



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXII NUMBER 6

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

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anamador@earthlink.net

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March Newsletter Deadline:

February 15, 2018

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org

26TH EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS CONFERENCE 2018



Saturday, February 24, 2018, 8:00 AM – 3:15 PM

**Spring Forest Middle School
14240 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079**

The mission of AAUW is:

**"Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and research."**

AAUW West Harris County Branch has for the last 25 years organized and presented Expanding Your Horizons, a one-day conference for middle school girls to inspire them in the pursuit of a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) fields. EYH has been this branch's primary project in advancing the mission of AAUW.

There are still openings for EYH volunteers; you are encouraged to sign up!!

We also need to train the next Registrar, currently being coordinated by Hazel Chahar. This is the job description for the registrar:

Expanding Your Horizons Registrar:

The Registrar works in conjunction with the Treasurer to take the submitted registration forms and enter them into a database where assignments are made for the conference sessions. You will work with both Microsoft Excel and Access to complete the process. Data entry assistance is possible at the front end, with helpers working from their homes on their own computers via the internet. Files are exported to Excel, cleaned, checked and then imported into an Access database that has been loaded with speaker names, room assignments and session numbers. Once all registrants are loaded into Access, a program assigns sessions to each student and adult based on their desired sessions – if possible. Some manual review and changes are needed. Once the data appears complete, badges are printed and school packets are compiled to be distributed at the conference.

Please contact Lilian Care if you are interested in helping in any way. We need you!

Lilian Care, 2018 EYH Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wholeheartedly encourage you to volunteer to be a facilitator at our Expanding Your Horizons Conference on **February 24!** Helping to expose 450 middle school girls to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is as important as it is rewarding, and our members' participation is crucial to making the event a success. Even after having volunteered at EYH for several years now, I still find the scale of the event impressive! My deepest thanks go to the many volunteers from WHC Branch who spend hours and hours of their time planning and executing the conference.

Facilitating involves being in a classroom with a presenter and students, making sure the session runs smoothly. Along with completing a short evaluation form about the presentation afterwards, that's pretty much it. The perks of the job are getting to learn along with the girls about a STEM topic from an expert in the field and getting to interact with wonderful, inquisitive adolescents. So, yes, you can do this. Please support our branch's major annual outreach project by signing up! Contact the EYH Facilitators Coordinator Jane Wood at jane.wood9@icloud.com, and let her know if you prefer helping in the morning or afternoon. Thanks in advance for offering your time to EYH!

Anne Amador, WHC Branch President

AAUW FUNDS CORNER

Thanks go to all those who donated to the Harvest Moon Ball this year!

The response to completing the Ann Richards Fellowship was especially generous, with WHC branch itself donating \$700 from the proceeds of last year's Style Show.

A total of \$4290 was collected with the breakout as follows:

Fund No.	Fund Name	Total
4110	AAUW Funds	\$ 215
4336	Educational Opportunities	\$ 50
4324	Ann Richards Fellowship	\$ 2300
4282	Lois List Fellowship	\$ 1325
9170	Eleanor Roosevelt	\$ 225
3999	Legal Advocacy	\$ 175

Hazel Chahar & Nancy Ennis, Funds VPs

State AAUW Convention Coming to West Houston

*The AAUW Texas Convention will be held at Embassy Suites (Katy Freeway at Kirkwood) on the weekend of **April 20 – 22, 2018**. The convention will begin Friday evening and close at noon Sunday. Joining AAUW West Harris County in hosting this event are neighboring branches North Harris County and Fort Bend County.*

Confirmed convention speakers include:

Julia Brown, AAUW President (national)

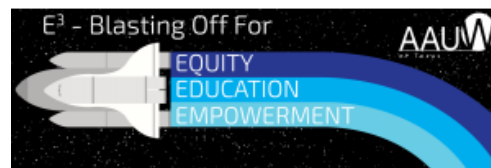
Lisa Falkenberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

Senfronia Thompson, Texas House of Representatives

In addition to the featured speakers, there will be workshops on a variety of topics of interest to AAUW members.

