



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

## West Harris County Board of Directors

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April Newsletter deadline:

**March 15, 2016**

## Inside This Newsletter:

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- AAUW Funds
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## Stay Informed

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

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

## MARCH ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Tracy Gee  
Community Center – 3599 Westcenter Drive**

**Are You Rich Enough To Grow Old?  
Women and Wealth – Lifetime Issues  
Myrna Agris**

Myrna helps to provide guidance in all areas of your financial life. She focuses on financial management and education. Her background helps to provide insight on the important issues.

Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, she practiced law in the area of estate planning, preservation of wealth, and elder law, although she does not currently act in this capacity. She taught a course at Rice

University School of Continuing Studies "Take A Pro-Active Approach to Aging: Legal and Financial Issues". As one of the authors of the Elder Law Handbook, published by the Houston Bar Association, she is often asked to speak to groups on estate planning.



She helps investors and institutions strategize their financial decisions. She is very appreciative when existing clients refer friends, family, and business associates for an exploratory meeting. She does her best to meet their highest expectations.

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**In addition to our speaker's presentation, we will elect our branch officers for 2016-2017 at the March Meeting. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers (see page 2) and nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting.**

**Please plan on attending this important meeting.**

*Pat Thomsen, Program Chair*

## BRANCH MEMBERS VOTE TO AMEND BYLAWS

The vote to change the branch by-laws to allow for a new President Elect position took place Saturday, February 20 at EYH. There were 69 votes cast, with 67 voting yes to the change. The vote total exceeded the 49 required to meet the 20% of the branch membership total. Sharon Jorgeson assisted Edith Dunlop in counting the votes and Diana Guariniere attested to the results.

I want to thank all who made this change possible with their time, support, and work.

*Susan Dunten, Nominating Committee Chair*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a beautiful time of year in Houston! We had another very successful EYH thanks to Laura Cahill and the

EYH team. We are now looking forward towards our installation luncheon where we will meet our new board members, new president and scholarship winners. This year we will be back at Lakeside, so mark your calendars for **June 11!** Also do not forget that the AAUW Texas state convention in San

Antonio is **April 29.** It should be a great learning experience so please plan on going. Go to [www.aauw-texas.com](http://www.aauw-texas.com) for all the details. See you there!



*Traci Jensen, WHC Branch President*

## AAUW FUNDS CORNER

### Lois List Fellowship Fund #4282

Lois List was the mother of our very own member, Priscilla List. Lois joined the North Shore Branch of AAUW (suburban Chicago) in 1949. Through her nearly 50 years of membership she served as President, Membership Chair, Program Chair, and Funds Chair. She also served on the Illinois State Board at different times. Upon her death in 1999, in recognition of her many contributions, her Branch set up a memorial scholarship fund. In 2003 the fund was converted to an official AAUW Fellowship Fund currently scheduled to become a permanent named fund in 2023. This Fund is supported by many Illinois branches as it is the last of several they have sponsored which have not yet reached its minimum goal. Priscilla has continued her mother's legacy. She has been EYH Chair, Activities Chair, and now leads the Cultural Events Tours for WHC. It is an honor for our Branch to support the Lois List Fellowship Fund.

*Mary Kain & Nancy Guilloud, AAUW Funds VPs*

## SAVE THE DATE!!



**WHC Style Show**  
**May 15th, Sunday**  
**6:30 to 8:30 PM**  
**Talbots in Town and Country Village**

## NOMINEES FOR OFFICE

The 2016 nominating committee proudly presents the slate of West Harris County AAUW branch officer nominees:

President: Nancy Guilloud  
 President Elect: Anne Amador  
 Vice President Membership: Sheila Jaynes  
 Funds Vice Presidents: Mary Kain / Hazel Chahar  
 Recording Secretary: Carol Trujillo

I want to thank the hard work of my committee: Edith Dunlop, Mary Edwards, Pat Dach, and Joanne Lane. The election will take place at the **March 22** branch meeting.

*Susan Dunten, Nominating Committee Chair*

## EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 2016



### Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics™

EYH 2016 was a success! More than 420 students from throughout the Houston metropolitan area attended this year's event. Our new location, Spring Forest Middle School, is a wonderful venue with a beautiful auditorium that worked well for our event. A special thanks to Martha Jacinto and her staff at Spring Forest Middle School who were absolutely fantastic and made all the presentations run smoothly. Everyone on the Steering Committee gets a big hug for a job well done.



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

All branch members are welcome to be a part of next year's event and the 2017 Steering Committee. To be involved with this exciting event, please contact Laura Fiorentino Cahill, EYH Committee Chair at 832-755-3753 or email [Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com)

*Laura Cahill, EYH Chair*

## VOLUNTEERING



"I am awed and honored to be named a 2016 Champion of Change for Computer Science Education" Karen North said



upon hearing that along with eight others from across the country she was to be recognized for her passion and dedication in promoting CS. On Jan. 26 at the White House she participated in ceremonies and a seminar, "Helping America Code."

