



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXI NUMBER 8

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

## West Harris County Board of Directors

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May Newsletter Deadline:

**April 14, 2017**

## Inside This Newsletter:

- President's Message
- Officer Nominations
- Archiving History
- Funds Corner
- Activities
- Directory Updates

### Stay Informed

Branch website:

[www.aauw-whc.org](http://www.aauw-whc.org)

National website:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## APRIL BRANCH MEETING

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 7:00 PM**

**Tracy Gee Community Center**

**3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston 77079**

**Is the American Education System Really Broken?**

**By: Cathy Mincberg**

Cathy Mincberg is the president and chief executive officer of the Center for Reform of School Systems. She has worked at the forefront of public education reform both as a long-term school board member in the Houston Independent School District and as a high-level administrator in two urban districts.



Cathy served four years as the chief operations officer for Portland (Oregon) Public Schools, where she led a massive reconfiguration of the district's schools designed to improve student achievement and deal with budget constraints. She also completed four years as chief business officer of the Houston ISD, transforming the business operations of the country's seventh largest school system into a high-performing operation. In addition, Mincberg has worked as the chief academic officer and vice president of KC Distance Learning in Portland, as founder and president of the Center for School District Effectiveness, and as a biology teacher in Houston.

Cathy was a member of the Houston ISD Board of Education from 1982-1995, serving as president in 1987 and 1990. During her tenure, she co-authored the board's *A Declaration of Beliefs and Visions*, with fellow board members Don McAdams and Rod Paige. The reforms defined in this policy document led to Houston ISD's winning the first Broad Prize in 2002.

Over the years, Cathy has served on the boards of various organizations, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and Portland, the American Leadership Forum, Communities in Schools—Houston, the American Jewish Committee, and the SPARK city-school district collaborative for parks.

She earned her Doctor of Education in educational leadership from the University of Houston.

*Pat Thomsen, Programs Vice-President*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**WHC Style Show**

**May 7, Sunday**

**6:30 to 8:30 PM**

**Talbots in Town and Country Village**

## President's Message

Congratulations to our new slate of officers. Thank you for stepping up and giving your time and your individual talents to West Harris County. The new officers will be installed at the Branch Recognition Luncheon on **June 3**. The very next week, **June 14-**



**June 17**, Anne Amador and I will leave for Washington D.C. for the AAUW National Convention. This venue offers a time and space for AAUW women from all over the country to come together and share ideas. It is so special to learn about the different approaches branches use for fund raising, community outreach programs, and AAUW policies. There are also special speakers, workshops, and panel discussions. Maybe most importantly is the sharing of a glass of wine with a member from New York about fund raising, a member from Honolulu who is concerned about public schools, a member from California who started the college campus camp experience for young girls, or the Houston member who tells about putting together a conference for over 400 middle school girls. It is a gift to yourself. Check it out at AAUW.org. Happy Spring.

*Nancy Guilloud, WHC Branch President*

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2017-2018

It's that time of year -- as in time to renew your AAUW membership. As an AAUW member whose state and branch has opted to participate in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you have an option of paying all of your dues - branch, state, and national - at once and online with a credit card. There are two ways to renew your membership online:

- 1) When you receive an email from memberinfo @aauw.org with a dues reminder, click on the link in the body of the email and it will take you to the page to pay your dues. If all the information in the national database is correct, the email will be sent the first week of April. If you think there is an error in the amount that you owe, please contact AAUW using the information shown in this email.
- 2) If you DO NOT receive this email, you can access [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), choose "join" from the very top right, (or any of the other links on the page that say join), then choose the join/renew button on the next page. You will need to login to access the Membership Payment Program. If this is the first time to access the site, you will be asked to register. If you do not know your membership ID, there is an option to access it. You will then have an option to pay your dues online with a credit card. Make sure you include State and Branch.

*Barbara Cook, Finance Officer*

## AAUW FUNDS CORNER



EXCEPTIONAL!!

OUTSTANDING!!

### NAMED GIFT HONOREES

Every year AAUW West Harris County branch honors members at our June luncheon who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of our branch. This is a special way of recognizing and paying tribute to members giving extraordinary service. We are asking for nominations from the membership. Please submit your nominations along with your reasons for the nomination to Mary Kain or Hazel Chahar by **May 1**. Three honorees will be chosen.

*Mary Kain & Hazel Chahar, Funds Vice-Presidents*

## BAKER-TELFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Baker-Telfer Scholarship annually awards scholarships to three young women graduating from Houston ISD, Spring Branch ISD and Alief ISD who plan to begin college studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering or math. The award ceremony takes place at the Spring Luncheon in June. A selection committee considers financial need, teacher recommendations and academic aptitude. Last year the committee was made up of Hazel Chahar, Ann Sanders, Pat Dach, Marie Helmy and Jeannie MacKenzie. If you would like to serve on this committee please contact Pat Dach, [dachpd@hotmail.com](mailto:dachpd@hotmail.com).

