



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXX NUMBER 11

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

West Harris County Board of Directors

President

Nancy Guilloud

713-785-6336

nanguilloud@aol.com

Program Vice President

Pat Thomsen

Membership Vice President

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Recording Secretary

Carol Trujillo

Finance Officer

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Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Lane

Newsletter Editor

Melba Armstrong

mkar@consolidated.net

October Newsletter deadline:

Sep 15, 2016

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Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org

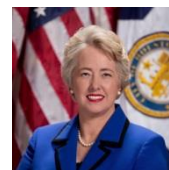
SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive

The Honorable Annise Parker spent many years in service to the people of Houston, America's 4th largest city, with six years as a City Council member, six years as City Controller, and six years as Mayor. She is one of only two women to have been elected mayor.

In addition to her duties as mayor, Parker was a member of President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, and chaired the U.S. Conference of Mayors Criminal and Social Justice Committee. She is a past Fellow of the Institute of Politics at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



In 2010 Time magazine named Mayor Parker one of the 100 most influential people in the world. She was named top US mayor and seventh ranked world mayor in 2014 by City Mayors Foundation.

Mayor Parker is currently a Fellow at the Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice University and is a member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Advisory Council.

Mayor Parker is a second generation native Houstonian. She graduated from Rice University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. In the private sector, Parker spent 20 years working in the oil and gas industry. She also co-owned Inklings, a lesbian/feminist bookstore for 10 years.

Parker and her wife Kathy Hubbard have been together for more than 25 years and are advocates for adoption, with three daughters and a son.

Pat Thomsen, Program Chair

SAVE THE DATE



HARVEST MOON BALL

The very best ball

*You C*A*N*N*O*T attend!*

Save the date: October 29, 2016

Proceeds go to the AAUW Fund of your choice.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back AAUW-WHC members! This new year for West Harris County Branch has some fantastic opportunities. Pat Thomsen has lined up a list of amazing speakers for our Branch meetings. The social activities are in full swing with new books, new dinners, new gardens, new birds, and much more. The cultural activities buses are loading up for Priscilla List's very unique and informative monthly trips. Let's all make a personal commitment to volunteer for our huge outreach program, Expanding Your Horizons. This special day helps 400 middle school girls realize they can be whatever they want to be. Start filling out your calendar and join us for a banner year!



Nancy Guilloud, WHC Branch President

2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Following is the proposed 2016-2017 budget for AAUW-WHC Branch. The budget is endorsed by WHC Branch Board of Directors. Please review and be prepared to vote on acceptance of this budget for the upcoming year at the Membership Meeting on September 20, 2016.

Please note: Budget does not include pass-through national and state dues collected and transfer of those funds.

Cash Balance as of 6/30/2016 **14,812.00**

REVENUE

Spring Luncheon	2,660.00
Local Dues	2,783.00
Holiday Party	1,600.00
Directory Ads	310.00
Directory Sales	15.00

TOTAL INCOME 8,247.00

Total Funds Available + Anticipated Revenue **23,059.00**

EXPENSES

Memorials	215.00
Spring Luncheon	2,800.00
Hospitality Supplies	110.00
Convention	1,000.00
Holiday Party Expense	2,783.00
Membership	1,000.00
Newsletter	290.00
Operating Supplies	75.00
Directory	1,000.00
Corresponding Secretary	100.00
Postage	220.00
Program	100.00
Miscellaneous	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 9,693.00

Positive Net Cash **13,366.00**

Barbara Cook, Financial Officer

PUBLIC POLICY

Those who choose to defy the Victorian taboo on discussing politics in polite society may get a nasty reminder of why the taboo evolved in the first place. It'll be particularly shocking to anyone who took high school civics seriously. The application of logic to marshaled evidence is likely to be regarded as proof of vulgarity or even neurosis. Certainly naïveté. Not that your interlocutors won't be voting. They almost certainly will, but if you disagree politically their attitude will seem as boneheadedly intractable to you as yours will to them. Welcome to the age of identity politics. Most voters anticipate affirming their membership in a community with far more enthusiasm than they count on having their one voice among millions decide the fate of the nation.