During the round table discussion the comment was made that what Code.org has done in 3 years for CS exceeds the progress made in previous decades.

President Obama in his Jan. 30 address called for expanding CS in ALL America's schools. Karen and the other honorees have already been contacted for their input. Texas has been leading the nation in CS education. Since the 1980s we have had certified CS teachers due to Karen's efforts.

SBISD nominated Karen and said, "She works tirelessly to advance CS education across the state of Texas and beyond. She advocates in public and political forums, is a member of ISTE's CS network, conducts code.org workshops regularly, and will assist districts and private schools in any way to move computational thinking and CS forward in our schools."

"It is because of her dedication and drive that SBISD now supports Hour of Code at each of our K-12 campuses, annually hosts the EYH Conference for middle school girls, hosts Summer Code Camps for students grades 4-8 and has doubled the CS courses available for students in our high schools."

Karen, a retired CS and Math teacher, has been an advocate for CS since 1985. She served on both the 2000 and 2011 committees that wrote the CS standards for Texas. She also played a part in increasing programming and computational thinking in the K-8 Texas Math standards. She contributes many hours and miles going to Austin



when educational hearings are held. Her blogs give a trove of information in implementing CS, Coding, etc. for teachers. Karen is a member of many professional organizations which were listed in her official bio - including AAUW.

To celebrate Karen's honor, log on to the SBISD/Volunteers website and sign up to be a Code Buddy or to participate in other opportunities in which you are interested. A background check is necessary and takes time so you can complete the form and make your decision later. Karen has had AAUW added as a designation and it would be great to have more people sign up.

*Edith Dunlop, Volunteer Committee*



*White House Champions of Change for Computer Science Education, along with actress and director Gillian Jacobs and executive director and co-founder of Amy Poehler's Smart Girls, Meredith Walker*



*Karen and her grandson Kade at SBISD Hunters Creek ES Hour of Code, holding Computer Science Education Week Proclamation from Houston Mayor*

## MARCH 2016 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

"Like the warmth of the sun and the light of the day, may the luck of the Irish shine bright on your way..."

Our varied interests groups are offering a variety of activities this month. Since March is a good time to begin gardening, check out what the Garden Divas have planned. Or, to enjoy the balmy March weather, you may want to join the Hiking Honeys. If history is your passion, sign up to tour the famous Glenwood Cemetery with the Cultural Group. We have activities to entice everyone to join in the fun. Leaders for all the groups are listed in the Directory, but if you would like help to make a connection, please contact Activities Coordinator, Jan Groves, 281-497-2295 or [jamgroves@aol.com](mailto:jamgroves@aol.com).

### BOOK GROUPS



#### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, March 2, 1:30 p.m.**

Book: *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion

Hostess: Deanna Swindell, 1373 Country Place Drive 281.497.2318

#### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, March 2, 1:00 p.m.**

Book: *The Personal History of Rachel Dupree* by Ann Weisgarber

Hostess: Judy Starr, 830 Edgewick Court 281.242.8242

#### Enjoying History

**Tuesday, March 14, 1:30 p.m.**

Book: *The Irregulars* by Jennet Conant

Hostess: Nancy Guilloud, 11110 Tupper Lane 713.785.6336

#### Evening Contemporary Literature

**Monday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.**

Book: *Orphan Train* by Cristina Baker Kline

Hostess: Roslyn Metchis, 12335 Kingsride #435 281.673.9971

#### Mystery

**Tuesday, March 15, 1:30 p.m.**

Book: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins  
Hostess: Dana Cutts, 311 Blue Willow Drive 713.785.5306

#### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Book: *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson  
Hostess: Joanne Lane, 12214 Mossycup 713.461.1637

## 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



The Byway Birders will head to San Bernard NWR on **Saturday, March 6**. We will bird the Refuge and then have lunch at a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon, we will go to Brazoria NWR and then home.

We will meet at the Dillard's lot in Memorial City at 7:20 so we can be on the road by 7:30. We'll be looking for wintering ducks, cranes, geese, and whatever else we see. We hope to be at Bobcat Woods by 8:45. Let Peg McNealy know if you are coming. E-mail [pegmcnealy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pegmcnealy@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 281.679.7299.

## GARDEN DIVAS



The **March 1** Garden Diva event will be at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary in West Houston. We will explore some of the 17.5 acre wooded sanctuary along Rummel Creek as well as a restored log cabin. Our leader will be Dorthyle Headrick, who is very experienced in the native plants that are being encouraged in the Audubon Woods. She will meet us there at 10:15. Since the sanctuary is located on the west side, we can meet there. The address is 444 Wilchester Boulevard. Parking is limited, so I suggest parking in the west parking lot of Memorial Drive Methodist Church. The address is 12955 Memorial Drive. We will leave there at 10:10; if you are late follow the signs and catch up.

