

# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXII NUMBER 7

### West Harris County Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor **Melba Armstrong** <u>mkar@consolidated.net</u> April Newsletter Deadline: **March 15, 2018** 

Stay Informed Branch website: www.aauw-whc.org

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

MARCH 2018

# MARCH ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7:00 PM

*Tracy Gee Community Center* 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston 77042

A Vietnamese-American Refugee's View of Immigration in the Era of Populism Steven Dieu



Mr. Dieu has held the position of Managing Assistant Harris County Attorney for ten years. He is cofounder of the Vietnamese Civic Center. At the age of sixteen he excaped Vietnam as a "boat person" with his siblings, arriving

in the United States in 1978. Presently, Mr. Dieu's office is involved with Child Protective Services.

Plan to attend the branch's annual meeting on March 20. It is an important meeting as we will be electing officers to fill open positions. The nominating committee will present a slate of officer candidates (see page 2) and nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting. A quorum of 20% of branch membership (50 members) is required to hold a vote.



# SPRING STYLE SHOW

Save the Date! The annual **Style Show** has been set for Sunday, May 6. Don't miss the fun! It will once again be held at Talbots in Town & Country from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. As usual it will benefit the AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund (4336). Tickets are \$15 and go on sale at the March Branch Meeting! <u>Checks should be made out to AAUW-WHC.</u> Tickets are also available from VP Funds Co-Chairmen: Hazel Chahar, 713.294.0784 or Nancy Ennis, 281.468.8564 ...and available at the door the night of the show.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My latest call-to-action from AAUW's Two-minute Activist was to contact Senator Cruz about opposing the nomination of the latest proposed candidate to lead the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, on the grounds that this man hadn't demonstrated a willingness or ability to actually enforce civil rights laws! The Office for Civil Rights is responsible for enforcing Title IX, and we've been shown time and time again the atrocities that have occurred from non-enforcement. I'm grateful that AAUW keeps me well-informed and up-to-date on national issues affecting women, and appreciative that Two-minute Activist makes it easy for my voice to be heard by my elected officials. If you want a guick and simple way to affect positive change for women, please sign-up for Two-minute Activist on the AAUW.org national website. AAUW is a non-partisan organization, and doesn't endorse candidates or parties, but works to ensure that all our elected officials espouse AAUW's mission of equity for women and girls. Together our voices ring out loud and strong!

Anne Amador, WHC Branch President

# NOMINEES FOR 2018 ELECTION

The 2018 nominating committee proudly presents the slate of West Harris County AAUW branch officer nominees as presented to the Board of Directors:

President Elect: Mary Peterson Vice President Membership: Jo Glidewell Funds Vice President: TBA Recording Secretary: Sara Dalton

These women are to be commended for their willingness to participate in the governance of our branch.

I want to thank the committee members for their participation: Laura Cahill, Jan Groves, Sheila Jaynes, and Linda Morgan. Election of officers will take place at the **March 20** membership meeting.

Melba Armstrong, Nominating Committee Chair



# State AAUW Convention Update

# **Convention Reminders**

March 23: Postmark deadline for "Early Bird" Registration

In support of the convention theme –  $E^3$  – Blasting Off for Equity, Education, Empowerment – send your personal responses (limit 25 words) to at least one of these questions

What does equity mean to me? What does education mean to me? What does empowerment mean to me?

to Brenda Moss, <u>AAUW.Brenda@windstream.net</u>. Include your name and West Harris County Branch.

Do you have any pictures of branch activities to spotlight West Harris County Branch? Branch pictures will be part of the table decorations for meals at the convention. Please forward pictures via jpg to <u>AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com</u>.



## State AAUW Convention Registration

A copy of the registration form for the convention is on page 8 of this newsletter. You may pay your registration fee by check mailed to Nancy Guilloud or you may pay using **PayPal**. Below are instructions for **PayPal**:

Login to your PayPal account. Click on the circle **Pay or Send Money** at the top of the page. Click on **Pay for Goods or Services**. Enter email: <u>nancyguilloud@aol.com</u>. Enter total amount of registration payment. Follow PayPal instructions to conclusion. Enter the Transaction # from your email PayPal receipt

onto the Registration Form.