Scholarship funds are obtained through donations by members who want to commemorate various events such as birthdays, anniversaries, or donations in memory of a loved one or friends. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to Pat Dach, 6014 Ballina Canyon Lane, Houston 77041. Checks should be made out to the Baker-Telfer Scholarship.



*Alondra Martinez, a 2016 recipient, with her guest and Carol Telfer, one of the Scholarship founders*

*Pat Dach, Baker-Telfer Scholarship Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP



Greetings to All AAUW West Harris County (TX) Branch Members

The Board has approved the use of permanent name tags to be purchased by the members. Members opting not to purchase name tags will be provided with sticky tags at events.

The instructions below can be used to order your name tag – example shown above.

Go to: [AAUW.source4.com](http://AAUW.source4.com)

Select: Wear AAUW (the first item)

Select: Photo of the name tag

Select: Pin or magnet - (\$8.00 for pin closing and \$10.00 for magnetic closing)

Select: Quantity

Select: "Customize" and complete the information requested: your name, "West Harris County (TX) Branch" and name of your university (optional).

Make sure the information for the name badge is correct and proceed to checkout.

I will be glad to assist anyone who has trouble ordering their name tag online.

Sheila Jaynes, Membership Vice-President



## April 2017 Activities and Interest Group News

Springtime has arrived in Houston. The azaleas are in bloom all over the city, and we hear the songs of familiar birds to welcome sunny mornings. A wonderful time for us to enjoy being outdoors: gardening, hiking, birding, reading on the patio, or taking a road trip with friends.

Our group coordinators have planned some outstanding events, especially to take advantage of the beautiful weather. April is an excellent time to try a new activity or join one of the interesting, educational group excursions. Explore your possibilities. Celebrate Spring in Houston.



## BOOK GROUPS

### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, April 5, 1:30 p.m.**

*Life after Life* by Kate Atkinson

Hostess: Lou Fowler, 10010 Bordley Drive  
713.974.7071

### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, April 5, 1:00 p.m.**

*Truth According to Us* by Annie Barrows

Hostess: Carol Thielemann, 402 Walnut Bend  
713.781.4069

### Enjoying History

**Monday, April 10, 1:30 p.m.**

*Chasing Venus* by Andrea Wulf

Hostess: Cindy Hickok, 523 Briar Path  
281.493.2525

### Evening Contemporary Literature

**Monday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.**

*The Time in Between* by Maria Duenas

Hostess: Carol Telfer, 12503 Shepherd's Ridge  
281.497.2268

### Mystery

**Tuesday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey

Hostess: Frances Mayberry, 7915 Windy Creek Drive  
713.466.6844

### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.**

*Of Human Bondage* by Somerset Maugham

Meeting at The Egg and I, 9778 Katy Freeway, #600  
713.461.3447

## BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



### BRIDGE GROUPS - LESSONS

All lessons are at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Sage and Woodway. Fee for each 4 week course is \$80. Online registration and fee payment is by credit card. For information contact Edith Dunlop, [edunlop527@aol.com](mailto:edunlop527@aol.com) or Joyce Ryan, [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net), 713-977-3360, C: 713-301-0624.

#### MONDAYS: April 3, 10 and 24

10:00 - 12:00 a.m. - **Advancing Player 1** - Review bidding, competitive bidding, play of hand, defense.

#### TUESDAYS: April 4, 11, and 25

10:00 - 12:00 a.m. - **Modern No Trump Bidding** - Ranges, responses, transfers, no trump slams.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - **Bidding Review** - Fast paced class to review all aspects of contemporary bidding. Each session you will play 8 hands with supervision.

## BYWAY BIRDERS



On **April 21-23** we will be birding at High Island and Anahuac. We will travel to Winnie to stay at the Hampton Inn. This will enable us to get out earlier when the birds are more active and later when the birds arrive from their trip across the Gulf of Mexico. You can make reservations at their website or call the Inn at 409-296-3525. You might check both to see where you get the best rate. If you can only stay one night you can do that as well. Please let Mary Dodson know if you are interested in joining the group. [mpdodson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mpdodson@sbcglobal.net), 713-974-3089 or 713-516-4266.

