



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXI NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

## West Harris County Board of Directors

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Corresponding Secretary

**Joanne Lane**

Newsletter Editor

**Melba Armstrong**

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

January Newsletter deadline:

**December 12, 2016**

## Inside This Newsletter:

- AAUW Funds Corner
- EYH
- Public Policy
- Election of WHC Officers
- Hour of Code
- AAUW Rice Affiliate
- Activities
- Directory Updates

### **Stay Informed**

Branch website:

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

National website:

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



**WHAT:** The AAUW-WHC Holiday Party

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Yao Restaurant and Bar, 9755 Westheimer Road



Your check for the Holiday Party is due November 28!

Please mail your check, \$30 per person

to Barbara Cook,

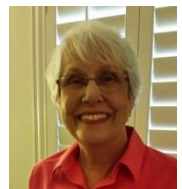
214 Big Hollow Lane,

Houston, TX 77042.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

December is such a special month. It is a time for all of us to be with friends and family and those that bring us joy. I send my very best wishes to all of our members for a time of peace and happiness. Thank you for being so special. Hope to see you at the Holiday Party on December 4!



*Nancy Guilloud, WHC Branch President*





## FUNDS CORNER



Tis' the Season!!!

There are many ways to gather funds to support our AAUW mission and tapping into corporate 'pockets' is one. Here's some updated information for easy, painless fund raising.

Participate in the Randall's and Kroger's community outreach programs. Log on to each grocers' web site or stop by their Courtesy Booth to link our AAUW-WHC number listed below to your respective card(s).

**Randall's Good Neighbors number: 1427**

<http://www.randalls.com/ShopStores/Good-Neighbor.page> Randall's is a one-time only card enrollment. **(Last Quarter's check: \$55.55)**

**Kroger Community Rewards number: 16748**

<https://www.kroger.com/> Kroger requires you to enroll your card each year.

**SmileAmazon: 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%. All you need to do is logon to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and get started. **FYI...we just received our first Smile donation of \$5.52. How easy is that!!**

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

### WHC Branch Board Meeting

There will not be a branch board meeting in December.

To insure 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).

## EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS 2017

**February 25, 2017**

**Spring Forest Middle School**



EYH 2017 is just around the corner. Come join us in celebrating the branch's 25<sup>th</sup> EYH anniversary and help the next generation of young women to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields. Now, more than ever, young girls need our support! The Steering Committee is looking for volunteers, especially those who can assist in the classrooms on the date of the event (facilitators), assist with stuffing folders, organizing the food for the event and coordinating the audio/visual. 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). You can also contact EYH co-chair Lilian Care at [tigermoon1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tigermoon1@sbcglobal.net). The following timeline lists anticipated EYH deadlines. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is December 8 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Kroger on Westheimer near Gessner, 9919 Westheimer.

### TIMELINE:

10/01	Finalize Adult Presenters (completed)
10/30	Finalize Brochure
12/01	Open Registration
01/01	Presenters Mailing List Complete
01/20	Campus Walk Through and Facilitator Training, 3:45 p.m. (Mary Peterson & Jane Wood)
01/21	Promote EYH and Seek Volunteers at WHC Branch Meeting
01/31	Presenters' Dinner (Tentative Date)
02/01	Close Registration
02/01	Finalize Printed Materials for Folders
02/01	Finalize Maps of Schools and Parking Facilities; Distribute Parking Map to Teachers
02/13	Folder Stuffing, 9:30 to Noon (Arlene Baker)
02/25	EYH Conference (8:00 am – 3:15 pm)

*Laura Cahill, EYH Chairman*

## PUBLIC POLICY

The election results were a disaster for the polling industry and about half of the electorate. The latter has explained their humiliating defeat by analyzing the other half. Its dominance has been attributed to overlapping misogyny, racism, homophobia, atavism, isolationism, fanaticism, economic desperation, destructive nihilism, ignorance, stupidity, and rural isolation. A newer, trendier explanation is the insulting and unfair nature of the analysis above from a complacent clique no longer the party of FDR. Scholars describe a self-serving Democratic professional elite much like the Republican business elite with similar fiscal and regulatory policies supported by the same investor elite. The parties are said to differ only in their contrasting social views, which is how they woo their differing voters. This should be reflected in their campaign promises.