On our field trip, we will be educated by volunteer Houston Audubon Docents with a guided walk in the woods, inquiry-based lessons on native flora and fauna, pond dip netting for aquatic wildlife, a tour of the 1932 log cabin, and an opportunity to meet our education animals.

There is \$2 fee for our private field trip. After our adventure, we will dine at the Empire Turkish Grill, 12448 Memorial Drive. Please R.S.V.P. to [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@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.

If you cannot join us, you can visit the website: <http://tinuurl.com/garden-divas>

## 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](mailto:jamgroves@aol.com).

## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The Girl's Night Out Group will meet for dinner at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 9** at Fratelli's Ristorante (Italian Restaurant) located at 1330 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055 - (713) 263-0022. Take exit 761 - Wirt Road/Chimney Rock/Antoine - and go North on Wirt Rd for less than a mile. The restaurant will be on your right.

Please join us for our usual good conversation and delicious Italian food. We are scheduled to have the back one half of the restaurant with a room divider for a semi-private area.

RSVP to Sheila Jaynes at 281-392-3134 or at [sjaynes50@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaynes50@yahoo.com). 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.

## GOURMET DINING



### Classic Gourmet

Please join our hostess, Pat Farnell, and the Classic Group **Saturday, March 12, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. for our fourth dinner in this year's series – Famous Cities/ Famous Restaurants. Our fourth city is San Francisco featuring Alioto's on Fisherman's Wharf. 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

Diane Treich will be hosting the next Nouveau Gourmet event at her home on **Saturday, March 6** at 6:30 p.m. The theme is salmon and company. Please RSVP to Diane Statham at [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) or 281.497.6259.



## GREAT DECISIONS



**Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group** will meet on **March 3** and **March 17** this month. Meetings are scheduled for 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursday, 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](mailto: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



Hiking Honeys will go to Brazos Bend State Park on **Thursday, March 17**. We will hike the Hale Lake Loop Trail, which is approximately 2.5 miles. The trail, rated as easy, winds through wetlands and marshes. We will meet at the parking lot for Dillard's in Memorial City Mall. Our hike leader is Marietta Hostak. Contact her at [mhostak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhostak@sbcglobal.net).

## 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](mailto:mlkain@hal-pc.org) to get on the email list.

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



### A travel interest group

Members will meet on **Thursday evening, March 31** at 6:30 PM. This month the Vicarious Voyagers will visit the nation of Iran. Join us with the observations of Rick Steves in a new documentary that explores this most surprising and fascinating land. Our hostess, Pat Farnell, grew up in Iran and promises to contribute her personal insights for a delightful evening. Please bring something to share for a light potluck supper. New participants are always welcome. Please RSVP your attendance to our hostess for the evening: Pat Farnell, 12531 Piping Rock, Houston, 77077, at [farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com) or 281-496-7277.

## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



This group gathers to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick, City Centre location. Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 7, 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@aol.com](mailto:OOLIT3@aol.com) or Joan Vastola at 713-468-8172.

## WISE...



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

For information about up-coming activities, field trips, and socials planned by the WISE Group, please contact Karen North, [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com)



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### Glenwood Cemetery with Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston.

Enjoy the spring flowers and nice weather in March with a stroll around beautiful Glenwood Cemetery on **Tuesday, March 22**. Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston will lead a 2-hour tour - gentle walk - around the cemetery. Jim is one of our favorite guides and this lovely resting place offers him many opportunities to regale us with stories of the historic Houstonians – including notable women - who are buried here.

Our Precinct 3 bus will leave the usual spot in the southeast corner of the Memorial City Mall parking lot (opposite Dillard's garage) at 9:00 a.m. Following our Glenwood tour, we'll lunch at Backstreet Café before returning to the Mall by about 2:30 p.m. Cost for the day (excluding your lunch expense) will be \$20 which will be collected as you enter the bus. This includes your usual \$1 contribution for our driver's lunch. To reserve your spot for this special day, contact Martha Ewell at 713-782-2084 or [m.ewell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.ewell@sbcglobal.net) right away. The group will be limited to 25 participants. Weather permitting, this should prove to be a most enlightening experience.

**Plus, save Thursday, April 21, for our "On the Trail to Texas Independence" trip to Independence, TX.**

Barbara Butler is planning a wonderful day with visits to many spots that make this town special to Texas historians. Watch the April newsletter for details and/or contact Barbara at 713-305-0570 or [barbarabutler1959@att.net](mailto:barbarabutler1959@att.net) if you can't wait to sign up.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES are ONLINE

Please send updates or corrections to your contact information to Nancy Guilloud at [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto: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 March 14, 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 [tjfhorn@comcast.net](mailto:tjfhorn@comcast.net).



## ***PICS FROM EYH – FEB 20***

