



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXI NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

## West Harris County Board of Directors

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**Nancy Guilloud**

713-785-6336

[nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com)

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**Melba Armstrong**

[mkar@consolidated.net](mailto:mkar@consolidated.net)

November Newsletter deadline:

**Oct 15, 2016**

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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)

## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive**

Anne Chandler, Director of Tahirih Justice Center – Houston

“Violence Against Women Is Intolerable”



As the Director of Tahirih's Houston office, Anne provides strategic direction and manages Tahirih Houston's staff of 12. She has provided leadership for Tahirih Houston since the office first opened its doors in 2009 to protect immigrant women and girls fleeing violence in the Houston area. Anne serves on the board of the American Immigration Council and Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Prior to joining Tahirih, Anne was a Clinical Professor for the University of Houston Law Center. While there, she acted as the Interim Director of the Immigration Law Clinic. Prior to joining the Houston Law Center in 2003, she was the Director of Immigration Legal Services for the YMCA International Services of Greater Houston.

Pat Thomsen, Program Chair

## MEMBERSHIP COFFEE



I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Prospective Members' Coffee such a success. I would like to especially thank the speakers, table hostesses, greeters, those responsible for hospitality, all those involved with our special activities and interests tables and a special thanks to those ladies involved with the database and handling invitations to the Coffee.

We have over 230 members in our branch and we're still growing. We have every reason to be proud of what we're doing for women and girls as well as helping provide opportunities for friendship and personal growth for our membership.

Thank you all again for your efficient and generous help.

*Sheila Jaynes, Membership Chair*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A huge welcome to all of our new members! We are so pleased to have you as part of our Branch. As we move into fall, please check out all the activity groups that have started, and the speakers and cultural trips that are available. Times and dates are in your new Directory.



Before we all vote in November, please be informed about the candidates and the issues, not just in the national election but in the state and local elections. Our local officials make a difference in how Houston is governed. They are all important. The right to vote is precious. An informed vote is priceless.

Happy fall! See you at the Harvest Moon Ball!

*Nancy Guilloud, WHC Branch President*

### **HARVEST MOON BALL October 29, 2016**

The time is here!! Time for the best ball you do NOT attend!!

Each year the Harvest Moon Ball is held to solicit your support for harvesting funds for the advancement of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. These AAUW goals and accomplishments are funded by supporting the various AAUW funds. The coming invitation will provide more on the funds or check your AAUW Directory for information about each fund. Just write a check to AAUW Funds or the Fund of your choice and drop in the mail to Mary Kain, 195 Litchfield Lane, 77024 or Hazel Chahar, 5702 Ballina Canyon Lane, 77041.

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

#### **Next WHC Branch Board Meeting October 10, 2016**

**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).

## **PUBLIC POLICY**



It would be strange if so potent a link to power as the American vote were not periodically under attack, as indeed it has been, in three forms: vote addition, vote subtraction, and vote flipping. The first of these, the rarest, is, ironically, the form that has stimulated most popular activism. Such retail fraud, amateurs adding votes one at a time, actually has occurred. Tammany Hall has bribed individuals to make second passes at the polls, having shaved off a moustache or donned a different hat. There have been few such sightings in the twenty-first century; however, records suggest that nowadays an ordinary political outsider would be more likely to be struck by lightning -- doubtless due to the dauntingly high risk/reward ratio for such an effort.

The odds are better for political insiders in a position to alter votes wholesale. LBJ's clumsy ballot stuffing, however, was a poor model for the ambitious. Vote subtraction, rather than addition, is the key. Subtraction in 1863 differed from that of 1963 in theory if not in practice. Earlier barriers concerned themselves with who (freedmen and women) must not vote. Later, the concern was with whom targets must not vote for. Constituencies can be scientifically identified and located. A carefully placed billboard advertising the wrong election date was a crude device not to be recommended, but voting can be made nearly impossible for some neighborhoods, and strategic culling of voter rolls is hard to trace because legitimate culling also exists and provides camouflage.

The emergence of vote flipping makes the above shenanigans seem quaint; computer hacking cannot be matched for speed, efficiency, convenience, and obscurity. And, some claim, for ease. Technocrats are unanimous that most current computers are nearing their use-by dates. Many have been built and maintained by corporations with political connections. Global vulnerability has been widely suspected, spanning Europe and the Americas. The good news is that significant disruption would likely require the enormous resources of a nation-state. The bad news is that slight disruption might be enough. A bad actor need not select his own candidate; merely destroying trust would be devastating. Comfortingly, the above is clearly conspiracy theory.