# **PUBLIC POLICY**

## Gerrymandering, Part 2: What's Happening in Texas—A Closer Look

As we learned in Gerrymandering, Part 1: A Powerful Political *Tool*, the redrawing the lines of congressional districts, has become a science. The increasing amounts of election data collected from election results, party preferences, and demographics has allowed the Texas Legislature to realign district boundaries and the distribution of voters with pinpoint accuracy. In 2014, based on polls about the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, only 15% of voters expressed approval of the job Congress was doing. Despite this low approval rating, Congress had an incumbent reelection rate of 90%. (Houston Chronicle, May 6, 2015). The election results of 2014 and 2016 for the Texas congressional districts bear out this statistic. Of 36 Representatives in office in 2014, voters elected new Representatives in only two districts, and that result was because of two retirements from office. Among the Representatives elected in 2016, 2 were elected with over 90% of the vote; 7 with over 80%; 6 with over 70%; 11 with over 60%; and 9 with over 55%. There was only one competitive race out of 36. The 2016 elections resulted in a Texas delegation of 25 Republicans and 11 Democrats.

How have we arrived at such extreme gerrymandering in Texas? Following the 2002 elections, the Texas Legislature, which was trending Republican during the 90s, attained a Republican majority in both houses. Profiting from the Republican-led Legislature and the Republican governor, Rick Perry, Tom DeLay, then Majority House Whip, in October 2003, took four days leave of Congress and returned to Texas to engineer a new map/plan for Texas congressional districts. This bold, aggressive move, unprecedented during a mid-census year, achieved startling success. The new plan, orchestrated by DeLay, was even more favorable to the Republicans than the one drawn by the Courts only two years previously. In spite of a "preclearance" clause requiring approval of the plan by the Department of Justice, then under the Republican Bush administration, the reworked plans were approved. Practically overnight, metaphorically speaking, the Texas delegation switched from a seventeen to fifteen majority in favor of the Democrats to a twenty-one to eleven majority in favor of the Republicans, a clear-cut case of partisan gerrymandering.

Following the 2010 national census, Texas gained four more congressional seats requiring new district lines and maps. Although the number of seats in the state House (150) and Senate (31) has not changed, they, too, can be redrawn to reflect population growth and demographics. The maps drawn by the 2011 Texas legislature demonstrated how Republicans once again responded to demographic change by limiting the power of an increasingly diverse electorate. (*The Nation*, June 5, 2013). Between 2000 and 2010 the Texas population grew by 4.3 million; two-thirds were Hispanic and 11% were black. Even so the number of minority seats declined, from eleven to ten. Republicans picked up three of the four new seats. Silicon Valley Data Science, a data analysis company, reported that Texas Republicans gained two of these seats through gerrymandering. Using detailed population, demographic data, and voting preferences, they measured the compactness and "squiggliness" (think of the Salamander cartoon of 1812) of each district. Taken together these criteria paint a picture of gerrymandering. 'Through a strategy called "packing-andcracking," redistricting packs Democratic voters into a few districts and dilutes the rest, giving the Republican Party a comfortable advantage.' (Houston Chronicle) The Washington Post named District 35, which connects liberal parts of San Antonio and Austin one of the worst in the U.S. and District 33. one of the squiggliest, 98.6% squigglier than any others in the U.S. These strategies work well in states where large metropolitan centers are heavily populated with Democrats and the rural areas with Republicans as is the case in Texas. Since many minority voters are Democrats, one could make the case for "racial" gerrymandering as well as "partisan" gerrymandering.

What can be done to mitigate some of the excesses of gerrymandering to bring back more competitive and representative elections? In *Part 3, Gerrymandering: Looking Ahead*, there are several areas to keep in mind: the increasing importance of the primary process, ongoing court challenges based on racial discrimination and voter ID laws, Supreme Court cases addressing "partisan" gerrymandering, and practical solutions.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Martha Ewell by email at <u>m.ewell@sbcglobal.net</u>.

