



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXX NUMBER 8

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

West Harris County Board of Directors

President

Traci Jensen

713-974-0828

tjfhorn@comcast.net

Program Vice President

Pat Thomsen

713-466-7995

Membership Vice President

Susan Boone

AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents

Mary Kain

Nancy Guilloud

Recording Secretary

Linda Marlin

Finance Officer

Barbara Cook

Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Lane

Newsletter Editor

Melba Armstrong

mkar@consolidated.net

May Newsletter deadline:

April 15, 2016

Inside This Newsletter:

- President's Message
- Volunteering
- EYH
- Membership
- Directory Updates
- Announcements
- Activities

Stay Informed

Branch website: www.aauw-whc.org

National website:
www.aauw.org

APRIL BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

Tracy Gee Community Center – 3599 Westcenter Drive

Is It Alzheimer's or Dementia?

Or Is It Perfectly Normal?

By: Ann Marie McDonald

Ann Marie McDonald is the Interim Program Officer of the Houston & Southeast Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She has worked with the association in various capacities for over eight years. As a content expert in dementia, she has expertise in Alzheimer's through education, researching and presenting on Alzheimer's. She has presented extensively in the community on different aspects of the dementia experience as it relates to professionals and caregivers.



Ann Marie has a passion for educating the community on dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. In her position, she has responsibilities which include but are not limited to education, working with local communities, generating awareness, planning and coordination of area Walks to End Alzheimer's.

Ann Marie is also an adjunct Business lecturer at Lone Star Community College and holds Masters degrees in Business and Education.

Pat Thomsen, Program Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



WHC Style Show is Coming

When: Sunday, May 15

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Where: Talbots in Town and Country Village

Talbots is graciously furnishing tasty treats for us to munch on while we watch our own beautiful models parade in the new spring/summer outfits.

Tickets are \$15 and proceeds go to the AAUW Educational Fund. Buy your tickets at the next Branch meeting or at one of your social activity groups.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here! We are starting preparations for a very busy one. AAUW-WHC will be at UH on April 11 and Rice April 12 for Equal Pay Day. I would love for you to join us and help. April 29-May 1 is the AAUW-Texas State Convention, the annual Fashion Show is May 15 and finally, June 11 is the installation luncheon at Lakeside Country Club. As you can see, we have so many opportunities to be involved with AAUW-WHC on a different level. Please contact me or any other board member if you have any questions. As a National Director I will be traveling to Kansas and Iowa conventions in April. I plan on looking for any new or interesting ideas that could help us with membership, fundraising, or programming.



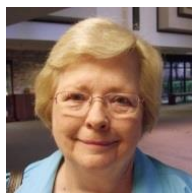
Traci Jensen, WHC Branch President

VOLUNTEERING



More than five million people in the United States are affected by Alzheimer's Disease or another type of dementia. In Houston there are various organizations addressing the problems and care of those affected and their caregivers. AAUW members have responded to the need for volunteers.

Carla Burns has been involved with Amazing Place since early 2011 and represents St. Philip Presbyterian Church on its board of directors. She was president of the board last year and this year is chair of the newly-formed Council of Churches whose mission is to enhance the relationship with supporting congregations and the community. Another volunteer is one of our newer members, **Pam Young**, who considers this a most rewarding experience.



Pam Young



Carla Burns

A friend of Carla's from University of Texas days, Margaret "Missy" Bandy, co-founded Amazing Place in 1996. Her mother, as well as Carla's mother, had Alzheimer's. Carla's mother was in her sixties when signs of the disease became evident. "At that time, there was no facility available for addressing the needs of persons with dementia. It is because of what our family experienced that I wanted to do what I could to help others deal with this dreadful disease."

Amazing Place is a day program specifically for people with mild to moderate dementia. It offers a safe, comfortable place for a person to interact with people and take part in interesting activities for cognitive stimulation. The facility is located at 3735 Drexel, near Richmond and Wesleyan, and the program is offered Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Participants may decide how many days per week to attend. Tuition is about \$80 to \$90 per day. Some long-term care policies cover it and there may be financial aid to families who qualify. A personal interview can be scheduled to obtain information about the facility by calling 713-552-0420. You may also find additional information on their website at www.amazingplacehouston.org.

Amazing Place's staff of 25 takes care of about 58 participants a day. To give support to caregivers, there is a six week class called Powerful Tools for Caregivers, held three times a year. Tracey Brown, executive director, urges people in the community who may be dealing with dementia to consider Amazing Place as a resource even if not attending their program.



Next Month: Interfaith Care Partners, another organization for assistance to families affected by dementia will be featured. WHC branch members are also prominently involved with this organization.

Edith Dunlop, Volunteer Committee

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS



Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics™

Getting ready for next year, our 25th year for EYH! This will be a very special year and we are looking for talented volunteers to help with the effort for 2017. All branch members are welcome to be a part of the conference and the 2017 Steering Committee. To be involved with this exciting event, please contact Laura Fiorentino Cahill at 832-755-3753 or email Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com.

