



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXII | NUMBER 9

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

## West Harris County Board of Directors

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713-975-0589

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Corresponding Secretary

**Jo Glidewell**

Newsletter Editor

**Melba Armstrong**

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

June Newsletter Deadline:

**May 15, 2018**

### ***Stay Informed***

Branch website:

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

National website:

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

## ***JUNE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON***

***Saturday, June 9, 2018***

***10:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.***

***Maggiano's Restaurant***

***Memorial City Mall, Gessner at I-10***

**We will honor the Baker-Telfer Scholarship recipients,  
install the new AAUW West Harris County Branch officers,  
and enjoy a presentation by Katrina Burton,  
Director of Communications at M.D. Anderson.**

The luncheon cost is \$35 which includes an appetizer, entrée, and dessert with coffee or tea. (If you want a gluten-free meal, notify [Carolyn Stoffel](#).) **Space is limited, so don't delay in sending your check to ensure your reservation.** Make check payable to **AAUW-WHC** and put "Spring Luncheon" on the memo line. Mail the check to **Diane Roberts, 5607 St. Paul Street, Bellaire, TX 77401.**

*Carolyn Stoffel, Program Chair*



## ***SPRING STYLE SHOW***

Don't miss the fun! Our annual spring fundraiser benefiting the AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund (4336) will be held at Talbots in Town & Country **Sunday, May 6**, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Come and watch fellow AAUW-WHC members "walk the runway" modeling the newest spring fashions. Tickets are \$15 and are available from Nancy Ennis 713-467-3698 or Hazel Chahar 713-294-0784. Checks should be made payable to AAUW-FUNDS. Tickets are also available at the door the night of the event! See you there!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm delighted so many West Harris County members attended the AAUW Texas State Convention: twenty-eight in total! Our participation will no doubt bring new ideas and renewed energy to our branch. I hope to see many of our branch members at our next two events as well: the Style Show at Talbot's and our Spring Luncheon at Maggiano's. It's so much fun to see our multi-talented members walk the runway each year in grand style, and I always find the stories of our Baker-Telfer Scholarship winners at the luncheon inspiring. Check out the details of these events in this newsletter, and please join us. The more the merrier!

*Anne Amador, WHC Branch President*

## AAUW National Dues Increase

Many of us already know there is a \$10 dues increase for 2018-2019, with national dues increasing from \$49 to \$59. This makes a total of \$83 for national, state and local dues for membership in AAUW.

But here's the thing: I am proud to be able to say I am a member of AAUW. We stand for something bigger than ourselves in this community, and people know that. If our national organization has more resources, it can do more to continue and expand the fight for equity and fairness.

No one wants to read a laundry list of the wonderful things AAUW national will do with our money, but here's a link if you want to check it out: [Membership Dues Update](#).

*Diane Roberts, Finance Officer*



## FUNDS CORNER



**EXCEPTIONAL!!!**

**OUTSTANDING!!!**

### NAMED GIFT HONOREES

Every year at the June luncheon, AAUW West Harris County Branch honors several members who have done outstanding work in supporting the programs and goals of our branch. This is a special way of recognizing and paying tribute to members giving extraordinary service. We are asking for recommendations from branch members. Please submit your suggestion(s) by email along with your reasons for the nomination to Hazel Chahar – [charhars@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charhars@sbcglobal.net) – or Nancy Ennis – [nrennis@gmail.com](mailto:nrennis@gmail.com) – by **May 1**.

*Hazel Chahar & Nancy Ennis, AAUW Funds VPs*

## Diana Guarniere Member of the Year

### FLASH: AAUW TEXAS CONVENTION

*In the opening ceremonies of the AAUW Texas Convention on Saturday, April 21, WHC's own Diana Guarniere was recognized at the AAUW Texas Member of the Year.*

*Malinda Gaul, Branch Services Officer, presented the award to Diana.*



*Prior to the convention, each branch was asked to nominate an outstanding member describing the accomplishments of the member and why she should be named Member of the Year.*

*WHC nominated Diana for this honor for her commitment to education, equity and empowerment and to recognize her service and leadership to our branch.*

*Diana is a Life Member of AAUW. She has twice served as president of AAUW-WHC, has been chair of Public Policy, Publicity chair, Parliamentarian/Bylaws chair, and newsletter editor. For the past six years, she has chaired the EYH Presenters Committee, identifying and securing workshop presenters.*

*She has had extensive involvement in AAUW beyond the local level and has attended numerous AAUW Texas conventions and has been a branch delegate to seven national AAUW conventions.*

*We are fortunate that Diana found AAUW-WHC forty-one years ago and that she has continued serving as a role model for our branch.*

