

VOLUME XXXX NUMBER 9

West Harris County Board of Directors

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Program Vice President **Pat Thomsen** 713-466-7995

Membership Vice President Susan Boone

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Corresponding Secretary Joanne Lane

Newsletter Editor

Melba Armstrong <u>mkar@consolidated.net</u> June Newsletter deadline: May 15, 2016

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Stay Informed

Branch website: <u>www.aauw-</u> whc.org

National website: <u>www.aauw.org</u>

West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

SPRING RECOGNITION LUNCH

Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 11:00 A.M.

Lakeside Country Club 100 South Wilcrest Drive Houston, TX 77042

We will honor the Baker-Telfer Scholarship recipients, Install the new AAUW West Harris County Branch board, And enjoy an informative Presentation from Andrea (Andie) Gardner From International Longshoremen's Association

Andrea Gardner has worked at the Port of Houston as a Longshorewoman since 1981. She has been published in "Labor Notes" and directed a You Tube Video highlighting women working on the Docks and is currently working on a Project called "Women Along the Shore" which is focused on the transition of women into a male dominated industry. She was featured in the PBS Port of Houston Documentary "Houston Ship Channel: Deep Water Centennial" celebrating the Port's 100th year anniversary.



Andie enjoys speaking to groups about the Port of Houston, what it's like to work in a male dominated industry and the importance to women when it comes to the Collective Bargaining process in relation to the Union experience.

Among her many current commitments and responsibilities are: 2nd Vice President to the I.L.A. Houston Dock and Marine Council Political Interest Committee member for her Local union Board Member of the Women of the I.L.A. AFL-CIO delegate for her Local union Board positions on ROADwomen and The Friends of Women's Studies Member of Annie's List Steering Committee for Harris County.

Recent honors include: Texas Democratic Women Making History Award in 2015 One of Fifty Conversationalists at the UH 18th Annual Table Talk Luncheon benefiting Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies in 2015.

Her spare time is spent traveling with her husband and spending time with her dogs.

The luncheon cost is \$35 which includes a choice of entrée (either meat or non-meat), dessert, coffee or tea. **The registration and payment deadline is May 27.** Make the check out to AAUW-WHC and put "spring luncheon" on the line. Please mail the check to Barbara Cook, 14 Big Hollow Lane, Houston, TX 77042.

Pat Thomsen, Program Chair

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Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AAUW-WHC was out and about organizing Equal Pay Day events. We had an information table at UH and worked with other women's organizations at Rice on April 12. We gave out candy and information about inequality in the work force. AAUW-WHC also received a proclamation from the mayor.



Looking forward, we are now preparing for two great events: the **May 15** Style Show at Talbots and the **June 11** Installation Luncheon. Be sure to get your tickets. On a personal note, I am a candidate for Funds VP at the state level. This will be voted on at the state convention **April 29-May 1**. Hope to see you there!

Traci Jensen, WHC Branch President

VOLUNTEERING

In 1998 Interfaith Care Partners received the President's Service Award, the most prestigious award ever given for volunteer community service. President Bill Clinton noted the influence this organization had in coordinating volunteer service in the Houston area and the use of its model throughout the nation. That trailblazing reputation continues today.

Interfaith Care Partners, a network of 100 congregations, began their Alzheimer's project in 1992 to provide companionship in group activities and in-home assistance for impaired people and their caregivers. The "Gathering Place" program is a setting where volunteers provide a loving, welcoming and fun environment for persons with mild to moderate memory loss who do not require skilled care.



AAUW members Barbara Cook and Marie Helmy are volunteers. Barbara first became involved with the organization several years ago when she accompanied her father to a meeting. She has since made this organization her primary volunteer activity. Marie Helmy also devotes time to interacting with those who need a kind word or help doing a simple task.





The "Gathering" is typically held once or twice monthly for 3-1/2 hours and combines physical movement, socialization, music and other engaging activities in a comfortable environment. This block of time not only benefits participants but gives caregivers a respite.

Care Team members can select a facility near their home and a professional staff member attends each meeting to provide support and assistance to volunteers. Currently there are 58 programs held each month in the greater Houston area at churches and synagogues and there is no charge for attendance. There is a map of meeting places online at Interfaithcarepartners.org. An initial intake interview is conducted by staff to welcome new participants to the program. The office is at 701 North Post Oak, Suite. 330, phone 713-682-5995.

In- Home Respite is also provided by the Care Team members who regularly visit homes of persons with dementia to engage them in conversation and appropriate activities. This gives fulltime caregivers - who are often overwhelmed and isolated - a much needed and worry-free break. For the caregiver, Interfaith Care Partners regularly sponsors educational and skill building conferences that feature workshops led by professionals. There is a series of monthly programs in which caregivers can learn about resources, develop relationships and discuss similar situations.

