for those who donate \$250 or more between January 1, 2018, and March 1, 2018. Sisters of Ann will receive a yellow rose pin and will be recognized in the 2018 AAUW Texas State Convention program. All branches that donate during this time will also receive special recognition at the 2018 State Convention.

For your tax deductible contribution, make check payable to AAUW and note fund #**4324** on the memo line. Mail check to Hazel Chahar, 5702 Ballina Canyon Ln, Houston TX 77041 or Nancy Ennis, 1122 Ben Hur, Houston, TX 77055. Let's do our part to help put the Ann Richards American Fellowship "over the top."

Hazel Chahar and Nancy Ennis, Co-Vice-Presidents, Funds

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 2017-2018



The mission of AAUW is:

"Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

The West Harris County Branch has for the last 25 years organized and presented Expanding Your Horizons, a one-day conference for middle school girls to inspire them in the pursuit of a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) fields. EYH has been this branch's primary project in advancing the mission of AAUW.

We are still looking for volunteers for EYH 2018 which will take place on **February 24, 2018**.

Open positions on the Steering Committee are: Assistant Chair and Presenter Training Dinner Coordinator.

We also need to train the next Registrar, currently being coordinated by Hazel Chahar. This is the job description for the registrar:

Expanding Your Horizons Registrar:

The Registrar works in conjunction with the Treasurer to take the submitted registration forms and enter them into a database where assignments are made for the conference sessions. You will work with both Microsoft Excel and Access to complete the process. Data entry assistance is possible at the front end, with helpers working from their homes on their own computers via the internet. Files are exported to Excel, cleaned and checked and then imported into an Access database, which has been loaded with Speaker names, room assignments and session numbers. Once all registrants are loaded into Access, a program will assign sessions to each adult or student based on their desired sessions – if possible. Some manual review and changes are needed. Once the data appears complete, badges are printed and school packets are compiled, to be distributed at the conference.

Lilian Care, 2018 EYH Chair

December 2017 Activities and Interest Group News



BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, December 6, 1:30 p.m.

Clementine by Sonia Purnell

Hostess: Mary Dodson, 9618 Longmont Drive
713.974.3089

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, December 6, 1:00 p.m.

One in a Million Boy by Monica Wood

Christmas Luncheon at Brio in City Centre

Enjoying History

Monday, December 11, 1:30 p.m.

Clementine, the Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill or

First Lady, the Life and Wars of Clementine C.

by Sonia Purnell

Hostess: Pat Pease, 13 Litchfield Lane
713.824.1681

Monday Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Meeting Place: La Madeline, City Centre location

Mystery

Tuesday, December 19, 1:30 p.m.

Racing the Devil by Charles Todd

Hostess: Sara Dalton, 4626 Wellbrook Lane
281.693.3824

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, December 12, 9:30 a.m.

The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah

Meeting Place: The Egg and I, Bunker Hill location.

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



Current Bridge Groups:

1st Thursday (7:00 p.m.), Marcia Lindsey, 713-828-8267

3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.), Peg McNealy, 281-679-7299

3rd Monday (10:00 a.m.), Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190

2nd & 4th Thursdays (10:00 a.m.), Betty Shropshire, 281-496-6457

If you are interested in subbing for a particular group, please contact the group coordinator listed above.

BYWAY BIRDERS



On **December 2** Byway Birders will travel to Bolivar and Anahuac NWR to look for shorebirds. We welcome novice and experienced birders. We will meet at 8:30 at the parking area on Barryknoll across the street from the food court at Memorial City Shopping Center to form carpools. If you are driving on your own, meet at the Bolivar side of the ferry about 10:00. There is a parking lot there and public bathrooms. Lunch at Steve's Landing. Bring binoculars, a hat, snacks, drinks, and bug spray. For more information contact Diane Statham, distatham@msn.com or 281-497-6259.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Houston Chamber Choir Christmas Concert at the Villa de Matel

As this newsletter's deadline approaches, there are just a few pre-purchased tickets remaining for our planned visit to the Houston Chamber Choir's Christmas Concert – "Mother & Child" -- at the Villa de Matel on **Saturday afternoon, December 9**. However, if you had hoped to join us for this always popular holiday event, all is not lost. Contact Barbara Butler now at 713-305-0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net to see if there are still any places left and/or to be put on a wait list which will be used in order received to fill in any places that become available due to last-minute cancellations.

We'll travel to the chapel via our Precinct 3 bus leaving from our usual spot on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City Mall. Departure will be promptly at 2:00 p.m. We expect to return about 6:00 p.m.

Cost for this year's concert will be \$33 and you can claim your ticket now by sending a check in that amount made out to Barbara Butler to her at 13719 Carriage Walk Lane, Houston 77077. Given the early response, however, it's probably best to contact Barbara first to be sure there's still an opening before sending your check.

Questions? Contact Barbara at 713-305-0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net.

Plus, save Wednesday, January 31, 2018 for our newly-expanded Culinary Event -- "From Faux Food to Fine Food." Watch the January newsletter for details. Or contact Cindy Hickok at 281-493-2525 or cynthiahickok@sbcglobal.net now if you can't wait to sign up.