Not that this rather emotional approach to voting lacks adversaries. It is particularly lamented by partisans who beg perfectionists not to "throw their vote away" on a third-party candidate. These pragmatists are baffled by the indifference of purists to the actual outcome of refusing to choose "the lesser of two evils." The idealists are similarly shocked that they should be expected to vote for "someone they don't believe in." One can virtually shriek: "This is not a spiritual exercise," or "less privileged citizens than you will be devastated," or "you're irrational." It's no good. There is an implacable misfit between two people who are likely to be in complete agreement about the candidate of their dreams, and they feel more hostility than they would quarreling with utter adversaries. As in the Spanish Inquisition, apostates are more reviled than heretics. Both political parties eat their own.

The selection of a voting community is, of course, subconscious, and it may change over time. The criteria are interrelated: social class, religion, region, age, income, educational attainment or aspiration, ethnicity, race, sexual preference, gender, and, often, fear and resentment. I'd like to think generosity, duty, and gratitude sometimes play a part, too. Attitudes toward the past and the future are important. For AAUW members, especially this year, gender might be expected to play an important role, but it may be trumped (so to speak) by other factors, such as marital status. There is a well-documented, if partial, difference between probable voting behavior of married and unmarried women. An interplay between age and gender is also well-documented. Aging men become more conservative, aging women less so. Go figure.

You already knew all this from common-sense observation and perhaps by reading recently published neuroscience regarding the predominantly irrational nature of our decision making. It doesn't bother everyone, but perhaps it should. Our democracy was invented under a very different, eighteenth-century view of mankind. After a mere two centuries, its survival is still up for grabs. Fretful types trying to argue politics at the Thanksgiving table may be more valuable than is obvious.

Barbara Brittain Greer, Public Policy Chair

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 2017

February 25, 2017

Spring Forest Middle School



Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics™

EYH 2017 is off to a great start! If you are looking for a great opportunity to volunteer and to help the next generation of young women to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields, please consider joining the EYH Steering Committee. We are currently planning for EYH 2017 - the 25th anniversary of AAUW West Harris County branch's EYH. We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs, including on the day of the event, to make this a great event for middle school girls. The event is a major outreach project for our branch and we would love for you to be a part of this special day. If you are interested, please contact Laura Fiorentino Cahill, EYH Committee Chair, at 832-755-3753 or by email at Laura.Cahill1960@yahoo.com. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is Sept. 8 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lilian Care, 1606 Fall Valley Drive, Houston, Texas 77077.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

The Financial Review Committee met on Thursday, July 27, 2016 to check the financial records of the AAUW Branch, EYH, AAUW Funds and Baker Telfer Scholarship. These records were corrected if necessary and are now in good order.

Carol Telfer, Chair

Committee Members; Pat Dach, Margaret Carlson, Barbara Cook, Mary Kain, Linda Marlin, Anne Amador, and Nancy Guilloud.

September 2016 Activities And Interest Group News

The Texas heat is still with us, but fall is on the way. WHC - AAUW is beginning a new year of interesting, exciting activities. With so many choices, you will certainly be able to find one or two that will encourage you to participate this year.

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? Well, Barb Hopkins and friends have revived the Movie Group this year. 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.

In addition, Barb Hopkins wants to show Golden Oldie movies in her home on some Friday evenings. Call Barb to add your name to the list. Dates and movie titles will be sent to participants via email. Sounds like a very entertaining way to spend a Friday evening. Just think, popcorn, a coke, and a memorable movie.

Please examine your choices for September and contact the coordinators of the groups that interest you for more information about the events.

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, September 7, 1:30 p.m.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Hostess: Margaret Wittenmyer, 12507 Queensbury Lane
713.468.4970

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, September 7, 1:00 p.m.