Edith Dunlop, Volunteer Committee



FUNDS CORNER

Educational Opportunities Fund (4336)

Quoted from National's web page: "One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 241 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2015–16 academic year. Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

All proceeds from our WHC Style Show go to this fund.

Mary Kain and Nancy Guilloud, Funds VP's

SPRING STYLE SHOW!! Sunday, May 15 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Talbots in Town and Country will be the location. Modeling by our own talented, runway savvy members, nibbles supplied courtesy of Talbots AND discounts offered on the evening's shopping. Talbots also donates 10% of the night's proceeds to the Education Fund. What's not to like...and all for a mere \$15.00.

Your donation benefits the AAUW Education Fund that supports, through numerous programs and activities, our mission to advance equity for women and girls. So set aside the date and come enjoy a fun night with friends, refreshments and SHOPPING!

Tickets are available from Mary Kain, 713-824-3988, 195 Litchfield Lane, Houston, TX 77024 or Nancy Guilloud, 713-785-6336, 11110 Tupper Lake, Houston, TX 77042. Tickets will be on sale also at the door the night of the show.

MEMBERSHIP



Photos from our various special interest groups are needed for a Power Point demonstration at our **August 27** Prospective Members' Coffee. Please send the best photos you have showing members participating in your group to

Susan Boone at her e-mail address -<u>smboone@gmail.com</u>. These representations of your group will be shown on stage to prospective members demonstrating the many activities available through AAUW. Thank you for your timely response.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



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 three ways to renew your membership:

1) If you received 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 was correct, the email was sent on April 4. Some corrections were made and you may have received this email within the last week or two. 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 DID NOT receive this email, or do not have a copy of it now, you can access <u>aauw.org</u>, 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

3) To renew by check, make your check payable to your AAUW branch, print the form attached to the back of this newsletter (page 9), complete it, and mail it to your branch finance officer listed below.

Barbara Cook TX7113 - West Harris County 214 Big Hollow Lane Houston, TX 77042-1016

Barbara Cook, Finance VP

Next WHC Branch Board Meeting May 9, 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 tifhorn@comcast.net.

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 2016

Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics™

Looking for a great opportunity to volunteer? Join the EYH Steering Committee in planning for next year's celebration of the 25th anniversary of AAUW West Harris County branch's EYH. You are welcome to join us at the 2016 year-end EYH Steering Committee meeting and party on **May 12**, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Laura Fiorentino Cahill, 2806 Manila Lane, Houston, Texas 77043. Come join us in making 2017 EYH an event to remember!

Laura Fiorentino Cahill, EYH Committee Chair, can be reached at 832-755-3753 or by email at Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com.

Laura Cahill, 2016 EYH Chair

NEW WHC OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017 TO BE INSTALLED AT THE SPRING LUNCHEON

President: Nancy Guilloud

President Elect: Anne Amador

Membership Vice President: Sheila Jaynes

Funds Vice Presidents: Mary Kain & Hazel Chahar Recording Secretary: Carol Trujillo

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE TO ALLOW FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING

TO BE VOTED ON AT JUNE 11 MEETING

The Branch Board is proposing that the West Harris County Branch Bylaws be amended to allow for electronic voting. This change will be voted on at the June 11 meeting.

Please refer to the attachment at the back of this newsletter(page 8) to see the current and proposed wording of Article V, Section 3b and Article XIV, Section 4c of our Branch Bylaws.

Margaret Carlson, Parliamentarian

APRIL 2016 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Can it really be May already?

We are approaching the end of our 2015-2016 season of interesting, educational, and enjoyable activities. We have certainly expanded our knowledge of Houston and her colorful history. In addition, some of our members have visited many fantastic gardens to gain an appreciation of the flora of the Gulf Coast area. So many more groups offer outstanding things to do this month; read about them in this newsletter. Our members are life-long learners who enjoy sharing time with friends while being involved with AAUW-WHC.

Thank you, Group Coordinators, for planning and implementing the fantastic program of activities and interests for our members this year. We appreciate the help that your group members did to assure that each activity was a success. We are looking forward to more fascinating things to choose in 2016-2017.

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

<u>Afternoon Contemporary Literature</u> Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m.

Book: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr Hostess: Margaret Wittenmyer, 12507 Queensbury Ln. 713.468.4970

Wednesday, June 1, 1:30 p.m.

2016-2017 Book Selection Luncheon Hostess: Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive 281.497.9150

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. Books: *Go Set a Watchman* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee Hostess: Sherry Johnston, 56 Bayou Pointe 713.972.1808

Wednesday, June 1, 1:00 p.m.