### A Weekend of Birding in the Hill Country.

Byway Birders will travel to Junction, Texas **May 7-9**. We will visit Llano State Park to see spring migratory birds. It is a beautiful time of the year to be in the hill country. We are making reservations now. If you are interested, please contact Pat Dach at [dachpd@hotmail.com](mailto:dachpd@hotmail.com) or 281-701-5846 for more information.

## A CINEMA EXPERIENCE



For all of you who enjoy a good movie, Barb and John Hopkins are coordinating a movie group this year. Please contact Barb at [hopskins@hal-pc.org](mailto:hopskins@hal-pc.org) or 281.589.2513 to join the group of movie lovers.

The schedule of movie events will be dictated by the release of "good" movies that will be viewed at Memorial City. If you are interested, contact Barb Hopkins 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.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



### "LaGrange At Large" – Czech & Quilt Museums Plus Rohan Meadery

Even after several recent trips to Fayette County, there is still more to see, so on **Friday, April 21**, we will again be on the road to discover more interesting aspects of its fascinating past. This time we'll be taking in the Texas Czech Heritage Cultural Center and the Texas Quilt Museum. We'll conclude our visit with a stop at Rohan Meadery for a tasting of what they describe as "mankind's oldest fermented libation – mead."

Cost for the day's events - which includes lunch at the Texas Heritage Cultural Center - is \$26.

To reserve your seat on the bus, contact Marie Helmy at 281-463-8842 or [oolit3@att.net](mailto:oolit3@att.net). Or send check for \$26 payable to Marie, 15522 Laurel Heights Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

Our Precinct 3 bus will be ready for boarding at our new location on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theater in the Mall. Departure will be promptly at 8:30 a.m. We expect to return by 6:00 p.m.

Note: We will collect the usual dollar for the driver's lunch as you enter the bus. Guests will be welcome if space permits after members have claimed their seats on the bus.

**Plus, save Wednesday, May 24, when, in a schedule change, we'll repeat a very popular tour of the Heights with Dean Swanson as our guide.** For details watch the May newsletter. Or, contact Carole Ballew at 713-467-0775 or [caroleballew@yahoo.com](mailto:caroleballew@yahoo.com) to reserve your seat on the bus right now.

## GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas will be traveling to the Holy Family Retreat Center and Holy Cross Monastery in Beaumont on **Tuesday, April 4**. We will be having a service day, preparing their gardens for the spring and Easter seasons. Beds will be planted with flowering perennials, and where better to learn and practice pruning techniques than on their extensive acreage. Do join us. Pack up your garden gloves, trowels, pruning shears, and loppers. Add an overnight bag if you wish to relax afterwards and spend the night in this holy and peaceful place. Please contact Loretta Coussirat, ([lorettac@hal-pc.org](mailto:lorettac@hal-pc.org)) if you are interested in this outing. Loretta has volunteered for several years at this lovely place, and she will be our guide, teacher, and contact person. Carpooling will be available. More details will be sent to those that express interest in going to the Monastery.



## GENEALOGY



Marilyn Collins, an experienced genealogy researcher, is the coordinator who is reorganizing the Genealogy group this year. If you are interested in researching your family history, she will guide you in finding your ancestors using various techniques and resources. Please contact Marilyn at 281.556.8989 or [marilync@hal-pc.org](mailto:marilync@hal-pc.org) for information about the meeting day, time, and place.

## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The Girls' Night Out group will NOT meet in April.

Our next dinner is planned for **Wednesday, May 10**. We will meet the second Wednesday of every other month unless otherwise specified. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. These dinners are enjoyable and you are welcome, if space permits, to bring a prospective member as a guest.

If you would like to be added to the GNO mailing list, please contact Sheila Jaynes by email at [sjaynes50@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaynes50@yahoo.com) or by calling 281.392.3134 or by calling or texting 713.412.4586.

## GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet does NOT meet in April.

Please join us **Saturday, May 13**, at 7:00 p.m. for our final dinner in this year's series – Celebratory Dinners with Star Chefs. Our May dinner celebrates Cinco de Mayo featuring recipes from Rick Bayless. If you have questions contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713-782-4398 or Tina Simpson 281-558-1031.

Nouveau Gourmet group will NOT meet in April

The next dinner meeting will be on **Saturday, May 6**, hosted by Lou Fowler. Details for the dinner will be published in the May newsletter. For additional information, please contact Diane Statham at 281.497.6259 or [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com).



## GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions is a small group discussion of current world issues. The guide is issued by the U.S. Foreign Policy Association each year. We meet in member's homes every two weeks from February through May.

**Great Decisions North Evening Group: The North Group (A)** will meet on **Wednesday, April 5**, at the home of Linda Marlin at 7 PM where the topic *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum* will be discussed. Then **Wednesday, April 19**, at 7 PM, the meeting will be held at the home of Pat Dach where discussion will focus on Latin America's Political Pendulum. For additional information, please contact Hazel Chahar.