**Congratulations, Diana!**



## PUBLIC POLICY



### Net Neutrality: What is it? And Why is it Important?

In December, the Federal Communications Commission, a group composed of 3 Republican and 2 Democratic commissioners, voted to repeal its net neutrality rules for Internet providers. According to a Washington Post article dated February 22, 2018, "This move is aimed at deregulating the industry and allowing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon to legally slow down websites, block apps and even charge content companies extra fees for priority access to consumers' computer screens." This action countermands the net neutrality rules established during the Obama administration 2014 and implemented in 2015. By definition (Wikipedia) *net neutrality* is the principle that governments should mandate ISPs to treat all data on the Internet the same and not discriminate or charge differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication. For the average consumer, especially those who stream, play games, or use other services that require large amounts of bandwidth, this could mean higher prices for faster service above what is established as the base-line cost.

The argument by the major ISPs is that consumers like Netflix and Google, that utilize large amounts of available bandwidth, should pay more of the cost of providing online service. The providers also claim that equal access to the Internet stifles competition and innovation. In contrast, organizations like the American Library Association maintain that different price levels would stifle *intellectual freedom* by making the Internet less accessible to those who cannot afford to pay the higher cost of Internet service or access. A core belief of the ALA is the following: "A well-functioning democracy requires an informed citizenry with access to information from many viewpoints and sources, as well as the opportunity to exchange ideas with others through civic engagement. The internet is essential for people to have a voice in the political process and to access the viewpoints of others."

So far the ISPs have not made any bold moves to change the pricing structure for individuals and companies. The consumer should watch for any blocking of legal website and apps content, slowing of transmission based on content, or the creation of a "fast lane" for companies and consumers who pay higher premiums. These now legal practices are called "blocking", "throttling" and "paid prioritization". The bundling/splitting of Internet access into different price levels, as already do many cable companies in the U.S., is already in play in several countries (New York Times, December, 14, 2017).

In my recent conversation with an AT&T customer service representative, she assured me that AT&T is dedicated to the preservation of net neutrality. Still, as consumers, we need to be vigilant observers of any future changes which ISPs now have the right to implement. Already, several states have taken preemptive action by passing legislation restoring net neutrality regulations in their state. In the coming months we can expect many similar actions in other states and many law suits to be filed by a variety of consumer organizations, companies, and other entities that might be adversely affected. The public needs to stay alert and informed.

*Martha Ewell, Public Policy Chair*



Click on the symbol above for more information on the vote.

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership.

While rationale and details for each proposed amendment can be found on the AAUW website, the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

Voting will open on **April 25, 2018**, and close **June 9, 2018**, at 9 p.m. ET. **We urge you to exercise your vote.**

## LUCKY WINNERS!!

*Mary Andersen, Melba Armstrong, Sara Dalton, Martha Ewell and Mary Kain were the winners of a drawing at the March branch meeting. They were the recipients of a free national membership which will result in a savings of \$59 on their membership dues this year. The free memberships were awarded to West Harris County by AAUW National as part of their Shape The Future program that rewards branches for their success in recruiting new members. Congratulations, ladies!*

## May 2018 Activities and Interest Group News

### BOOK GROUPS



#### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, May 2, 1:30 p.m.**

*Old Heart* by Peter Ferry

Hostess: Deanna Swindell, 1373 Country Place Drive  
281.497.2318

#### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, May 2, 1:00 p.m.**

*Tea Girls of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See

Hostess: Carol Thielmann, 402 Walnut Bend  
713.781.4069

#### Enjoying History

**Monday, May 14, 1:30 p.m.**

*The Zhivago Affair* by Peter Finn & Petra Couvee

Hostess: Cindy Hickok, 523 Briar Path  
281.493.2525

#### Monday Evening Contemporary Literature

**Monday, May 7, 5:00 p.m.**

*Elephant Company* by Vicki Constantine Croke

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

#### Mystery

**Tuesday, May 15, 1:30 p.m.**

*Since We Fell* by Dennis Lehane

Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Court  
281.392.3190

#### Outstanding Literature Group

**Tuesday, May 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Book Selections for 2018-19

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

### BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



#### Current Bridge Groups:

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (7:00 p.m.)**, Marcia Lindsey, 713.828.8267

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10:30 a.m.)**, Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (10:00 a.m.)**, Melba Armstrong, 281.392. 3190

**2<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.

Note the following four week bridge courses on **Tuesdays, May 1 through May 22** at St. Martin's Episcopal, corner of Sage at Woodway. The cost is \$80.

#### **10:00 – 12:00 Bidding Review**

A class designed for players who know how to play bridge but want to modernize bids and responses to conform to contemporary bidding.