As a host branch, AAUW WHC will be greeting attendees and assisting with registration. The March newsletter will include the convention program and registration form.

Save the date and plan to participate in the 2018 AAUW Texas Convention.



ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS

Your help is needed for AAUW's Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) event on Saturday, February 24, 2018. EYH is the signature program for our West Harris County Branch and involves a day of presentations to middle school girls interested in pursuing a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) fields. Please consider volunteering as a classroom facilitator where you would be involved in assisting the presenter in such matters as helping them stay on schedule, distributing and retrieving evaluation forms, room arrangements, etc. It is easy work and the fun part is that you get to hear the presentations and witness the interaction between the presenters and the students. Your involvement makes for an interesting and fulfilling day. There will be training for newcomers on **Friday, January 26**, at 4:00 p.m. To sign up, please contact Jane Wood at jane.wood9@icloud.com or call 832.767.4146.

Sheila Jaynes, Membership VP

PUBLIC POLICY

Gerrymandering, Part 1: A Powerful Political Tool

Gerrymandering is a potent political tool commonly used by the Republican and Democratic Parties alike to create partisan advantage in the election process. With the 2018 elections fast approaching, it is important to understand the roles of *voter suppression* and *gerrymandering* in influencing the outcome of local, state and national elections. To begin the discussion I'll focus on the general background and consequences of gerrymandering by describing the history, the meaning, the implementation, and problems for democracy.

Gerrymandering has been in practice since 1812 when Governor Elbridge Gerry (pronounced like Gary) of Massachusetts's administration enacted a law redefining the state's new senatorial districts in such a manner as to favor disproportionately the Democratic-Republicans over the Federalists. The contours of one of the districts resembled a salamander, famously depicted in a [Boston Gazette cartoon](#) that inspired the new term Gerry-mander, now written "gerrymander" and pronounced with a soft "g" like "jerry." The two main strategies used are "cracking," diluting the voting power of a party within a district, and "packing," concentrating a group to reduce its voting power. Click [here](#) for is a very good Washington Post article that explains in detail the mechanics of gerrymandering.

In recent years the art and accuracy of manipulating district boundaries has been enhanced by computer-generated data from the census and election returns which can precisely detail the political and ethnic composition of congressional districts. After each ten-year census, the Congressional districts must be redrawn (reapportioned) when a state gains or loses districts. The federal government stipulates that districts must have nearly equal populations and must not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. In most states, the state legislature has primary control of the redistricting process, both for state legislative districts and for congressional districts. Thirty-seven state legislatures control their own district lines, and 42 legislatures have control over their congressional lines (seven states have only one Representative). ([Loyola Law School website](#)). Other methods include various types of boards or commissions such as an advisory commission, a backup commission, when no plan has successfully passed, a politician commission, and an independent commission, which limits the direct participation by elected or public officials.

In Texas, the State Legislature draws up the redistricting plan for both congressional and state legislative district boundaries. If the legislature fails to approve a plan, state law requires that a Backup Commission, the LRB, (Legislative Redistricting Board), comprised of state-wide officials, the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Attorney General, State Comptroller, and Commissioner of the General Land Office, draw the lines of the districts.

If you have been wondering why Congress is unresponsive to the voices of constituents, gerrymandering can provide some of the answers. According to the Washington Post, only 10% to 15% of the voting public approve of the job that Congress is doing; yet the very same politicians keep getting re-elected. Recent statistics from the 2016 elections discussed in a Washington Post article by Brian Klass (February 10, 2017) demonstrate the lack of incentive to listen to voters. The analysis of the election results for 2016 revealed the following:

"Only eight incumbents – eight out of a body of 435 representatives – were defeated at the polls.

In the House of Representatives, the average electoral margin of victory was 37.1%; the typical race ended with a Democrat or a Republican winning nearly 70% of the vote, while their challenger won just 30%.