### Martha Ewell, Public Policy Chair



# March 2018 Activities and Interest Group News

# **BOOK GROUPS**



# Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. Britt Marie by Fredrick Backman Hostess: Marianne Cooley, 7810 Barberton, 713.774.6375

### **Contemporary Readers**

Wednesday, March 7, 1:00 p.m. Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly Hostess: Patty Cordrey, 12800 Briar Forest, #1 281.759.4179

### **Enjoying History**

Monday, March 12, 1:30 p.m. *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough Hostess: Diana Guarniere, 13814 Kimberley Lane 281.493.2997

## Monday Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, March 5, 5:00 p.m. If the Devil Had a Wife By Rebecca Nugent and Frank Mills Meeting Place: Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, 14006 Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

### **Mystery**

**Tuesday, March 20, 1:30 p.m.** *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves Hostess: Mary Edwards, 611 Timber Circle 281.920.4249

## **Outstanding Literature Group**

**Tuesday, March 13, 9:30 a.m.** *The Oregon Trail* by Francis Parkinson Meeting Place: The Egg and I, Bunker Hill location.

# **BRIDGE GROUPS – Various**

### Current Bridge Groups:

<sup>st</sup> **Thursday (7:00 p.m.),** Marcia Lindsey, 713.828.8267 <sup>rd</sup> **Thursday (10:30 a.m.),** Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299 <sup>rd</sup> **Monday (10:00 a.m.),** Melba Armstrong, 281.392. 3190 <sup>nd</sup> **&** 4<sup>th</sup> **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.

# BYWAY BIRDERS

On **March 3** ByWay Birders will visit Sheldon Lake Park. Sheldon Reservoir was constructed in 1942 by the federal government to provide water for war industries along the Houston Ship Channel.

Texas Parks and Wildlife acquired the reservoir in 1952 and designated it as the Sheldon Wildlife Management Area; it was opened in 1955. Sheldon Lake was designated a state park in 1984. The eastern half of the lake was drained in the 1950s for construction of the Houston West Canal. The canal brought drinking water to the city from Lake Houston. Agriculture returned to this area, with some land left fallow each year for wintering waterfowl and wildlife. Restoration of tall prairie grass began in 2003. You can expect to see waterfowl and sparrows.

We will meet at our usual place at Memorial City at 8:30 a.m. Please let Diana Tiberia know if you plan on joining us. <u>ditiberia@att.net</u> or <u>832.866.8411</u>.

On **April 6-8**, ByWay Birders will visit Llano State Park. We will be staying at the Best Western for \$80.95. This is excellent birding for beginners because the birds come to feeding stations and you really get a good look. This is different than the directory date. Please contact Sharon Jorgeson 281.703.5939 or sjorgeson@gmail.com by March 12 so that she can reserve a room for you.



## "University of St. Thomas Preservation Houston Tour with Jim Parsons"

Join us on **Thursday, March 15**, as we walk through Houston's early history with a Preservation Houston tour of the University of St. Thomas campus and adjacent Menil campus. This charming neighborhood bordering Montrose has retained the original flavor of the area with the preservation of the historic homes and small 1920's cottage houses. The tour, led by Jim Parsons -- our favorite guide, will focus on the campus buildings, Rothko Chapel, the Menil Museum architecture, Chapel of St. Basil, and the Hughes House, the boyhood home of Howard Hughes.

At the conclusion of the tour, we'll have lunch at the Bistro Menil just a few steps away from the Museum.

Cost for the day's events (excluding your lunch) will be \$15.00 which will be collected as you enter the bus either in cash (exact change would be appreciated) or check (made out to Martha Ewell). We'll also collect separately the usual \$1 for the bus driver's lunch.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES continued

Our Precinct 3 bus will be ready for boarding on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way beginning at 9:00. Departure will be promptly at 9:30 a.m. We expect to return no later than 2:30 p.m..

This should be a very popular event, so contact Martha Ewell now at 713.782.2084 or <u>m.ewell@sbcglobal.net</u> to reserve your seat on the bus.

<u>Plus save **Tuesday, April 24,** for our visit to Galveston's new</u> <u>Aquarium Pyramid at Moody Gardens.</u> Watch the April newsletter for details. Or contact Marie Helmy at 281.787.6396 or <u>oolit3@aol.com</u> right now to be sure you get in on the action..