The 2016 year-end EYH Steering Committee meeting and party will be held May 12 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Laura Fiorentino Cahill, 2806 Manila Lane, Houston, Texas 77043.

Laura Cahill, 2016 EYH Chair

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again – time to renew your AAUW membership. As an AAUW member whose branch and state have opted to participate in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), West Harris County branch members have the option of paying all of the national, state and local dues online at once with a credit card.



You will receive an email from the branch explaining how to pay online shortly.

DIRECTORY UPDATES ONLINE

Please send updates or corrections to your contact information to Nancy Guilloud at nanguilloud@aol.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 11, 2016

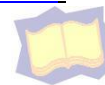
Next Branch Board Meeting will be at the home of Traci Jensen, 11830 Longleaf Lane, Houston 77024 at 5:30 p.m. All members are welcome. Please RSVP your attendance to tjhorn@comcast.net.

APRIL 2016 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Spring is here at last. We have had our April showers, or should I say, storms in March. Now beautiful blossoms are abundant everywhere. The warm sun urges us to once again join our friends in the activities that we enjoy at this time of year.

The coordinators of the activities and interest groups are offering some interesting events for us. The Byway Birders are venturing to High Island this month, the Cultural Group will visit some Texas historical sites and the Garden Divas will enhance their knowledge by visiting the Nature Discovery Center. Check out the other things to do with your AAUW friends in April. Leaders for all the groups are listed in the Directory, but if you have questions and/or would like help to make a connection, please contact Activities Coordinator, Jan Groves, 281-497-2295 or jamgroves@aol.com.

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, April 6, 1:30 p.m. Book:

Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walker

Hostess: Nancy Guilloud, 11110 Tupper Lane
713.785.6336

Contemporary Readers

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

Book: *Pleasantville* by Attica Locke

Hostess: Carol Thielemann, 402 Walnut Bend
713.781.4069

Enjoying History

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

Book: *Dancing to the Precipice* by Carolyn Moorehead

Hostess: Pat Pease, 13 Litchfield Lane
713.824.1681

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

Book: *Paths to Power* by Robert Caro

Hostess: Maureen Erney, 242 Stoney Creek Drive
713.465.4149

Mystery

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

Book: *Lamentation* by C.J.Sansom

Hostess: Hazel Chahar, 5702 Ballina Canyon Lane
713.849.4866

Outstanding Literature

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

Book: *The Boys in the Boat* by Brian O'Raleigh

Meeting at The Egg & I, 0778 Katy Freeway

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



There are six active groups (women's and couples') which meet throughout the month on various afternoons and at night. If you would like to be a substitute for one of these groups, please call Edith Dunlop at 713.677.0753.

BYWAY BIRDERS



On **April 14** Byway Birders will travel to High Island to see the nesting birds at the rookery and look for migrating birds. We welcome novice and experienced birders. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the southeast corner of Memorial City Shopping Center (the nearest store is Dillard's) to form carpools. Bring water, snacks, a picnic lunch, a hat, bug spray and binoculars. For more information contact Imelda Beauchamp at imeldafb@gmail.com or 713-468-3709 or cell 832-265-3664.

Save the date

Byway Birders are birding the Hill Country **May 1-2**. We are going on a Sunday and Monday because we couldn't get rooms that weekend. We are staying at the Best Western in Junction Texas. The reservation is under Helmy's Birders. Call 325-446-3700 to put one of the rooms on your credit card. Let Marie Helmy know if you are going. If there are questions or problems contact Marie Helmy at oolit3@att.com

GARDEN DIVAS



We will visit the Nature Discovery Center on Tuesday, **April 5**, at 10 a.m. Please meet in the parking lot of Dillard's on the second floor. We will leave there at 9:30 a.m. If meeting at the center, meet in the parking lot on the north side of Evergreen Street (between Newcastle and Marrakech). There is additional parking at the pool across the street if needed. Please let me know where you will be so we won't wait for you at the wrong place.

Senior Naturalist and Park Steward Mary Ann Beauchemin will be your guide. She has been a part of the Center since its inception, created several of its programs, and continues to oversee the development of the park, including planting and nurturing a wide variety of native plants. You can learn more about this amazing place by viewing the video linked here: <https://youtube/VxpBDg1EOI> or the website at <http://www.naturediscoverycenter.org/>.

We will meet for lunch at Jax at 6510 South Rice at the corner of Spruce Street. Jax serves a variety of American and Tex Mex dishes. Reservations are not needed. Please RSVP to samboone@gmail.com if you plan to join us so we can give a head count to the restaurant.

Thanks to Susan Thompson for arranging our March outing.

GENEALOGY



The Genealogy Group will not meet again this year. News about the reorganized group will be published in a future newsletter. If you are interested in coordinating this group's activities focusing on research of family histories, please contact Jan Groves at jamgroves@aol.com.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The Girls' Night Out Group will not meet in April.

We will dine out again on **Wednesday, May 11**. Additional details about the place and time will be published in the May newsletter.