*Barbara Brittain Greer, Public Policy Chair*

## EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS 2017

**February 25, 2017**  
**Spring Forest Middle School**



If you are looking for a way to make a difference and help the next generation of young women to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields, please consider joining the EYH Steering Committee. We are especially in need of volunteers to assist in organizing the food for the day of the event, coordinating the audio/visual, organizing student volunteers and facilitating in the classrooms. If you are interested, please contact Laura Fiorentino Cahill, EYH Committee Chair, at 832-755-3753 or by email at [Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com).

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is **October 13** starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Kroger on Westheimer near Gessner, 9919 Westheimer.

*Laura Cahill, EYH Chair*



**West Harris County Branch AAUW Expanding Your Horizons** is now set up as a SmileAmazon charity. With every qualified purchase you make at [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com), our Expanding Your Horizons will receive .05%. Prime members, no worries, you will continue to have the same benefits. All you need to do is logon to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and get started. Here is a site that will answer all your questions about the program:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/>.

Thanks for your support.

*Mary Kain, EYH Treasurer*

### **Expanding Your Horizons Conference (EYH) Presenter Recruitment**

Although it seems a long way off, recruitment is underway for presenters at the 2017 Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference for Middle School Girls on Saturday, February 25, 2017. **Speaker recommendations are needed.** We are looking for women currently active in STEM related fields that are willing to volunteer part of a Saturday, either AM or PM, to present a 50 minute workshop to the girls – given twice - that includes a hands-on activity. From comments submitted by students on evaluations, this is a very inspiring, motivational day.

Please send recommendations to:

*Diana Guarniere* : [guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com) or  
*Sharon Jorgeson* [sjorgeson@gmail.com](mailto:sjorgeson@gmail.com),  
*EYH Presenter Recruitment Coordinators*

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES are ONLINE**

To insure that you do not miss any communications from the Branch, please send updates or corrections to your contact information to 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.*

## October 2016 Activities And Interest Group News

**Fall is here.** Have you noticed the smell of the season that permeates the air? Halloween decorations fill the stores, and pumpkins are dotting the yards in our neighborhoods. Time to mark your October calendar with reminders for some interesting activities. Make your activity choices for October and contact the coordinators of the groups that interest you for more information about the events. Sign up to participate. Our AAUW group has something for everyone, or if we don't have something that interests you, gather a few friends, make a plan for your new group and call Jan Groves to discuss your idea and select a convenient time and place to meet.

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](mailto:jamgroves@aol.com).



### BOOK GROUPS

#### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman  
Hostess: Pam Doan, 9646 Meadowcroft Drive  
832.269.5264

#### Contemporary Readers

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

*The Train to Crystal City* by Jan Jarboe Russell  
Hostess: Sharon Pope, 4307 Firestone Drive  
713.721.8719

#### Enjoying History

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

*When Lions Roar* by Thomas Maier  
Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Ct.  
281.392.3190

#### Evening Contemporary Literature

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

*Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by K.Ryan Stafel  
Hostess: Pat Farnell, 12531 Piping Rock Drive  
281.496.7277

#### Mystery

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

*Finders Keepers* by Stephen King  
Hostess: Hazel Chahar, 5702 Ballina Canyon Lane  
713.849.4866

#### Outstanding Literature

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

*The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell  
Meeting to be held at The Egg and I  
Bunker Hill Location



### BRIDGE GROUPS – Various

#### **GREAT WAY TO MEET PEOPLE AND PRACTICE BRIDGE!**

**Every Wednesday (12:30-3:00p.m.),**  
Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr.  
Westheimer/Beltway 8 area

**You may play any Wednesday - or all - but first call  
Dorothy Clooney at 713-461-4769.**

Center sets up table and chairs. You need three others to fill a table, and it is your responsibility to bring cards and scoresheets. Each table is autonomous. There are various levels of player ability. If you wish to sub, call Dorothy and indicate beginner, intermediate, advanced skill level.

**We do not play duplicate.** If you wish to start a table, let her know and you will be put on the chart.

Check your directory for other opportunities, and different days for joining bridge groups.