2016-2017 Book Selection Luncheon Hostess: Beth Leachman, 12122 Boheme 713.468.8483

BOOK GROUPS...(Continued)

Enjoying History

Monday, May 9, 1:30 p.m. Book: *Vanished Smile by* R.A. Scott Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Ct. 281.392.3190

Monday, June 13, 1:30 p.m.

2016-2017 Book Selection Luncheon Hostess: Mary Andersen, 5426 Wigton Drive 713.503.8784

Evening Contemporary Literature Monday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

Book: *We Are Called To Rise* by Laure McBride Hostess: Sharon Jorgeson, 12518 Honeywood Trail 281.558.4382

Monday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.

2016-2017 Book Selection Salad Supper Hostess: Barbara Hopkins, 12715 Skyknoll 281.589.2513

Mystery

Tuesday, May 17, 1:30 p.m.

Book: *The Ghost Runner* by Parker Bilal Hostess: Dana Cutts, 311 Blue Willow Drive 713.785.5306

Tuesday, June 14, 1:30 p.m. 2016-2017 Book Selection Luncheon Hostess: TBA

Outstanding Literature Tuesday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. 2016-2017 Book Selection Luncheon The Egg and I, 9778 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 are birding in the Hill Country on Sunday and Monday, **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 at <u>oolit3@att.com</u>

BYWAY BIRDERS (Continued)

May 2016

On **May 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. We have permission from management to park there, but they are not responsible for your cars. Don't leave valuables in your car.

Bring water, snacks, a picnic lunch, a hat, bug spray and binoculars. For more information contact Imelda Beauchamp at <u>imeldafb@gmail.comimeldafb@gmail.com</u> or 713-468-3709 or cell 832-265- 3664.



The Garden Divas will trek to Alvin on **Tuesday May 3** to Shimek's Gardens, 3122 County Road 237, Alvin, TX 77511-8690. We will leave the second level on the Memorial City Parking Garage near Dillard's at 9:30 a.m. Shimek's Garden is a National Display Garden for the American Hemerocallis (daylilies) Society. A National Display Garden represents the national society by growing hundreds of different daylilies from hybridizers all over the United States. About 850 different cultivars are grown, plus thousands of their own seedlings, which means as a result of spreading pollen from one daylily onto the pistil of another, a unique daylily evolves. Both Shimeks are exhibition and garden judges for the American Hemerocallis Society. Nell is also a National Council of State Garden Clubs Flower Show judge. Roses, hibiscus, jatrophas, and many unusual plants are also on display. Check their website http://www.ofts.com/bill/daylily.html for information about a yard sale on April 30. Prices will be \$5, \$7, or \$10 per pot.



After our daylily excursion, we will enjoy lunch at Kelly's Country Cooking, 1100 Highway 35 Bypass N, Alvin, TX. I look forward to seeing you all there, so please mark your calendars. Please email me, <u>smboone@gmail.com</u> to let me know you are planning to come so we can make reservations at the restaurant.

Special Invitation: The planning meeting for the 2016-2017 Diva Adventures will be on **Tuesday, May 24**, at "Boone's Farm." Please mark your calendars early for this event. The date is moved to try to beat the summer heat and still enjoy some of the wildflowers that may be lingering in the area. We will have an "overnighter." Some room is available at the farm, and hotels are nearby. More information will be out in next month's newsletter.

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Newsletter



We need a leader. Will you take the job?

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



The Girls' Night Out Group will meet for dinner at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 11**, at The Union Kitchen Restaurant at 12538 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024, (713) 360-2000. The restaurant is located just west of the Beltway on Memorial on the north side in the Lantern Lane Shopping Center.

Please join us for good times where we enjoy delicious food and each other's company. RSVP to Sheila Jaynes at 281-392-3134 or at <u>sjaynes50@yahoo.com</u>.

All members are encouraged to attend our Girls' Night Out (GNO) 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.



Classic Gourmet

Please join us **Saturday, May 14**, 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

Barb Cook will host the Nouveau Gourmet group for the **May 7** dinner featuring "Fondue" at the Melting Pot, 6100 Westheimer Road. For additional information, please contact Diane Statham at <u>distatham@msn.com</u>or 281.497.6259.



GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group will meet on May 5 and May 19 this month. 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, <u>m.ewell@sbcglobal.net</u>.

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.



In this redo of our cancelled February plan, the Hiking Honeys will head north to a trail near The Woodlands on **Thursday, May 19**. Our hike leader is Dana Cutts.

We will meet in the southeast parking lot of Dillard's at Memorial City Mall at **9:30 a.m.** to carpool to the trailhead. On this 1 1/2 hour hike we expect to see lots of birds, so you may want to take binoculars along with water, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a picnic lunch. There are a few rocky places, so you may want a hiking stick.