All members are invited to attend these dinners which are scheduled for every other month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to be on the GNO mailing list and haven't already signed up, please contact Sheila Jaynes at sjaynes50@yahoo.com.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet will not meet in April. Please join us **Saturday, May 14, 2016**, at 7:00 p.m. for our final dinner in this year's series – Famous Cities/ Famous Restaurants. Our final city is Houston featuring Sylvia's. To be included in the dinner, or if you have questions, please contact the coordinators: Tina Simpson 281-558-1031 or Barbara Cook 713-782-4398.

Nouveau Gourmet will not meet in April.

Barb Cook will host the **May 7** dinner featuring "Fondue." For additional information, please contact Diane Statham at distatham@msn.com or 281.497.6259.

GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group will meet on **April 7** and **April 21**. Meetings are scheduled for 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays, February through May. If you are interested in joining this group or have questions, please contact Martha Ewell by phone, 713-782-2084, or by email, m.ewell@sbcglobal.net.

The Great Decisions Wednesday Evening Group is now at member capacity. If you have an interest in joining the Great Decisions discussions and are able to meet in the afternoon, please contact the coordinator of the afternoon group, Martha Ewell, for more information.

HIKING HONEYS



On **Thursday, April 21**, the Hiking Honeys will trek down Memorial Park's Cambodia Trail. This is a 3 ½ mile hike with moderate difficulty. The up-and-down dirt trail can be challenging, but it is fun. We will start at Memorial Park at 10:00. Tentative lunch plans are to eat at the Black Walnut Café on Memorial. We will figure out car-pooling, as time gets closer. If you would like to go, please email Karen North at knorth@me.com or call 281-744-5412.

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. Contact Mary Kain at mlkain@hal-pc.org to get on the email list.

VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



A travel interest group

The Vicarious Voyagers have completed their 2015-2016 travel agenda. Information about the fascinating places that the group plans to explore next season will be published in the 2016-17 AAUW-WHC Directory.

For more information about the group, please contact Diana Guarniere at guarniered@gmail.com.

WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



This group gathers to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick, City Centre location.

We will not meet in April. Our next meeting will be **Monday, June 6, 2016**, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. All AAUW members are invited to attend any or all *Happy Hour* events. Contact Marie Helmy at oolit3@att.net or Joan Vastola at 713-468-8172.

Special Activities Note: Our cultural trip to Round Top for an afternoon concert by the Festival Hill Orchestra on Saturday, June 11, has been cancelled due to conflict with the rescheduled Branch Recognition Luncheon now set to be held that day. We hope to return to Round Top next June.

WISE...



Women in Stem Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

We are planning a WISE social in April, date and time to be announced. If you would like to drop in for a glass of wine or coffee at Karen's house, please let her know at knorth@me.com. You can select one of many reads for a future book study or share an idea. Susan Boone, who coordinated our December Hour of Code snowflake fun, has been selected as the Rice University (RUSMP) [Code.org](http://code.org) project manager. We will celebrate that and other local Computer Science For All initiatives. Please watch President Obama's video at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/01/30/computer-science-all> and see <http://aauwswf.edublogs.org/> for updates.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



April – "On the Trail to Texas Independence." On **Thursday, April 21**, you'll have a chance to see some spring flowers and enjoy a tour of Cole's Crossing in the bucolic town of Independence about 15 minutes outside Brenham. We will be guided by docents in period costumes as they show us some original settlers' homes and the site of Baylor University's first campus. We will also enjoy a brief visit to the Independence Baptist Church and Historical Museum before dining at the Brenham airport in its 50's-style diner. The cost for the trip is \$6.00, which will be collected at the bus, plus whatever you spend on lunch. We will leave from the southeast corner of the Memorial City Mall parking lot (opposite Dillard's garage) promptly at 9:15 a.m. and we should be back by about 4:00 p.m. This trip is limited to 28, so sign up early by contacting Barbara Butler at 713-305-0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net.

May – Space Center Houston's "Independence Plaza"

Here's your chance to be the first on your block to see a great new exhibit that just recently opened at Space Center Houston. On **Tuesday, May 3**, we'll be visiting "Independence Plaza" – Houston's own space shuttle replica and the "747" that carried it. There are historic space-related exhibits in both vehicles. We'll then take a tram tour to visit the Space Station mock-up and Atlas rocket at Rocket Park. There are elevators at all the exhibits, so don't worry about climbing stairs. We'll eat lunch on the property at the Zero G Diner. Our bus will leave from the southeast corner of the Memorial City Mall parking lot (opposite Dillard's garage) promptly at 8:30 a.m. We hope to be back about 5:00 p.m. Cost for all activities, except food and souvenirs, is \$10.95 per person. To sign up for this exciting trip into space, contact Jo Glidewell at 936-327-2085 or weglide@gmail.com. Or just send your check made out to Jo Glidewell to her at 7210 Sonnet Glen Lane, Houston, TX 77095. We'll collect the usual dollar for the driver's lunch as you enter the bus. Deadline for receipt of all checks is **April 20**. Guests will be permitted if seats remain after members have been accommodated.