Our new president made too many to be fully listed here, but here are some of the most memorable and oft-repeated ones: a Mexican-financed wall; deportation of illegal immigrants; prohibition of Muslim immigration; a data base of Muslims already here; bombing ISIS; confiscation of ISIS oil; tariffs on goods made in China and Mexico; the return of manufacturing jobs; replacement of Obamacare by a market-based alternative; renegotiation of the Iran deal; tax cuts; reduction or elimination of the EPA; rebuilding of infrastructure for one-third current costs; salvation of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and their current benefits; defunding of Planned Parenthood; allowing Russia to deal with ISIS in Syria; guaranteeing Iowa's first primary status; etc.

Additional clues to the nature of the president's surprisingly large constituency may be found in the exit polls by those who have not entirely lost confidence in them. Here are some condensed highlights. Voter turnout was at a twenty-year low, with the loss coming from the Democratic camp. More whites, and a larger percentage of whites, turned out for Obama than for Clinton. The only white cohort predominantly for Clinton was college-educated women. Hispanic and black women went for Clinton, but less than they had for Obama. The mean income of Trump voters was higher than that of Clinton voters. Third party nominees tipped the election in key states.

Untangle and analyze the above if you can.

*Barbara Brittain Greer, Public Policy Chair*



## HELP KEEP AAUW-WHC BRANCH GOING STRONG!

Now that the 2016 Presidential election is over, it's time to start thinking about our upcoming AAUW-WHC Branch 2017 elections. This is your opportunity to give some of your time and expertise to keep our branch strong and growing. We need membership input for the following officers to be chosen at our March, 2017 General Membership meeting. Volunteer yourself for a position or put forth the name of a member that you feel would do a good job for one of these positions:

- **President-elect:** a one year term followed by a one year term as Branch President
- **VP for Programs:** a two-year term
- **Finance Officer:** a two-year term
- **VP for AAUW Funds:** a two-year term
- **Corresponding Secretary:** a two-year term

The Board of Directors is forming a Nominations Committee which will begin its search in January. If you are interested in an office, know someone you think would be a good member of our leadership team, or just want more information about the available positions contact Mary Andersen at [mande7707@hotmail.com](mailto:mande7707@hotmail.com).

*Mary Andersen, Nominating Committee Chair*

## The largest learning event in history

During Computer Science Education Week  
December 5-11, 2016

HOURL  
OF  
CODE

AAUW-WHC Branch is hosting an 'Hour of Code', **Thursday, December 8**, beginning at 5:30. The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. Check out the tutorials and activities at <https://code.org/learn>. This grassroots campaign is supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide.

We will host this 'Hour' prior to the monthly EYH board meeting. *Feel free to stay and find out more about EYH if you have not been active in this program.* The location is Kroger Community Room, 9919 Westheimer at Gessner. The Hour of Code, organized by the nonprofit Code.org and over 100 others, is a global movement that believes the students of today are ready to learn critical skills for 21st century success. Please join us and bring a laptop or iPad if you can. You will be making history!

*Susan Boone & Karen North - Code Buddies*

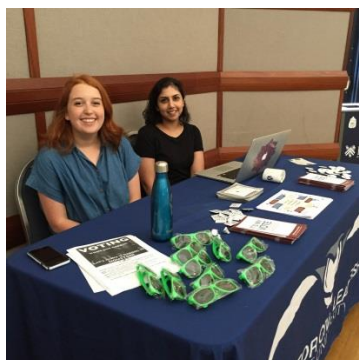
## AAUW RICE UNIVERSITY AFFILIATE

Rice's new chapter of AAUW has gotten off to a running start, with our Voter Deputization Training in August, where we partnered with Rice's Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) to train 50 members of the Rice community to register others to vote. Many of these new voter deputies went on to help with our National Voter Registration Day drive, where we registered 50 Rice students to vote. Since then we have partnered with the CCL and Neighborhood Centers to canvass in low voting communities to get out the vote.

We were excited to partner with the Rice Women's Resource Center to present a panel on Women in Politics. This panel featured local former Mayor Annise Parker, Mayor Pro Tempore Ellen Cohen, Dr. Margo Stoglin, the Texas State Director of IGNITE National, and Professor Melissa Marschall of Rice University. We also be co-hosted an Election Night Watch party with the CCL, Rice Democrats, the Political Science Department, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Baker Institute Student Forum.

This year's election has been an exciting way to start off Rice AAUW's inaugural year, as we continue to further AAUW's mission to advance "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We welcome any support from the West Harris County branch members. We look forward to increasing the relationship between our two branches and hope to strengthen the impact of our organization as a result.

