



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

West Harris County Board of Directors

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713.975.0589

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Jo Glidewell

Newsletter Editor

Melba Armstrong

mkar@consolidated.net

September Newsletter Deadline:

August 12, 2018

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

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**

***The Road to Public Relations and Medical Writing
Presented by Katrina R. Burton***

Katrina R. Burton, BA is a senior communications specialist at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She works in the division of Institutional Advancement on the Public Relations team, covering the Department of Pediatrics and MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Burton is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in journalism and a background in marketing. She has more than 15 years of experience in health care marketing and public relations. Her previous position was marketing manager of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, where she managed partner relations, television commercials and marketing programs. She also developed the center's first diversity program for African American donors, increasing blood donations by 25% in the first six months.



Her current work involves promoting medical discoveries, patient programs, clinical services and scientific research. Throughout her medical writing career she has written about patients, scientists, clinicians, partners and donors. Burton's portfolio includes content for news releases, media advisories, faculty profiles, editorials, articles, social media sites, websites, newsletters, television commercials, radio commentary and blog posts. Katrina is past president of the American Medical Writers Association's (AMWA) Southwest Chapter, and currently serves as the chapter's Communications Director. She is also a member of the National Board of Directors for AMWA.

We will also honor the Baker-Telfer Scholarship recipients and install the new AAUW-West Harris County Branch officers at the luncheon.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY! Mail your \$35 check, payable to AAUW-WHC, with "Spring Luncheon" on the memo line, to Diane Roberts, 5607 St. Paul Street, Bellaire, TX 77401.

Carolyn Stoffel, Program Chair

SAVE THE DATE

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS COFFEE

SATURDAY AUGUST 25, 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month some of our WHC members hosted a study break for the AAUW-Rice University Student Chapter during their final exams week. I am so impressed by these young women's energy, enthusiasm, sense of humor (even in the midst of finals!), and desire to give back to their community. It's my hope that our branch will continue to strengthen our relationship with the Rice Student Chapter in the coming years, and perhaps encourage the establishment of AAUW student chapters at other local universities as well. I've thought it might be good to add a "Student Chapter Liaison" position as an appointed committee chair in our branch, and I welcome your thoughts on the topic.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this year! To be completely honest, the dedication and enthusiasm of our branch officers and committee chairs made my job really easy. Thank you to all of you who work to make our branch so wonderful. I leave WHC in the extremely capable hands of incoming president, Sharon Jorgeson, and look forward to seeing what good things our branch accomplishes in the new year!

Anne Amador, WHC Branch President



Voting on three amendments to the bylaws proposed by the AAUW National Board of Directors is now in progress.

The proposed amendments would create three-year staggered board terms, open board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

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. You can read more about the rationale and details for each amendment and vote on the AAUW website at www.aauw.org.

To vote, you will need your member ID number and a Voter Pin that can be found on the back cover of OUTLOOK or obtained via email at connect@auw.org.

Take the time to vote and have your voice counted before voting closes on **June 9, 2018** at 8 p.m. CST.

2018-2019 Branch Directory

All new information or corrections for current members for inclusion in the 2018-2019 AAUW-WHC Branch Directory must be in by **July 31**. Please review your contact information in the current directory. If any needed changes or corrections have not already been published in the newsletter during the past year, please email them to Mary Andersen, mande7707@hotmail.com.

Note: If your street address ends in Drive, Lane, Court, Street, etc. and this designation is not included in your present listing, members who are looking for directions to your house online may be misdirected.

The number of new members joining at the August coffee results in heavy input and it is a push to get all of the information in, proofed, and the new directory printed for distribution shortly after the new branch year starts in September. This is a good thing but makes it necessary to have current member information up-to-date prior to the coffee. During the first weeks of August the editor must get all current member information updated and proofed. This includes deleting the information for non-renewing members. As a result, **those who have not paid their dues by July 31st will not be included in the new directory.** Directory information for those members who pay their dues after July will be published in the next edition of the branch newsletter.