#### **1:00 – 3:00 Modern No Trump and the Conventions**

This is a great no trump review class and offers practice and instruction on reaching the most common game level bid in bridge. Learn when to use Stayman and Jacoby transfer and learn the difference between Gerber and Quantitative bids at the 4-level.

To enroll go to [stmartinsepiscopal.org](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org), click on the magnifying glass in the upper right corner, type in *bridge* and scroll to the class you want. If you need additional information, please contact Joyce Ryan at [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net).

And yet another brand new class with Gary King, instructor at Houston Bridge Studio, 9000 Southwest Freeway, Suite 290. The cost is \$100.

#### **Saturday 10:00 to noon - May 26, June 2, 16, 23 Doubles, Doubles, Doubles**

This class will explore all the natural and conventional uses of doubles and redoubles including balancing doubles, penalty doubles, slam doubles, maximal doubles, and card-showing doubles.

For more information and to register for the courses go to [houstonbridge@gmail.com](mailto:houstonbridge@gmail.com).



### BYWAY BIRDERS

#### High Island-Rookery

On **May 5** ByWay Birders will visit High Island to look for spring migrants and observe cormorants, egrets and spoonbills at the rookery. You need to work out your own carpools and plan on leaving about 8:30. If you want to carpool, please use "reply all" to help find rides. Plan on meeting at Boy Scout Woods, 2088 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The admission fee is \$8.00. Please let Mary Adams know if you plan on going so that she will know to look for you.

After spending some time at the drips and walking through the woods, the group will move on to Smith Oaks and the Rookery. Lunch will be at the Ocean Grille, 2275 HWY 87, 77650. After lunch the group will bird at Roll Over beach before returning to Houston. Remember to bring bug spray, sunscreen, hats, water, and snacks.



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



### America's Favorite Pastimes – Baseball & Beer... Minute Maid Park & St. Arnold Brewery Tours

**"Don't Settle":** Come and celebrate our World Champion Houston Astros by joining us on a tour of Minute Maid Park, on **Tuesday, May 22**. It is the playground of current Astro stars Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa, George Springer and Justin Verlander. You'll also fondly remember that Hall of Famers Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell showcased their talent at Minute Maid. We'll tour historic Union Station, the broadcast booth, the press box, and a luxury suite. We'll also do a field lap that will include the dugout, the bullpen and the manual scoreboard.

After the ball park tour, we'll board the bus and travel a short distance to the St. Arnold Brewery, where we'll have lunch followed by a 1:00 p.m. tour of the brewery. **St. Arnold requires you to wear closed-toed shoes, so no sandals, please.**

Our precinct 3 bus will depart from the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way at 8:15 a.m. that morning. Please be there at 8:00 a.m. ready to board. We expect to return about 3:00 p.m. Guests are welcome if space exists after all members are accommodated.

The cost of the trip is \$12.00 excluding lunch which will be at your own expense. We will collect the usual \$1.00 for the driver's lunch as you enter the bus.

**Note that there is a deadline of May 8 to reserve your place on this trip.** Contact Melba Armstrong at [mkar@consolidated.net](mailto:mkar@consolidated.net) or 281-392-3190 by that date. Then send your check for \$12 to Melba at 22423 Tullis Trail Court, Katy, TX 77494.

### Plus, Round Top Festival Hill Orchestra Concert...

**On Saturday, June 23**, we will conclude our 2017-18 Cultural Activities season with a visit to the James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts to attend an evening concert of the Round Top Musical Festival. This is the 48<sup>th</sup> year this festival has presented concert programs introducing many young artists to the community. Fran Macy and Linda Morgan will be our leaders.

Prior to the concert we will enjoy our old favorite restaurant - Los Patrones Mexican Grill -- in its new setting located in Giddings, a short distance from Round Top. You can order from the menu and there will be individual checks.

We'll meet our Precinct 3 bus at our new location on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way and will leave promptly at 3:00 p.m. and return to the mall at the conclusion of the concert.

If you'd like to join us, your check in the amount of \$31 (which includes the usual dollar for the driver's meal) made out to Fran Macy will be your reservation. Send your check to her at 11938 Riverview Drive, Houston, 77077 before **June 16** to assure you're among those of us who will be enjoying this beautiful music.

Questions? Contact Fran Macy at 281-556-0121 or [franhm@mac.com](mailto:franhm@mac.com). As usual, guests will be permitted if space on the bus allows.

## GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas will be visiting Evelyn's Park, 4400 Bellaire Boulevard, on **Tuesday, May 8**. This beautifully designed five acres of green space is on the site of the former Teas Nursery. When the nursery closed, Jerry and Maury Rubenstein purchased and gifted the five-acre site to the city of Bellaire, under the simple condition that it be used as parkland and that it be named in honor of their mother, Evelyn.