# GARDEN DIVAS

The 83rd Azalea Trail heralds the beginning of Spring! Blooms of spring will be in full swing and the Divas are going to celebrate on Friday, March 2. The Trail kicks off with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Lazy Lane entrance of Bayou Bend on Friday, March 2 at 10:30 a.m. This year, a ticket to the Trail gives admission to 6 locations within the River Oaks neighborhood, including 4 private homes and gardens, Bayou Bend and Rienzi. A 7th free location, also in River Oaks, is the River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics where free advice from "Ask the Experts" can be enjoyed. A free trolley will provide easy access to all 6 locations of homes, gardens and house museums. Tickets should be purchased ahead of time. Randall's is selling the tickets. Other places selling the tickets are at https://www.riveroaksgc.org/another-post/.

We will carpool from the Southwest Lot off of Barryknoll in the Memorial City Mall (sort of across the street from Sears). We will leave at 9:00 a.m. to rendezvous at St. Philip's Presbyterian church, 4807 San Felipe St., Houston, TX 77056. We will consolidate vehicles to help with parking at Bayou Bend. If you prefer to meet us at the church, please be there at 9:30. After the tour, we will have lunch at Yia Yia Mary's, 4747 San Felipe.

Please RSVP to Susan Boone, <u>smboone@gmail.com</u>, if you are interested in joining us on this trip.

# GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



**On Wednesday evening, March 14,** the Girls' Night Out Group will dine at the Dish Society located at Memorial Green, 12525 Memorial Drive, 713.467.3474. Dish Society has a happy hour from 3:30-6:30 p.m. if anyone is interested in going early. You may view the menu and get driving directions from their website: www.dishsociety.com/locations. For more details and/or to add your name to the list of those who plan to attend the dinner, please contact Jan 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 emailing list, please contact Janis Groves, coordinator of the Girls' Night Out Group.

# GOURMET DINING

### Classic Gourmet

Join the Classic Gourmet group on **Saturday, March 10**, for dinner featuring the cuisine of the Veneto region of Italy hosted by Tina and Earl Simpson. For additional details, please contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713.705.7832 or Tina Simpson 281.558.10311.

### <u>Nouveau Gourmet</u>

**Saturday, March 3,** at 5:30 p.m., the Nouveau Gourmet group will meet at Eagle's Trace for dinner in the Stetson's private dining room at Amarillo Terrace. Contact Diane Statham about participating at 281.497.6259 or <u>distatham@msn.com</u>.



**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 groups meet twice a month from February to May. The *Great Decisions 2018* books are available at Brazos Book Store, 2421 Bissonnet Street, phone 713.523.0701 and www.fpa.org for \$30 plus \$5 shipping (Foreign Policy Association).

**The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoon group,** chaired by Martha Ewell, meets from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Martha at 713.782.2084. **Membership in the Thursday afternoon group is closed for this spring**.

To accommodate interested members, a second afternoon Great Decisions group has been formed. Meetings are the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at 2:00-4:00 pm at **Portico at West 8** Club Room, 3003 Seagler Road, Houston, TX 77042 (just north of Richmond, near the Tracy Gee Center). The **March 13** topic is "China's Geopolitics," and the **March 27** topic is "Media and Foreign Policy." If you would like to participate, please contact: Linda Marlin <u>marlinl@comcast.net</u> or Pat Thomsen <u>Patthom2@sbcglobal.net</u>. Husbands are always welcome.

## **GREAT DECISIONS** continued

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening group, chaired by Willette Norman, meets from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For further information on this group, call Willette at 281.497.3626. At this point, this Great Decisions group is closed for new members.





The Hiking Honeys are returning to Buffalo Bayou Park on Tuesday, March 13, to hike another portion of the trail near downtown Houston. Jane Wood, who lives on the Bayou, will be our leader. This hike is about 2.5 miles and 1.5 hours and is mostly paved and relatively flat. However, be aware if it has been raining, it could be muddy.

We will drive a short distance to the fabulous Dunlavy for lunch.

The group will meet at 9:00 at the parking lot behind the Memorial City Mall on Barrynoll and carpool to the Buffalo Bayou Park Waterworks at the Cistern parking lot/visitor center, 105 Sabine Street.

Please contact Jane Wood if you want to join the hike. .jane.wood9@icloud.com or 832.767.4146.

# **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 BHopkins238@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.



An interest group for travelers Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

### Thursday Morning, March 22, 2018 - 10 AM

It's springtime! Let's take some Paris side trips, including a visit to the lovely Loire Valley. Bring something to share for a potluck brunch. Visitors are always welcome.