Mary Andersen, Directory Editor



MEMBERSHIP

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

It has been an honor to serve as Membership Vice President for the last two years. I have enjoyed getting to know a large number of the West Harris County Branch members and have come to understand what a valuable organization we have in our AAUW branch. As you may know, your prospective member recommendations are our primary source of enhancing the membership. You will soon be asked to submit prospective member names to Jo Glidewell, our incoming Membership VP. Please spend some time thinking of suitable names that you would like to give to Jo. Your prospective member recommendations will be invited to our August Membership Coffee which will be held on Saturday morning, **August 25, 2018**. Please make plans to attend the Coffee with your prospective members.

Sheila Jaynes, Membership Vice President

PUBLIC POLICY

The 2020 Decennial Census: What's in a Question?

The U. S. Census Bureau has already begun preparations for the 2020 Decennial Census. Although a routine undertaking since 1790, the process and its resulting population statistics are fundamental to our democratic system of governance. By definition the United States Census is a decennial census mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, which states: "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective Numbers." Already the upcoming 2020 census is making headlines in the news. March 26, 2018, the Department of Justice reintroduced the question on citizenship status to the census questionnaire for the purpose of enforcing the Voting Rights Act. The citizenship question was omitted from the short form of the census from 1950 through 2010, only having been included on the long form sent to about 20% of the population from 1960 to 2000. In 2020 all respondents must declare whether or not they are American citizens. Why is this question creating such a stir? What might be the consequences for the State of Texas?

Of utmost importance are the population statistics collected by the Census which are used to define the boundaries of both federal and state legislative districts, as well as to determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are dispersed. In brief, this critical count can diminish or increase the number of U. S. Congressional districts in each state. The more U. S. Representatives a state has, the more powerful its voice will be in Congress. According to law all inhabitants of a state, U. S. citizens and non-citizens, are to be included in the population count used to determine the number of Representatives (There are 435 Representatives in the U.S. Congress) and to determine the allocation of Federal funding for such areas as education, health care, housing, road construction and maintenance, and law enforcement.

Historically, low socio-economic groups have been more difficult to count, and even more worrisome is the suppressive effect on non-citizens, such as undocumented immigrants, who may refuse to respond for fear of being deported. In addition to the controversial citizenship question, there are concerns about adequate funding for the collection of Census data and about threats to cyber security of sensitive data. The 2020 Census is estimated to cost \$15.6 billion dollars, more than \$3.3 billion more than the original estimate, a very expensive undertaking for which accuracy is paramount. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, is seeking the additional funds to assure that there are enough workers to produce an accurate count at a time when federal budget cuts are on the rise. For the first time the 2020 Census data will be reported almost exclusively online. Recent cyber attacks on government agency databases have raised concerns about the security and confidentiality of sensitive personal data. These two additional concerns could further depress participation in the census.

According to 2015 estimates, Texas continues to have the second-largest undocumented immigrant population in the country, about 1.5 to 1.7 million. Only California has more, at double the figure for Texas. In its 2016-2017 statistics the Texas Education Agency reported that approximately 43% of the public school students in Texas qualified for low socio-economic status. These statistics suggest that Texas could stand to lose representation in Congress, even though an increase in the number of seats is anticipated based on population growth, and Federal funding could be significantly reduced as a result of undercounting the state's low socio-economic and undocumented immigrant populations. Another difficulty in providing an accurate population count for Texas involves access to counties where some of the hardest-to-reach populations in the country live (Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York). Any factor or question which discourages participation in the taking of the census in Texas stands to hurt the state politically and economically.