A new sculpture, "Move One Place On," based on the tea party chapter in *Alice in Wonderland* when the Mad Hatter stands up and shouts: "I want a clean cup, let's all move one place on." was installed in the park in April 2018. We will enjoy this new addition, explore the park, and have the opportunity to visit with Bridgette Mongeon, the creator of this fabulous sculpture. Bridgette has been a long-time EYH presenter and we are delighted to have her share her experience bringing this sculpture to life. If feasting at the table and visiting with fanciful creatures is not intriguing enough, Mongeon has hidden 150 things in the sculpture in honor of the 150th anniversary of the endearing story. Learn more about the sculpture with this link: <https://evelynspark.org/wonderland-structure>.

While visiting the park, we will enjoy lunch at *The Ivy and James*, a casual, elegant neighborhood eatery snugly nestled on the grounds of Evelyn's Park.

We will meet to carpool from the parking lot in Memorial City just south of the Sear's on Barryknoll. Plan to leave at 9:30, **Tuesday, May 8**. Please let Susan Boone, [samboone@gmail.com](mailto:samboone@gmail.com), know if you plan to join us for carpooling or plan to meet us at the park for this outing. It should be a great finale for this years' Divas outings.



## GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



We will head to **Ciro's** for dinner on **Wednesday, May 9, at 7:00 PM.** The restaurant is located at 9755 Katy Freeway, close to the intersection of the inbound access road and Bunker Hill. If any of you want to go to Happy Hour, you can visit the bar before Happy Hour ends at 6:30. They have drinks and nibbles at reduced prices. You may wish to visit the website at [www.ciros.com](http://www.ciros.com) to see the Happy Hour and dinner menus, directions and other information.

If you would like to join us, please contact Nancy Bowden no later than **Monday, May 7, at noon.** She can be reached at [nanbowd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbowd@sbcglobal.net) or at 281-589-7423. If there is no answer, please feel free to leave a message. We hope you will join us!

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

**Classic Gourmet will not meet in May .** Too many cooks had vacations planned for May. We plan to reschedule our final dinner in this year's series - A Trip Through Italy By Region - when everyone has returned home. Our final stop will be Sicily. Contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713-705-7832 or Tina Simpson 281-558-1031 to be included in the dinner.

### Nouveau Gourmet

The Nouveau Gourmet group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on **Saturday, May 5,** at the new Carmelo's on Memorial Drive. For additional information, please contact this month's hostess, Ruth Fowler, at 281.759.5991 or [rgfowler1@att.net](mailto:rgfowler1@att.net).

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

## 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 groups meet twice a month from February to May.

**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. **Membership in the Thursday afternoon group is closed for this spring.**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon group** meets from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Portico at West 8 Club Room, located at 3003 Seagler Road. This group is chaired by Linda Marlin [marlinl@comcast.net](mailto:marlinl@comcast.net) and Pat Thomsen [Patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Patthom2@sbcglobal.net). Husbands are always welcome.

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

## 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).

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



**An interest group for travelers**

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

**The Vicarious Voyagers** have completed their planned itinerary for this season. If you want to join this group's interesting travel experiences, contact Diana to be included in the group's distribution list next year.

## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Please contact Marie Helmy at [oolit3@aol.com](mailto:oolit3@aol.com) or call 281.787.6396 for more information about future happy hour events or to add your name to the contact list.

## WISE...



### Women in STEM, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Contact Karen North at [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com) to join the WISE mailing list, or tweet #aauwwsf and see [aauwwsf.edublogs.org](http://aauwwsf.edublogs.org).

*Hiking Honeys Buffalo Bayou Trail, March 13, 2018*



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please add two new members to your directory:

### Hartfiel, Patricia G. (Pat)

14010 Swiss Hill Drive  
Houston, TX 77077  
Home Phone: 281-293-0526  
Cell Phone: 832-454-8350  
Email: [hartfielp@yahoo.com](mailto:hartfielp@yahoo.com)

### Sitzes, Madeline D.

9929 Warwana Road  
Houston, TX 77080  
Home Phone: 713-827-1088  
Cell Phone: 713-527-8400  
Email: [msitzes@aol.com](mailto:msitzes@aol.com)

Update your directory with the following changes:

### Archer, Donna J.

New Address:  
325 Maewen Circle  
Russellville, AR 72802

### Kelly, Mary Lou

New email address: [mlkelljacks@gmail.com](mailto:mlkelljacks@gmail.com)

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](mailto: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 [wzglide@gmail.com](mailto:wzglide@gmail.com).

### WHC Branch Board Meeting May 21, 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](mailto:anamador@earthlink.net).