Last year, only 17 seats out of 435 races were decided by a margin of 5 percent or less. Just 33 seats in total were decided by a margin of 10 percent or less. In other words, more than 9 out of 10 House races were landslides where the campaign was a foregone conclusion before ballots were even cast."

The disturbing conclusion is that in 2016, there were no truly competitive Congressional races in 42 of the 50 states.

Klass further adds that "this is not healthy for a system of government that, at its core, is defined by political competition [and compromise]."

When congressional districts are non-competitive, there is little incentive for legislators to compromise, collaborate or seek creative solutions to important issues. Instead, the public faces government gridlock, congressional bickering, increased polarization and hardening of political viewpoints, and my-way-or-the-highway attitudes. Often distorted voter patterns within a district lead to voter apathy because voters feel that their vote doesn't count. Most citizens would like to see government functioning properly and taking positive action on legislation in the public's best interest.

Next month I will present "**Gerrymandering, Part 2: What's Happening in Texas-A Closer Look.**" Please contact Martha Ewell at m.ewell@sbcglobal.net if you have any comments or suggestions about this or future articles.

Martha Ewell, Public Policy Chair

February 2018 Activities and Interest Group News

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, February 7, 1:30 p.m.

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

Hostess: Linda White, 315 Paul Revere
713.467.1444

Contemporary Readers

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

America's First Daughter

by Stephanie Dray & Laura Kamole

Hostess: Judy Hamelers, 1126 Ben Hur Drive
713.464.2132

Enjoying History

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

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

by Yuval Noah Harari

Hostess: Carol Telfer, 12503 Shepherd's Ridge Drive
281.497.2268

Monday Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m.

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance

Meeting Place: Los Tios Mexican Restaurant
14006 Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

Tuesday, February 20, 1:30 p.m.

The Deepest Water by Kate Wilhelm

Hostess: Hazel Chahar, 5702 Ballina Canyon Lane
713.849.4866

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.

Shakespearean Sonnets by William Shakespeare

Meeting Place: The Egg and I, Bunker Hill location.

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



Current Bridge Groups:

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

3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.), Peg McNealy, 281.-679.7299

3rd Monday (10:00 a.m.), Melba Armstrong, 281.392.-3190

2nd & 4th Thursdays (10:00 a.m.), Betty Shropshire,
281.496.6457

If you are interested in subbing for a particular group, please contact the group coordinator listed above.

February Bridge Courses At St. Martin's Episcopal

Tuesdays, February 6 to March 13, 2018

10:00 to 12:00 Beginning Bridge (6 week course \$120)

1:00 to 3:00 Competitive Bidding (6 week course \$120)

To enroll go to smartinsepiscopal.org and click on the magnifying glass upper right, type in "bridge" and scroll to the class you want.

Questions: jryan9620@sbcglobal.net, 713.301.0624.

BYWAY BIRDERS



Byway Birders will bird the Katy Prairie on **February 4, 2018**. The prairie is an amazing area for wintering waterfowl. Each year thousands of ducks and geese flock to the prairie from colder climates.

We will meet at the parking lot of the Bear Creek Community Center at 8:00. We will bird there and then look for ducks at Paul D. Rushing County Park. Then we will head out to Warren Lake to look for pelicans, snow geese, hawks, caracaras and sparrows. Bring water and snacks.

Lunch plans will be announced closer to the date depending on the weather. If you want to car pool from Memorial City please work that out by reply all. We can also car pool from Bear Creek. Please let Diane Statham know if you plan to go. distatham@msn.com, Home 281.497.-6259, Cell 713.826.5066.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

"House of Worship Exploration – Baha'i & Zoroaster"

On **Tuesday, February 6, 2018**, our Cultural Activities group will begin our planned exploration of Houston's "Houses of Worship" when we visit the local Baha'i and Zoroastrian Centers and learn all about the world's oldest and youngest religions.

In recognition of the fact that both of these religions started in Persia/Iran, our lunch will be at the Bijan Persian Grill.