GARDEN DIVAS



The December Holiday Special Horticultural Tour at Brookwood will be on Tuesday, December 5. We will enjoy a delicious lunch in the on-site restaurant, the tour, and of course, shop in the wonderful gift shop! The deadline for reservations was November 14. We are hoping to make this an annual event, so you may want to put this on your calendar for next year. I hope those interested read their November newsletter.

In January, we will have the opportunity to create our own bonsai. Bonsai plants are, in their essence, little trees. Yet the art of bonsai has a much greater scope: it strives to replicate nature. It is an art that emulates the elements and their action on living plants. A tree is just a sapling until the roots grow, the water comes into the soil, and the forces of sun, wind, and gravity sculpt it into shape. The bonsai artist uses a variety of tools to replicate these effects and create a perfect miniature version of life on Earth.

Watching your tiny tree as it cycles through the seasons, going dormant, pushing out leaf buds, blossoming, and then producing fruits or berries is very rewarding, and a wonderful way to connect with the natural world. The art of growing bonsai is well adapted to the urban gardener. These plantings require less water, less soil, and less square footage. Margaret Pratt will lead us in this creation on **January 9**. Mark your calendars now and feel free to email me, samboone@gmail.com, to show your interest and get more information. The time and location will be in the January newsletter, but I wanted to give a heads up for this unique opportunity.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



The Girls' Night Out Group will meet NOT meet in December. The details of our January dinner will be published in the January Newsletter.

All members are invited to attend GNO dinners which are scheduled for every other month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to add your name to our GNO mailing list, please contact Janis Groves, coordinator of the Girls' Night Out Group.

Note: One of our GNO group members has graciously volunteered to plan and hostess the January GNO event. We need a hostess for March 14 and May 9. If you will volunteer for either of these dates, please contact Janis Groves at jamgroves@aol.com.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet will not meet in December. Please join us **Saturday, January 13, 2018**, at 7:00 p.m. for our third dinner in this year's series – A Trip Through Italy By Region. Our third stop will be Campania. Contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713-705-7832 or Tina Simpson 281-558-1031 to be included in the dinner.

Nouveau Gourmet

The Nouveau Gourmet group will not meet in December. The next dinner will be held on **Saturday, January 6, 2018**, hosted by Laura Cahill. More details will be published in the January newsletter.

GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions briefing book, watching the DVD, and meeting in a group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. AAU-WHC has three groups that you could consider joining. The groups meet from February to May.

The afternoon group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 2:00-4:00, chaired by Martha Ewell.

The 1st and 3rd Thursday evening group meets at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Pat Dach at patdach@gmail.com if you want to be included in the group for the book order from the Foreign Policy Association. The cost for the book and DVD will be under \$30.00.

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening group meets at 7:00 p.m., chaired by Willette Norman.

HIKING HONEYS



Hiking Honeys will not have a hiking event in December.



LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES



Again this year, Barb and John Hopkins are coordinating a group of members who enjoy seeing a good movie with friends.

The schedule of movie events will be dictated by the release of "good" movies that will be shown at the Memorial City Cinema. If you are interested, contact Barb and John at BHopkins238@gmail.com to add your name to the list to be contacted about the date and time of each movie experience on either a Monday or a Tuesday afternoon.



MAH JONGG MAVENS

The Mah Jongg Mavens meet every first and third Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road. The group is informal and verifies who will attend the day of play via email. We play with one or multiple tables of 3 or 4 players as dictated by attendance. If you would like to spend a pleasant 3 hours with congenial "clickers," please join us. To get on the mailing list, contact Mary Kain at mlkain@hal-pc.org.



VICARIOUS VOYAGERS

An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

This group will not meet again until **January 25, 2018**. More details of that meeting will be published in the January newsletter.



WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM

Wine, Women & Wisdom will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be **Monday, February 5, 2018**, at McCormick & Schmick in City Centre. Please contact Marie Helmy at oolit3@aol.com or at 281-787-6396 for information.



WISE...



Women in Stem, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Our WISE activity this month will be to support *The Hour of Code* in a quest to find Hidden Figures.

HOC is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. We are hoping to get a proclamation from the mayor at an event at City Hall during the week of December 11. You can help a school with an Hour of Code during December 4-10 too. Contact Karen North, knorth@me.com, if you would like to get involved.

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. Check out the tutorials and activities at <https://code.org/learn>. Coding is a great brain exercise for ages 4 - 104. Get a group together and try it. Learn more at <https://www.weteachcs.org/>, <https://hourofcode.com/> and <http://www.csforall.org/>.

Contact Karen North, knorth@me.com, to join the mailing list, or tweet #aauwwsf and see aauwwsf.edublogs.org.

Member News Notification

Please notify Jo Glidewell, Corresponding Secretary, about any member news that is important to share with the membership and has been authorized to share by the member involved. Contact her at wccglide@gmail.com.

To insure you do not miss any communications from the Branch, if you have a change in your contact information, please inform **Margaret Carlson** at AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com.