For information on beginner and advanced classes contact Edith Dunlop, 713-677-0753.



### BYWAY BIRDERS

#### **Smith Point Birding Trip October 1**

On **October 1** ByWay Birders will travel to Smith Point to observe clouds of hawks as they gather and migrate by land to Mexico, Central America and South America.

We will leave at 8:00 a.m. from the parking lot behind Dillard's in Memorial City Mall. Bring a lunch, drinking water, hat, bug spray and binoculars. We will visit Smith Point first, then drive to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge where we will eat lunch and continue birding.

The contact person is Miriam Vyles, 713-461-2108, or [MVyles@att.net](mailto:MVyles@att.net). Please let Miriam know if you are meeting at Memorial City or meeting us at Smith Point.

#### Directions to Smith Point

Take 1-10 east to Texas Hwy 61 exit. Turn south (right) on Hwy 61. In a few miles it changes to FM 562. Continue south to Smith Point. At the intersection of FM 1985, continue right at the Y to Smith Point. At Smith Point, the hawk tower and parking lot is just past the intersection of 562 and Hawk Camp Road.



## A CINEMA EXPERIENCE, NEW OR OLD

**Are you a movie buff?** We have some exciting news for those of you who enjoy seeing a good movie with friends. The latest movie release? The golden oldies? You can share an enjoyable, interesting experience with your AAUW friends. Barb Hopkins is coordinating TWO movie groups this year.

### The New-

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 at 281.589.2513 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.

### The Old-

Barb Hopkins wants to show Golden Oldie movies (DVD) in her home on selected dates. Call Barb to add your name to the list. Dates, times, and movie titles will be sent to participants via email. Sounds like a very entertaining way to spend an evening. Just think popcorn, a beverage, and a memorable movie with friends!

## GARDEN DIVAS



The Divas will visit the **RCW Nursery** - 15809 Tomball Parkway, 77086 in Tomball on **October 4!**\* Come wander through 4 acres of plants and displays. Enjoy birds and relax in the most peaceful setting since the Garden of Eden. We can also learn about the Garden of Eatin! The nursery has a kit of everything you need to set up an 80 square foot edible garden.

After our tour, we will have **Tea for Two** (plus the rest of the divas!) at 8475-M Hwy 6 North, 77095. Lunch will be homemade with quality ingredients from family recipes. The quiche, chicken salads, soups and desserts cannot be beat!

Carpool arrangements will be from Memorial City Mall, (second floor near Dillard's) at **9:15 a.m.** We will leave the mall at 9:30. You are welcome to meet us at the nursery, but please RSVP ([smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com)) by **October 1** so we can let the nursery and Tea Room know the number of Divas that will attend.

*\*This was originally the September visit, but since we were not able to attend in September, it replaces the October selection.*

## GENEALOGY



### **The genealogy group will not meet in October.**

We have a new leader for this group, Marilyn Collins, who has much experience in genealogical research. She is willing to teach beginners, and she can also help those with some experience in genealogy.

If you are interested in searching for your roots, please contact Marilyn at 281.556.8989 or [marilync@hal-pc.org](mailto:marilync@hal-pc.org).

## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



### **The Girls' Night Out group will not meet in October.**

The next gathering for a delicious dining experience will be **Wednesday, November 9**. Details will be published in our next 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 add your name to our GNO mailing list, please contact Sheila Jaynes at [sjaynes50@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaynes50@yahoo.com).

## GOURMET DINING



### Classic Gourmet –

**The group will not meet in October.** The next dinner will be held on **Saturday, November 12, 2016**. Details will be published in the next newsletter. For further information, please contact Barbara Cook at 713.782.4398

### Nouveau Gourmet –

**The group will not meet in October.** The next dinner will be on **Saturday, November 5, 2016**. Please contact Diane Stratham at 281.497.6259 for details of the dinner plans.

## 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).

## GREAT DECISIONS



### Great Decisions – Evening Group

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 members' homes every two weeks from February through May. Due to increased interest, we are forming two evening groups this year.

Those north of I-10 near Beltway 8 will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings, and if you are South of I-10, the group will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Hazel Chahar at [chahars@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chahars@sbcglobal.net) or call 713-294-0784.