As a note of interest, it is important to know that while these religions are persecuted in their native country, both are thriving in Houston. It is also interesting to be reminded that Houston proves its cosmopolitan reputation by having more world religions represented here than in any other American city.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES continued

Our Precinct 3 bus will leave our usual spot on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial Way, promptly at 10:00 a.m. We plan to be back about 3:00 p.m. To reserve your seat on the bus you'll want to contact our leader, Pat Farnell, quickly as the date for this fascinating trip is fast approaching. She can be reached at 832.867.2908 or farnellpat@gmail.com. This may be one of our most enlightening adventures ever, so we hope you'll be aboard.

Plus save Thursday, March 15, for our University of Saint Thomas and The Menil Campus Tour with our favorite guide, Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston. Watch the March newsletter for details. Or contact Martha Ewell at 713.782.2084 or marthaewell@att.net if you're ready to sign up right now.

GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas **February 13** outing will be all about herbs. We will have a change of pace and enjoy a lovely breakfast at the quaint little restaurant Tiny Boxwoods at 3614 West Alabama Street and experience a chef led talk in cooking with fresh herbs.

Tiny Boxwoods was a very personal project from day one. The owners had never built a restaurant before, but had a very strong opinion on what a restaurant was supposed to feel like. Their projects aim to bring to life a vision through architecture and design, then fill the space with a staff that takes pride in this vision and a food program that remains small and focused, always making their fare from scratch. Since opening, Tiny Boxwoods has been watched over and led by its chef and owner, Baron Duke.

The restaurant is set in a beautiful garden and nursery. We aim to fulfill their mission statement: "Make each and every experience a memorable one."



After our brunch, we will visit **Penzeys** in the Heights and get a guided introduction to the wonderful herbs offered in their store.

We will meet for carpooling in the South Lot off of Barryknoll in the Memorial City Mall. Please RSVP to Susan Boone smboone@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us on this trip. Hope to see you in February!

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



Girls' Night Out will not meet in February.

Our next dinner meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 14**. Details will be published in the March Newsletter.

Many thanks to Priscilla List (November) and Diane Statham (January) for hosting our GNO dinners. The attendees enjoyed interesting conversation and excellent cuisine.

We need a hostess for March 14 and May 9. If you will volunteer for either of these dates, please contact Janis Groves at 281.497.2295 or jamgroves@aol.com.

All members are invited to attend GNO dinners which are scheduled for every other month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to add your name to our GNO mailing list, please contact Janis Groves, coordinator of the Girls' Night Out Group.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet will not meet in February. Please join us in March, when our dinner will feature dishes from Veneto. For information please contact the coordinators - Barbara Cook 713.705.7832 or Tina Simpson 281.558.10311.

Nouveau Gourmet will not meet in February. The next dinner is scheduled for **March 3, 2018**.

GREAT DECISIONS



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

The 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoon group, chaired by Martha Ewell, meets from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The two discussion topics for February are "The Waning of Pax Americana?" and "Russia's Foreign Policy." The first meeting will be **February 1, 2018**, at the home of Martha Ewell. For further information, please contact Martha at 713.782.2084. **Membership in the Thursday afternoon group is closed for this spring.**

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening group, chaired by Willette Norman, meets from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM beginning **February 14, 2018**. The first meeting will be at the home of Willette Norman. The discussion topic will be "The Waning of Pax Americana." "Russia's Foreign Policy", the second discussion topic, will be on **February 28, 2018**. At this point, this Great Decisions group is closed for new members. For further information call Willette at 281.497.3626.

HIKING HONEYS



No hike is planned for February.

The group needs a new leader/coordinator.

If you are willing to volunteer for this duty for the remainder of our 2017-2018 year, please contact Jan Groves at 281.497.2295 or Karen North at 713.789.6482.

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES



Again this year, Barb and John Hopkins are coordinating a group of members who enjoy seeing a good movie with friends.