In closing, here's a little Census history. The first Census was conducted in 1790 when Thomas Jefferson was Secretary of State. The first questionnaire listed only the name of the head of household and a head count of the number of additional free white males and females and the number of slaves within that household, for a total of 5 questions, most devised by James Madison. Federal marshals conducted the first collection of population data verbally, taking notes on odd scraps of paper. In 1840 the government created the Census Bureau under the Department of Interior. The Census Bureau has since moved to the Department of Commerce. In 2010 the Census Bureau created a much shorter version of only 10 questions. To compensate for the loss of information on the long form, other statistical surveys are conducted throughout the decade for a certain percentage of the population. The Census Bureau website, <https://www.census.gov>, is a treasure trove of interesting facts. In particular the index of questions asked on each decennial questionnaire from 1790 onward is a fascinating journey through U.S. political and social history and highly recommended reading.

The controversies mentioned above are already apparent as preparations for the Census proceed. California has already filed suit to have the question on citizenship status removed from the 2020 Census. Again as informed citizens living in Texas, we need to remain alert to the possible disadvantageous consequences of inaccurate reporting and undercounting of population in the 2020 Census.

Martha Ewell, Public Policy Chair



SPRING STYLE SHOW

Fun was had by all who attended the Style Show held on May 6.

We enjoyed seeing our very own member models showing the latest fashions provided by Talbots.

Talbots also offered a 30% discount to all who attended!

Mark your calendar to attend in 2019.

Nancy Ennis & Hazel Chahar, AAUW Funds VPs

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2017-2018

Your current AAUW membership will expire on June 30, 2017. The cost to renew as a branch, state, and national member is \$83. As an AAUW member whose state and branch has opted to participate in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you have the option of paying all of your dues - branch, state, and national - at once and online with a credit card. When you receive an email from memberinfo@aauw.org with a dues reminder, click on the link in the body of the email and it will take you to the page to pay your dues. Or, you may renew by check made out to **AAUW-West Harris County** and mailed to the branch finance officer. Send to:

Diane Roberts
5607 St. Paul Street
Bellaire, TX 77401

Diane Roberts, Finance Officer

June 2018 Activities and Interest Group News

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, June 6, 1:30 p.m.

2018-2019 Selection Luncheon

Hostess: Linda Morgan

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, June 6, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2018-2019 Book Selection Luncheon

Fratelli's Restaurant, 1330 Wirt Rd. in Spring Branch

Enjoying History

Monday, June 11, Noon

Pot luck luncheon at Mary Andersen's, 5428 Wigton Drive

RSVP 713.503.8784 or mande7707@hotmail.com

Monday Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, June 4, 5:00 p.m.

2018-2019 Book Selection Dinner

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant,

14006 Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

Tuesday, June 19 11:00 a.m.

2018-2019 Book Selection Luncheon

Hostess: Carol Telfer, 12503 Shepherd's Ridge Drive

281.497.2268

Outstanding Literature Group

This group will not meet again until September, 2018.

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.

BYWAY BIRDERS



On **August 11**, the Byway Birders will visit Dayton to see the swallow-tail kites and then have lunch at a seafood restaurant. Please contact Pat Dach for more details.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Round Top Festival Hill Orchestra Concert

If you haven't already signed up for our season-ending trip to Round Top on **Saturday, June 23**, you'll want to do so now. This is always a wonderful experience because of the ambiance of the hall and grounds in addition to the rousing music provided by the outstanding young musicians congregated there for the highly-esteemed summer program provided by the James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts. As usual, we'll make it even more special by enjoying dinner first at our favorite restaurant - Los Patrones Mexican Grill (now located in Giddings).

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 at the conclusion of the concert.

To get aboard, your check in the amount of \$31 (which includes the usual dollar for the driver's meal) made out to Fran Macy is your reservation. Send your check to her at 11938 Riverview Drive, Houston, 77077 to arrive before **June 16**.

Questions? Contact Fran at 281.556.0121 or franhm@mac.com. As usual, guests will be welcome if space on the bus permits.