### Great Decisions – Afternoon Group

The afternoon group chaired by Martha Ewell, [marthaewell@att.net](mailto:marthaewell@att.net), will not begin regular meetings until February, 2017. If you are interested in being part of this discussion group, please contact Martha for additional information and perhaps join the group. Look for more details in the February issue of the newsletter.

## HIKING HONEYS



### Hiking Honeys Go Underground

On **Thursday, October 20**, the Hiking Honeys will explore DOWNTOWN'S "underground", a system of tunnels 20 feet below Houston's downtown streets and more than 6 miles long. Having started out years ago as a tunnel between two downtown movie theaters, today the tunnel includes restaurants and service retail and connects 95 city blocks. We will only explore about 3 miles of the tunnel, unless you want to walk all 95 blocks. Lunch will be at the Houston Club. **We need firm reservations for lunch by October 12.**

Our hike leader is Pat Thomsen. Let her know if you can join the group by contacting her at [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 713-466 7995 (home) or 713-302-8899 (cell).

We will meet at the parking lot of Dillard's at Memorial City Mall to carpool at 9 A.M. If you have any questions, contact Gail Rickey, Hiking Honeys coordinator, at [patrickey@aol.com](mailto:patrickey@aol.com).

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



### An interest group for travelers

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

Let's escape the relentless heat and head to the cool of the far north. On **Thursday, October 27, 2016**, at 6:30 P.M., we will vicariously explore **NORWAY** with its breathtaking mountains and fjords insightfully guided along by our wonderful TV tour guide, Rick Steves. Please bring something to share for a light potluck supper. New members are welcome. **RSVP your attendance to our hostess for the evening:**

Pat Farnell  
12531 Piping Rock Drive  
Houston 77077  
281-496-7277  
[farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com)



## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM

This group meets to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick's City Centre location, every other month. Our meeting time is from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, October 3**. 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.

## WISE...



### Women in Stem

### Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Our AAUW WISE group would like to invite you to Energy Day **Saturday October 15**. If interested, you can help at the teacher registration table for a couple of hours between 11 and 4. Energy Day Festival 2015 had more than 25,000 attendees. You will have time to see all sorts of STEM-focused exhibits and interactive demonstrations. It's a great way to get excited about STEM and the future of STEM industries, and share about our EYH conference.

See <http://energydayfestival.org/> for more info and to learn about their academic awards. Contact Karen North, [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com), if you would like to join in on the fun.



## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Galveston Trip to the Bryan Museum and *The Great Storm of 1900* Film**

The second trip of our Cultural Activities season will be on **Monday, October 24**, when we'll start our Galveston adventure with a visit to the Pier 21 Theater to watch a newly digitally restored, high definition version of this long-popular film about the deadliest natural disaster in US history. This documentary shares the personal stories of survivors and the recovery of Galveston following the great storm.

We will then lunch at the Olympia Grill at Pier 21 which was voted Galveston's best restaurant last year. We will order from the menu and pay with separate checks.

After lunch we will visit the new Bryan Museum located in the Gothic Revival building that once housed the Galveston Orphans Home, one of the most famous survivors of the Great Storm. The Museum, contents of which were assembled by J. P. Bryan, presents his collection of 70,000 items – the largest collection of historical artifacts, documents and artwork relating to the southwestern United States which spans 2,500 years of history. It also includes exhibits dedicated to the history of the building and the orphanage.

We will meet our Precinct 3 bus on the southeast corner of Memorial City Mall parking lot (corner of Barryknoll & Memorial City Way) and depart promptly at 9:00 a.m. We expect to return by 5:00 p.m. or sooner depending on traffic. Total cost for the day is \$15.00 excluding your lunch.

If you'd like to join us for this enlightening day, contact Jo Glidewell at 1-936-327-2085 or [wzglide@gmail.com](mailto:wzglide@gmail.com). Or just send your check in the amount of \$15.00, payable to Jo Glidewell, to her at 7210 Sonnet Glen Lane, Houston, TX 77095. **All checks must reach Jo by October 18** to confirm our reservations. Guests will be welcome if bus space permits.

Plus save **Tuesday, November 15**, for our visit to MFAH's Exclusive Exhibit – “Degas: A New Vision”. Watch the November newsletter for details. Or contact Carol Gee at 713-785-9303 or [cdgee777@yahoo.com](mailto:cdgee777@yahoo.com) now to reserve your seat on the bus.