*Chloe Wilson, Treasurer, Rice AAUW*



## DECEMBER 2016 Activities And Interest Group News

**Happy Holidays to All**



### BOOK GROUPS

#### Afternoon Contemporary Literature **Wednesday, December 7, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester  
Hostess: Linda White, 315 Paul Revere  
712.467.1444

#### Contemporary Readers

##### **Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 p.m.**

*Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson  
Christmas Luncheon at Brios, City Centre

#### Enjoying History

##### **Monday, December 12, 1:30 p.m.**

*A Chain of Thunder* by Jeff Shaara  
Hostess: Mary Anderson, 5426 Wigton Drive  
713.503.8784

#### Evening Contemporary Literature

##### **Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.**

*Defending Jacob* by W. Landay  
Hostess: Maureen Erney, 242 Stoney Creek Drive  
713.465.4149

#### Mystery

##### **Tuesday, December 13, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag*  
by Alan Bradley  
Hostess: Pam Doan, 9646 Meadowcroft Drive  
832.269.5264

#### Outstanding Literature

##### **Tuesday, December 13, 9:30 a.m.**

*Dancing to the Precipice* by Caroline Moorehead  
Hostess: Betty Shropshire, 15703 Whitewater Lane  
281.496.6457



## **BRIDGE GROUPS – Various**



### **SIGN UP FOR BEGINNING, REFRESHER BRIDGE CLASSES**

Classes for beginning, refresher players **start Jan. 9** at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Sage and Woodway. Fee for each 4-class course is \$80.00. For information/reservations contact Edith Dunlop – [edunlop527@aol.com](mailto:edunlop527@aol.com) or [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net), 713-977-3360, c -713-301-0624.

#### **Mondays - Jan. 9, 23, 30, Feb. 6**

**10:00 - 12:00 a.m. - Beginning Bridge Practice Class** - If you have taken a beginning class or played years ago but need a thorough review, this practice class is for you. You will learn requirements for modernizing your bidding, responses, counting points, overcalls, takeout doubles, etc. You will play 8 hands in each session reviewing opening bids and rebids as well as responder bids and rebids.

#### **Tuesdays - Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31**

**10:00 - 12:00 a.m. - Play of the Hand** - Class focuses on play techniques including counting losers, winners, promotion, long-suit development, finesses, trump management, managing entries and more.

#### **Tuesdays - Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31**

**1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Defense** - This class will teach you the fundamental defensive techniques including opening leads and signals.

**Note:** The Beginning Bridge Practice Classes will be repeated in February.



## **BYWAY BIRDERS**

**Birding Bear Creek Park and Katy Prairie** At 8:30 a.m., **December 3**, ByWay Birders will meet in the parking lot of the Bear Creek Community Center. It is located at 3055 Bear Creek Drive. If you are coming from Hwy 6, turn right on Clay Road and it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> light just past the golf course. If you are coming from Eldridge, make a left onto Clay Road and it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> light after Eldridge.

There should be chickadees, blue birds, pine warblers, cardinals and wood peckers. We will plan on lunch at the Mexican restaurant near Clay Rd and Hwy 6. Be sure to bring mosquito spray. Please contact Diane Statham, 281-497-6259 or [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) for additional information. Also, if you are running late or get lost, please call Pat Dach, 281-701-5846. If you want to carpool from Memorial City, you will have to contact people on your own and work out the arrangement.

## **A CINEMA EXPERIENCE**



For all of you who enjoy a good movie, Barb and John Hopkins are coordinating a movie group this year. Please contact Barb at [hopkins@hal-pc.org](mailto:hopkins@hal-pc.org) or 281.589.2513 to join the group of movie lovers.

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 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.

## **GARDEN DIVAS**



The Garden Divas are celebrating the holidays with a pot-luck brunch and gift exchange on **Tuesday, December 6**. Loretta Coussirat has graciously offered to host this event in her home at 350 Wycliffe Drive at 10:30 a.m. Please bring something to share for brunch. We will celebrate afterwards with a 'garden gift exchange' (please do not wrap and try to keep item under \$10). I am looking forward to sharing our gardening adventures for the year as well as having something special from a special friend for next year's garden! A more detailed email will be sent to those on the 'Diva' list. Please email [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com) if you do not get the monthly emails and want to be included.

## **GENEALOGY**



Marilyn Collins, an experienced genealogy researcher, is the new coordinator who is reorganizing the Genealogy group this year. If you are interested in researching your family history, she will guide you in finding your ancestors using various techniques and resources. Please contact Marilyn at 281.556.8989 or [marilync@hal-pc.org](mailto:marilync@hal-pc.org) for information about the meeting day, time, and place.