**Great Decisions South Evening Group:** The South Group (B) will meet on **Wednesday, April 12**, at the home of Willette Norman, 12511 Shepherd's Ridge. The discussion topic for the evening will be *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum*. On **Wednesday, April 26**, the group will meet at the home of Mary and Vic Edwards, 611 Timber Circle, to discuss *Latin America's Political Pendulum*. For additional information, please contact Willette Norman, 281.497.3626 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com).

**Great Decisions – Afternoon Group:** The Thursday Afternoon Great Decisions Group meets the first and third Thursdays of each month through the month of May from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The discussion topics for April are *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum* on **April 6**, and *Latin America's Political Pendulum* on **April 20**. Membership in this group is full for the remainder of the spring. Martha Ewell is the contact person for this group.



## HIKING HONEYS

Lake Houston Wilderness Park north of Houston is the destination for Hiking Honeys on **Thursday, April 20**. The wilderness park is true to its name with heavy woods and two creeks. Many wooden bridges cross the gullies and streams. We will hike for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Bring a picnic lunch and meet at 9 AM at the triangular parking lot off Barryknoll behind Memorial City Mall. Our hike leader is Gail Rickey, [patrickey@aol.com](mailto:patrickey@aol.com).

## 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](mailto:mlkain@hal-pc.org).

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



### An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, [guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com)

This year we explored Spain, Norway, Sweden and The Balkans, learning about the history and culture of these faraway places through our vicarious travel guide, Rick Steves. Although our gatherings are over for this year, we will begin again with new ventures in the fall.

## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



**This group will NOT meet in April or May.**

**Look for a meeting date in the June newsletter.**

The group meets to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick's City Centre location. Our meeting time is from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on the first Monday of the month. All AAUW members are invited to attend any or all of the Happy Hour events. **Contact Marie Helmy** at [oolit3@att.net](mailto:oolit3@att.net) or 281-463-8842 or **Jane Cooper** at [xicooper@aol.com](mailto:xicooper@aol.com) or 281-531-8839 if you want to be added to the email notifications of coming events.

## WISE...



### Women in Stem, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

The WISE group has completed its scheduled activities for this year. However, the group does plan field trips and social events from time to time. If you want to be included in the email notifications for these activities, please contact Karen North, [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com) or 713.789.6482.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please update your directories with the following members' revised information:

### Palmisano, Kathy

New Email: [kpalm39@gmail.com](mailto:kpalm39@gmail.com)

### Statham, Diane

New Address: 201 Amarillo Terrace, Apt 20  
Houston, TX 77077

### Veggeberg, Rosie

New Email: [maryroseveggeberg@gmail.com](mailto:maryroseveggeberg@gmail.com)

Please welcome back:

### Liebgold, Bette

24 Hickory Shadows Drive  
Houston, TX 77055  
Home Phone: 713-468-2136  
Email: [bliebgold@comcast.net](mailto:bliebgold@comcast.net)  
BD: 11/27  
Louisiana State University, MA, Mathematics  
Lamar University, BS, Mathematics/Secondary Education

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](mailto:AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com).

### Member News Notification

*Please notify Joanne Lane, Corresponding Secretary, about any member news that is important to share with the membership and has been authorized to share by the member involved.*

### Next WHC Branch Board Meeting April 10, 2017

*The next branch board meeting will be at the home of Nancy Guilloud, 11110 Tupper Lake, Houston 77042 at 5:30 p.m. All members are welcome. Please RSVP your attendance to [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com).*

## **EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS – 2017**

EYH 2017 was a great success this year. This year 433 girls and 59 adults from all over Harris County and surrounding communities attended the conference. The keynote speaker, Michele McNichol, Chief Executive Officer for the west region of the Wood Group Asset Life Cycle Solutions, was fantastic and gave the girls good advice for persevering to achieve their dreams and overcoming obstacles, and there were many excellent presentations by our volunteers, women in science, technology, engineering and math fields. Thank you to all of you who worked hard to make this event happen, especially the members of the EYH Steering Committee whose preparation made the day run so smoothly. It was a great way to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of putting on this conference.

The EYH Steering Committee will be gearing up for 2018 and is looking for volunteers who want to help the next generation of young women to enter science, technology, engineering and math careers. Now, more than ever, these girls need our support! We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee. In addition, this year it will be especially important to increase our fundraising efforts. If you would like to help, please contact EYH 2018 chair Lilian Care at [tigermoon1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tigermoon1@sbcglobal.net).

*Laura Cahill, 2016 EYH Chair*