Cultural Activities 2018-19 Season Planning Meeting

As our 2017-18 season is drawing to a close, planning for our 2018-19 season is underway. But first a special thank you to Carol Gee, Jan Groves, Jane Wood, Barbara Butler, Martha Hebert, Cindy Hickok, Pat Farnell, Martha Ewell, Marie Helmy, Melba Armstrong, Linda Morgan and Fran Macy for leading us to a spectacular season this past year.

If you have ideas as to where you'd like one of our cultural trips to venture in the coming year, plan now to attend a meeting to be held on **Tuesday, June 12** at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Cultural Chair, Priscilla List, 6923 Lawler Ridge, to set the 2018-19 schedule. Please RSVP your plans to attend to Priscilla at priscillalist@att.net or 713.680.8681 so she can have the correct number of chairs at the ready. If you have ideas, but can't attend the meeting, please be sure to let her know about them as well. Remember, in this game, there are no "bad" ideas.

GARDEN DIVAS



On **June 5**, the Divas are gathering in Kathryn Sandlin's garden to plan next year's events. Rumor has it that she has a lovely garden, and it will inspire us to discover more exceptional gardens in our vicinity. We have had an incredibly good year and have enjoyed nature, beauty and friendship to the fullest! The trip to Evelyn's Park to visit with Bridgette Mongeon was outstanding. I absolutely recommend this place for an outing with the family.

Plan to meet at Kathryn's at 10:00 a.m. (no carpooling.) Her address is 10902 François (near Briar Forest and Wilcrest.) Bring ideas for future explorations. Afterwards we will enjoy a pot luck lunch. Bring a favorite dish to share. I'm looking forward to a great closure and a new beginning.

Please let Susan Boone know whether you will be able to make this meeting so we can arrange seating. Put your thinking hats on!



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



Girls' Night Out will not meet again until September. Check out the newsletter for more details of that dinner. If you want to be included on the contact list, please email Janis Groves, coordinator of the Girls' Night Out Group, at jamgroves@aol.com.



GOURMET DINING

Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet does not meet in July or August.

The dinner plans for the group will be published in the 2018-2019 AAUW Directory.

Nouveau Gourmet

The next Nouveau Gourmet will be on **Saturday, July 7** at 6:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Barbara Cook. Members of the group will be notified of the location of the dinner.

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. Information concerning the discussion topics for next year, meeting places, and other details will be published in the AAUW Directory and in the monthly newsletters.

The 1st and 3rd Thursday Great Decisions Group held its last discussion meeting in May. In October or November 2018, we'll pre-order briefing books for the spring 2019 Great Decision meetings, which will begin the 1st Thursday in February 2019. If interested in this group, please contact Martha Ewell at 713.782.2084 or at m.ewell@sbcglobal.net.

The 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon group is chaired by Linda Marlin, marlinl@comcast.net, and Pat Thomsen, patthom2@sbcglobal.net.

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening group is chaired by Willette Norman, 281.497.3626. **Note:** This Great Decisions Group will not meet for the rest of the year after June 13, 2018. We will begin again in February 2019.



MAH JONGG MAVENS

The Mah Jongg Mavens are taking a break June through August. Play will resume in September. For information on the Mavens, contact Mary Kain, mlkain@hal-pc.org, or 713.824.3988. We wish all a good summer!



VICARIOUS VOYAGERS

An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

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

WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Please contact Marie Helmy at 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 to join the WISE mailing list, or tweet #aauwwsf and see aauwwsf.edublogs.org.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please add the following new member to your directories:

Bartz, Danielle

4948 Leeland Street
Houston, TX 77023
Cell Phone: 832.236.7916
Email: bartz@utexas.edu

Danielle represented Mayor Sylvester Turner and the City of Houston in welcoming attendees at the State AAUW Convention to Houston. She is joining our branch as a result of her good impressions about what AAUW is doing.

Please update your directories with the following:

Kelly, Mary Lou

New Email: 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.

There will not be a July or August newsletter.