## **GIRLS' NIGHT OUT**



**The Girls' Night Out Group will not meet in December.** Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, January 11**. Details will be published in our next newsletter.

All members are invited to attend our Girls' Night Out dinners scheduled for every other month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We have discovered that these dinners are a good way to introduce prospective members to AAUW. Please feel free to bring a guest with you to one of our gatherings. 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

**Classic Gourmet does not meet in December.** Please join us **Saturday, January 14, 2017**, at 7:00 p.m. for our Third dinner in this year's series – Celebratory Dinners with Star Chefs. Our January dinner is an Asian New Year celebration featuring recipes from Martin Yan. If you have questions, contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713-782-4398 or Tina Simpson 281-558-1031.

### Nouveau Gourmet

**This dining group does not meet in December.**

The next meeting will be on **Saturday, January 7, 2017**. For more information, please contact coordinator Diane Statham at 281.497.6259 or watch for details in the January newsletter.

## 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 member's homes every 2 weeks from February through May. Due to increased interest, we are forming 2 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.

## 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).

## HIKING HONEYS



Hiking Honeys go to the Edith Moore Sanctuary on **Thursday, December 15**. An urban sanctuary of nature, especially for birds, this 17.5 acre site spreads along Rummel Creek. Hike leader Susan Dunten is arranging for us to have a nature guide from the sanctuary. Bring binoculars if you wish.

Since the sanctuary is next door to Memorial Drive United Methodist Church at 12955 Memorial Drive where AAUW holds new member coffees in August, many AAUW members are familiar with the area. Our hiking group will meet in the west parking lot of the church where an entrance to the nature sanctuary is located. Meeting time is 9:30 AM. After our time at the sanctuary, we will go to lunch at a nearby restaurant

Contact hike leader Susan Dunten at [sdunten@aol.com](mailto:sdunten@aol.com) or 281-497-9150 if you wish to participate.

Let Gail Rickey, coordinator for Hiking Honeys, know if you plan to participate in this fun morning in nature. Contact her at [patrickey@aol.com](mailto:patrickey@aol.com) or 281-440-0353.

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



### **An interest group for travelers**

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

The Vicarious Voyagers will not meet again until **Thursday, January 26, 2017**, when they will explore traveling in Sweden. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dana Cutts, [dpcutts@gmail.com](mailto:dpcutts@gmail.com), 713.785.5306

## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



This group meets to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation at McCormick & Schmick's City Centre location. 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, December 5**. 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 will be building code buddies for the "White House CS for All" initiative and "Computer Science Education Week" on **Dec. 5-11**. Planning starts now. If you would like to be a part, please contact Karen North. We will be getting a proclamation from the mayor for the third year for our support.

See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/building-president-s-call-action-expand-computer-science-education-k-12-schools> for more information.

And see <http://knorth.edublogs.org/2015/12/08/hour-of-code/> for what we did last year and a link to sign up in SBISD as a volunteer.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES****Houston Chamber Choir Concert at Villa de Matel**

As this newsletter's deadline approaches, all of the pre-purchased tickets for our planned visit to the Houston Chamber Choir's Concert at Villa de Matel on **Saturday afternoon, December 10**, have been claimed. However, since we frequently have last minute cancellations, if you had hoped to join us for this always popular holiday event, all is not lost. Contact Barbara Butler now at 713-305-0570 or [barbarabutler1959@att.net](mailto:barbarabutler1959@att.net) to be added to the wait list which will be used in order received to fill in any last minute places that become available.

**"Staying Alive" – 911 Call Center & Life Flight Tours**

We'll be kicking off the New Year with tours of these two very important lifesaving entities and hope you'll join us on **Tuesday, January 17**. We'll start at the Harris County 911 Call Center where we'll be shown the complete facility and learn all about how it works. Following lunch, we'll go to the Medical Center to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hermann Pavilion where the helicopters are located and learn just how our world-famous Life Flight service operates.

Between these fascinating stops, our lunch will be at Baba Yega Café where you can select whatever you want from their extensive menu.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (continued):**

Our Precinct 3 bus will be ready for boarding at the usual spot in the Memorial City Mall parking lot (Southeast corner at Barryknoll & Memorial City Way). Departure will be promptly at 9:30 a.m. We expect to return by 2:30 p.m.

If you'd like to be with us for what promises to be a very unusual, but important adventure, contact Nancy Ennis at 713-467-3698 or [nrennis@gmail.com](mailto:nrennis@gmail.com).

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**DIRECTORY UPDATES are  
ONLINE**