**Please RSVP** your attendance to our hostess for this month: Diana Guarniere 13814 Kimberlev Lane

Houston 77079 281-493-2997 guarniered@gmail.com



Wine, Women, and Wisdom will not meet in March. The group's next Happy Hour is scheduled for April 16 at McCormick and Schmick's 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.



Women in STEM. **Entertainment, Enrichment and Education** 

We are celebrating another successful EYH. If you would like more information on furthering STEM education with young women, contact Karen North knorth@me.com to join the mailing list, or tweet #aauwwsf and see aauwwsf.edublogs.org.

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## **\*\*AAUW 2018 ART CONTEST\*\***

The annual art contest is under way and it features two entries by WHC's own Cindy Hickok. Her works are entitled: "Container Gardeners" and "Americans at the Café de Musee".

Voting is from Feb 6 - Mar 4. The winners will be announced in late March. You can visit the 2018 gallery at www.aauw.org/contests/ and vote for 10 entries. You will need your member ID number and password to access the gallery. The top 6 winners will have their art featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.

Let's support Cindy by visiting the gallery and voting for her!

#### Volume XXXXII Number 7

#### Newsletter

AAUW Texas 45<sup>th</sup> Blennial Convention Houston, Texas

SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY APRIL 20

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Registration Dinner on your own 7:00 – 5:00 p.m. Reception (Cash Bar)

#### **SATURDAY APRIL 21**

Breakfast: Begins in hotel lobby at 7 a.m. for overnight hotel guests 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Registration 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies Flag Ceremony Welcome Keynote Speaker 1 Member of the Year and New Member of the Year Awards 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. BREAK: Visit Vendora, Help Deak Open, Voting 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions I 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) **College/University Track** 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. BREAK: Visit Vendore, Help Deek Open, Voting 11:30 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch Keynote Speaker: AAUW Chair Julia Brown 1:15 - 1:30 p.m. BREAK 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Table Topics 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) **College/University Track** 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. Business Meeting and Voting 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Panel on Women's Health 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. BREAK: Visit Vendora! 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. District Meetings 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Legacy Circle Reception (Cash Bar) 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Banquet Keynote Speaker: Lisa Falkenberg

#### **SUNDAY APRIL 22**

 Breakfast: Begins in hotel lobby at 7:00 a.m. for overnight hotel guests

 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.
 Business Meeting, New Board Introductions, AAUW Texas MAP Awards

 9:00 - 9:15 a.m.
 BREAK

 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
 Breakout Sessions II

 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.
 Break

 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
 Closing Session Speaker: Rep. Senfronia Thompson

 11:15 - 11:30 a.m.
 Closing

 Adjourn
 Closing



March 11

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

### Please update your directories with the following:

### Erney, Maureen

New Address: Westminster, Appt. 331 4100 Jackson Avenue Austin, TX 78731 (phone number remains the same)

> 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 <u>AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com.</u>

### **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 wcglide@gmail.com.

### WHC Branch Board Meeting March 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 <u>anamador@earthlink.net</u>.



Deanna, Priscilla, Karla, Linda visit Mary Ann Stanley in The Woodlands



### AAUW TEXAS 48<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION Embassy Suites, 11730 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079 April 20 - 22, 2018 **Registration Form**

Badge Name:
Phone:
Email:
AAUW Texas Office:
AAUW Office:
ember Guest College/Univ. Partner
Institution Name
dinner), convention packet and workshop materials.
uniter, convention packet and workshop materials.
A surd surd she was started a
t and workshop materials.
day Lunch \$30 Saturday Dinner \$50
or you and any guests):
Gluten Free
s needed for you and any guests):
Vegan Gluten Free
TOTAL REMITTANCE \$
Make check to: AAUW Texas 2018 Convention
Make check to: AAUW Texas 2018 Convention

**Nancy Guilloud** 11110 Tupper Lake Houston, TX 77042 Email address: nancyguilloud@aol.com Cell phone: 832.372.3773

Make your hotel reservation directly to: Embassy Suites (Breakfast included for overnight guests) 11730 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77079 281.531.7300 Mention: AAUW \$109 - King; \$115 - 2 Queens. Deadline for Convention Rate: March 23, 2018. **Embassy Suites website**