We will have bathroom opportunities before we leave the recreation area which is just across the street from the trailhead. About two-thirds of the way through the hike is another restroom opportunity at the YMCA, which offers free coffee. (If you have a YMCA membership card, bring it with you.) We will eat our picnic lunch at the recreation area.

Please contact Dana Cutts at <u>dpcutts@gmail.com</u> or at 713-446-5403 to sign up for our last hike of the year.

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 <u>mlkain@halpc.org.</u>

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

Wine, Women & Wisdom: This group gathers to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick, City Centre location. We will not meet in May.

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 6, 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 for additional information.



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

Our WISE group will be celebrating at the 2016 year-end EYH Steering Committee meeting and party on May 12 at Laura Cahill's home. Please join in and be a part of next year's event and the 2017 Steering Committee. We are also making sure our voice is heard to include STEM education in SBISD's Innovative District plans.

See https://www.springbranchisd.com/innovation/ to share your ideas or learn about their goals to build dreams. Contact Karen North, knorth@me.com, or for more information, see http://aauwwsf.edublogs.org/.





May – Last chance for a trip to Space!

On Tuesday, May 3, we'll be visiting "Independence Plaza" to see Houston's own space shuttle replica and the 747 that carried it. This is the newest exhibit at Space Center Houston. We'll also take a tram tour to visit the Space Station mock-up and Atlas rocket at Rocket Park. We'll eat lunch on the property at the Zero G Diner. Cost for admission is \$10.95 plus your lunch. (We'll also collect the usual dollar for the driver's lunch as you enter the bus.)

Although the official deadline for checks to arrive is past, Jo Glidewell has ways to accept any late-comers who still want to take this fantastic journey. If that's you, contact her at 1-936-327-7085 or wcglide@gmail.com. immediately. Guests are welcome after members have been accommodated.

Our bus will leave from our usual spot on the southeast corner of the Memorial City Mall parking lot (opposite Dillard's garage) promptly at 8:30 a.m. and we hope to be back about 5:00 p.m.

June: Our 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.

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.

Branch Merger Discussion Discontinued

A discussion of a merger between the West Harris County Branch and the Houston Branch was discussed at the March 22 branch meeting.

A branch merger would dissolve both branches to form a completely new branch. Considering that West Harris County Branch turns 40 years old this year and Houston Branch observes the 80th anniversary of its charter in 2017, a merger with loss of branch history and identity would not be to the liking of either branch. Therefore the suggestion to consider a branch merger will not be pursued further. ****

Volume XXXX Number 9

Present Wording Branch Bylaws

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS **Section3.** Elections.

b. Elections shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for a given office, in which case the election may be by voice vote. Election shall be by majority of those voting.

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP **Section 4.** Voting.

c. Mail ballots may be used, provided the number of members voting meets the quorum stated above. Such vote may include election of officers, amendments to the Bylaws and any other noticed business. Members voting by these methods are considered to be present at the meeting.

Proposed Wording Branch Bylaws

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS **Section3.** Elections.

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Newsletter

Newsletter



July 2016-June 2017 Dues Notice

Name:

Please Indicate type of membership	Member Type	TOTAL DUE	"Total Dues" includes		
			National	State	Branch
	Regular Branch Member*	\$70.00	\$49	\$10	\$11
	Paid Life Member*	\$21.00	0	\$10	\$11
	Honorary 50-Year Member	\$0.00	0	0	0
	Dual Member (WHC - secondary)	\$11.00	0	0	\$11

Write check payable to: AAUW - WHC Branch. Send this form with your payment to:

Barbara Cook Finance Officer 214 Big Hollow Lane Houston, TX 77042

Please consider including your annual contributions to our projects:

• **Contributions** to AAUW Funds (*Educational Foundation & Legal Advocacy Fund*,) and *Baker-Telfer Scholarship* are most welcome. Please make donations in <u>separate checks</u> payable to AAUW Funds, or Baker-Telfer Scholarship, our local scholarship fund for one graduating girl from each of our primary school districts: HISD, SBISD and Alief ISD.

Enclosed is my check for AAUW Funds. (Fully tax deductible on income tax)
Enclosed is my check for Baker-Telfer Scholarship (Fully tax deductible)

AAUW Dues/Fees Tax Deductibility

2016-17 Personal Tax Information*

The following is tax information to assist you with your personal 2016 taxes.

*AAUW National Individual Membership dues for fiscal year 2016-17 are \$49:

\$46 is tax deductible, and \$3 is not tax deductible (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities). **AAUW National Life Membership dues (one-time payment) of \$980 are fully tax deductible.** Tax deductibility details for special AAUW membership promotions are specified in the promotion information.

Questions? Ask Barbara, 713-782-4398, or chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net