Life In a Jar by Jack Mayer

Hostess: Patty Cordrey, 12800 Briar Forest #1
281.759.4179

Enjoying History

Monday, September 12, 1:30 p.m.

The Years of Lyndon Johnson, Vol. 1: The Path to Power
By Robert Caro

Hostess: Diana Guarniere, 13814 Kimberley Lane
281.493.2997

Evening Contemporary Literature**Monday, September 12*, 7:30 p.m.***The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and The Golden Age of Journalism*

by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Hostess: Dawn Katz, 15434 Rio Plaza Drive

281.568.5072

* Date change due to holiday

Mystery**Tuesday, September 20, 1:30 p.m.***Leaving Berlin* by Joseph Canon

Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Court, Katy

281.392.3190

Outstanding Literature**Tuesday, September 13, 9:30 a.m.***Beach Music* by Pat Conroy

Hostess: Kay Cleveland, 830 Myrtle Lane

713.465.9577

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various

If you are interested in playing bridge, our WHC AAUW groups have a place for you. Need more information about existing groups? Interested in starting a new group? Want to take beginner or refresher classes?

Call Edith Dunlop, 713.677.0753, who can provide the answers you need. If you are interested in subbing for a particular group, call the coordinator listed below to be added to the sub list.

Any or Every Wednesday (12:30 p.m. - Tracy Gee Center), Dorothy Clooney, 713.461.4769

1st Thursday (7:00 p.m.), Marcia Lindsay, 713.828.8267

3rd Monday (10:00 a.m.), Melba Armstrong, 281.392.3190

3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.), Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299

2nd & 4th Thursdays (1:00 p.m.), Betty Shropshire, 281-496-6457

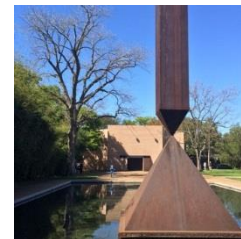
BYWAY BIRDERS

On **September 17**, ByWay Birders will visit the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory in Lake Jackson. We will participate in the Humming Bird Extravaganza. Last year we got to help band humming birds. We will also check out the birds on Quintana Island. For more information contact Peg McNealy at 281-679-7299.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES****“The Menil Collection” – Chapel, Museum & Bistro**

Our spectacular 2016-17 Cultural Activities season kicks off on **Wednesday, September 28**, with a return visit to The Menil where we'll experience the newly-acquired folk art collection – “As Essential as Dreams”- donated by Houstonian Stephanie Smirther just prior to her recent passing. This art was created by self-taught artists, and includes fifty pieces that cover the gamut of mediums and styles, from calligraphy to woodworking to painting, and to just plain innovation and fun.

But first we'll start our multi-faceted experience with a visit to the Rothko Chapel with a brief explanation of the meditative atmosphere among the Rothko paintings. We'll then proceed to the Phillip-Johnson-designed Museum where, we'll experience its extensive collection of contemporary art as well as ethnic pieces, that include the previously mentioned Smirther collection, plus “Picasso: The Line” and various other permanent collections of African and Pacific art. We'll conclude our Menil visit with lunch at the highly-touted Bistro Menil where we'll order from the menu and pay with separate checks.



As usual, we'll travel on a Precinct bus which we'll meet in our usual spot on the southeast corner of the Memorial City Mall parking lot (corner of Barryknoll & Memorial City Way). Departure will be promptly at 10:00 a.m. We expect to be back at Memorial City by about 2:30 p.m. As you board the bus, we'll collect a \$5 cash donation which will include lunch for our driver and donations for the chapel and museum.

If you'd like to join us for this enlightening day, contact our leader, Cindy Hickok, at cynthiahickok@sbcglobal.net or 281.493.2525 right away as this promises to be a very popular event. Guests will be welcome if space permits. But remember, county rules require that if you go on the bus, you must also return on it, so don't make alternative arrangements for returning to the parking lot.

Plus, save **Monday, October 24** for our trip to Galveston to experience the new Bryan Texas History Museum and see *The Great Storm* film. Watch the October newsletter for details. Or, contact Jo Glidewell at WCGlide@gmail.com or 1.936.327.2085 now to guarantee your seat on the bus.