The schedule of movie events will be dictated by the release of "good" movies that will be shown at the Memorial City Cinema. If you are interested, contact Barb and John at BJHopkins238@gmail.com 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.



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

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

The Vicarious Voyagers will not meet in February. The next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, March 22, 2018**, at 10 a.m. Contact Diana if you would like to be included on the group's distribution list.



WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Our next meeting will be **Monday, February 5, 2018**, at McCormick & Schmick in City Centre. Please contact Marie Helmy at oolit3@aol.com or at 281.787.6396 for more information or to add your name to the contact list.

WISE...



Women in STEM, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Expanding WISE Horizons will be the focus in February. **Saturday, February 24** is a hands-on experience to meet Houston's STEM professionals, find "Hidden Figures" and motivate middle school girls to study STEM

Please join to help with:

- High School student volunteers from 8:30 – 10:00 or 11:00-12:30 – contact Brenda Moss
- Being a facilitator morning or afternoon – contact Jane Wood
- Being a Wrangler for the day – contact Debbie Campbell
- Being a research observer or to share ideas – contact Karen North.

Contact Karen North knorth@me.com to join the mailing list, or tweet #aauwwsf and see aauwwsf.edublogs.org.



Please note that some dates and times for meetings, activities, and events may have changed due to the effects of Harvey, the inclement weather days we have experienced recently and the current flu outbreak.

Be sure to check the newsletter to insure you have the right date, place and time for an anticipated event instead of relying solely on the directory or previously published schedules.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

**We welcome the following new WHC members.
Please update your directories with their information.**

Martin, Elizabeth C.

3518 Grennoch
Houston, TX 77025
Cell Phone: 713.542.0598
Email: elizamart349@gmail.com
Spouse: William
Birthday: 04/03
Our Lady of the Lake University, MBA, Business
University of Houston, BA, History/English
Note: Elizabeth has a temporary address:
535 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024

Mathur, Veena

6006 Isla Vista Court
Houston, TX 77041
Home Phone: 713.983.7750
Cell Phone: 601.842.8050
Email: veena_mathur@hotmail.com
Spouse: Chand
Birthday: 03/15
S.M.S. Medical College (India), DGO, Gynecology &
Obstetrics
Government Medical College (India), MBBS, Medicine

Sandlin, Kathryn W.

10902 Francois Blvd
Houston, Texas 77042
Home: 713.953.1389
Cell: 713.598.9408
Email: kathrynsandlin@gmail.com
Birthday: 10/20
University of Oklahoma, RN, Nursing

We also welcome returning WHC member:

Gillespie-Malone, Jennifer H. (Jenni)

12987 Trail Hollow Drive
Houston, TX 77079
Cell: 713.899.5330
Email: jennigillespie1010@gmail.com
Birthday: 10/10
UCLA, MA, Dance & Ethnology
University of Rochester, BA, History/Asian Studies



**We are happy to welcome a new WHC member
transferring in from AAUW Greensboro, NC:**

Ford, Dwedor W.

20219 Westfield Parkway Drive
Katy, TX 77449
Cell: 336.383.6126
Email: dwedorf@yahoo.com
Birthday: 10/30
Middle Tennessee State University, PhD, Human
Performance & MS, Health/PE/Rec/Safety
Tennessee State University, BS, Computer Science

**Finally, please update your directories with the
following:**

Tiberia, Diana

New Address:
22223 Coriander Drive
Katy, TX 77450

To insure you do not miss any
communications from the Branch, if you
have a change in your contact information,
please inform **Margaret Carlson** at
AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com.

Member News Notification

*Please notify **Jo Glidewell**, Corresponding
Secretary, about any member news that is important
to share with the membership and has been
authorized to share by the member involved.
Contact her at wcgilde@gmail.com.*

WHC Branch Board Meeting February 12, 2018

*The next branch board meeting will be at the
First Congregational Church, 10840 Beinhorn
Road at 5:30 p.m. All members are welcome.
Please RSVP your attendance to
anamador@earthlink.net.*