GARDEN DIVAS



The Divas will visit Three Sisters Nursery on **October 4**. Check the October newsletter for more detailed information on this excursion. Future outings will be listed in the directory. If you would like more information on the Garden Divas, contact Susan Boone at samboone@gmail.com.

GENEALOGY



We have a new leader for this group, Marilyn Collins. If you are interested in researching your family history, Marilyn is very experienced in researching and is willing to teach beginners the techniques of researching. If you are interested in searching for your roots, please contact Marilyn at 281.556.8989 or marilync@hal-pc.org.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The Girls' Night Out Group will meet for dinner at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 14** at Bistro Le Cep, located at 11112 Westheimer, Houston 77042, (713) 783-3985. The restaurant is at the intersection of Westheimer and Wilcrest on the north side of Westheimer. This restaurant is an attractive and popular French restaurant. They are reserving their back room for us.

Please join us for what will definitely be a pleasant and enjoyable evening. RSVP to Sheila Jaynes at 281-392-3134 or at 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 add your name to our GNO mailing list, please contact Sheila Jaynes.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet – Please join us **Saturday, September 10, 2016** at 7 p.m. for our first dinner in this year's series – Celebrating with Celebrity Chefs. We'll be celebrating National Apple Month with recipes from America's Test Kitchen. If you have questions please contact the coordinators – Tina Simpson 281-558-1031 or Barbara Cook 713-782-4398.

Nouveau Gourmet – The first meeting of the Nouveau Group will be **Saturday, September 3, 2016**. Please contact Diane Statham at 281.497.6259 for details of the dinner plans.

GREAT DECISIONS



This group that focuses on current global issues that affect the United States will not begin meetings until later in the year. Both the afternoon group chaired by Martha Ewell, marthaewell@att.net, and the evening group chaired by Hazel Chahar, chahars@sbcglobal.net, will not begin regular meetings until February, 2017. If you are interested in being part of this discussion group, please contact either of the chairs for more information.

HIKING HONEYS



The Hiking Honeys will hit the trail **Thursday, September 15**, to enjoy a 2.3 mile lollipop nature trail at Keith Weiss Park at 12030 Aldine Westfield Road near Humble. Melba Armstrong will coordinate this hike on a trail that is rated easy with little up and down. The trail takes advantage of both forest and ponds with a curving boardwalk with observation points and benches across the main pond. We will meet in the Dillard's parking lot in Memorial City to carpool to the park. Departure time is 9:00 a.m. Plan on bringing a sack lunch to eat in the park as restaurants are few and far between in the area. If you would like to go, contact Melba at mkar@consolidated.net or 281-392-3190.

We'd like to have you join our group and you can do so by getting in touch with the Hiking Honeys coordinator Gail Rickey at patrickey@aol.com or 281-440-0353.

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.



VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



An interest group for travelers

Diana Guarniere, Coordinator guarniered@gmail.com

On **Thursday evening, September 22, 2016 – 6:30 PM**, join us for a casual evening of food, conversation and travel inspiration at the lovely new home of our hostess for the evening. We will vicariously explore SPAIN -the land of the “running bulls”, gain travel insights from Rick Steeves on *Granada, Cordoba, & Costa del Sol*, as well as, *Northern Spain & The Camino De Santiago*. For a special treat to kick off our year, we will share in a terrific potluck supper- a GROUP PAELLA!!! Ole! RSVP your attendance to our hostess for the evening and for possible contribution ideas.

Hostess: Carolyn Morris

11159 Riverview Way, Houston, 77042
Morriscs@aol.com 713-560-1889



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 PM to 7:00 PM 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@aol.com or 281-463-8842 or Jane Cooper at xicooper@aol.com or 281-531-8839.



WISE...

For information about the activities of this group during the coming months, please contact Karen North, knorth@me.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.

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.

Next WHC Branch Board Meeting September 12, 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.