



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXIII NUMBER 4

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

West Harris County Board of Directors

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Melba Armstrong

mkar@consolidated.net

January Newsletter Deadline:

December 15, 2018

Holiday Party

December 1, 2018

Saturday, 5:00pm



Yao Restaurant
9755 Westheimer Rd.

\$30.00 per person (spouse/guest invited)

Send check payable to AAUW-WHC to:

Diane Roberts

Finance Officer

5607 Saint Paul St.

Bellaire, TX 77401



The date of the branch Holiday Party has been changed from the traditional first Sunday in December to Saturday, December 1, 2018. The change was made in deference to our Jewish members who will begin the celebration of Hanukkah on Sunday, December 2.

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The midterm elections are now history. Whether or not your candidate(s) won or lost, we can all celebrate the large voter turnout and the historic number of women elected to office across the country.



It is now time to focus on family and friends as we approach the holiday season. Join your fellow West Harris County Branch members and significant others at our annual holiday party on **December 1** at Yao Restaurant. We always have a delightful time and I hope you will make plans to attend.

I wish each and every one peace and joy.

Sharon Jorgeson, WHC Branch President

AAUW FUNDS CORNER

As we rush towards year end, it is time to review and make our year end charitable contributions.

Please consider contributions to the AAUW Funds or our own Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund. Look at pages 4 and 5 of your WHC Directory as to purpose of the funds.

The next Branch meeting is on **Tuesday November 27**, or as we like to refer to it, "Giving Tuesday." Let's all participate!!

Nancy Ennis & Georgia Kimmel, AAUW Funds VPs

EXCITING NEWS

Our own AAUW-WHC Student Affiliate Liaison, **Anne Amador**, has now been appointed to the same position with AAUW Texas. Congratulations, Anne!

Anne joins WHC member, **Brenda Moss**, on the AAUW Texas Board. Brenda is the South District representative.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Don't forget our November Membership Meeting which will be held on **Tuesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m.**, at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Rev. Gregory Han will present "**Faith in Our City: Houston's Religious Diversity and Communities.**"

The AAUW Funds vice-presidents will be on hand to accept your year-end contributions to AAUW Funds or to our own Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund.

Also, members of our Rice affiliate group will be there and have for sale generously-sized canvas tote bags with hot pink lettering "**Empowered Women Empower Women.**" The tote bags are \$10 each.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided.



SAVE THE DATE

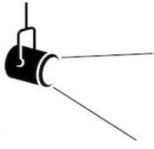
Carol Telfer's 90th Birthday Celebration

Saturday, January 26, at 9:30 am

Honor her with a special donation to the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund!



More information and invitation to follow.



EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

Shining a Spotlight on Student Volunteers

For the coming Expanding Your Horizon Conference scheduled **February 23, 2019**, our student volunteers are from National Honor Societies at Kerr High School (Alief ISD) and Stratford High School (Spring Branch ISD). Typically, over 50 volunteers take time from their Saturday to help us, while earning service hours towards their NHS goals.



The NHS volunteers assist in moving the presenters' workshop materials into and out of the classrooms, as well as assisting when and where needed. They also help with group control, distributing lunch boxes, collecting survey sheets and many other tasks. Our middle school girls' conference could not run as smoothly without the help of our many volunteers, who are courteous and polite throughout the day, a partnership through the years.

Brenda Moss, Student Volunteer Coordinator



AN EYH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY...

We will work on folders for the students and teachers on **Wednesday, February 20**, at 9:30. This usually takes about two hours. If you are new to AAUW, this is a fun way to meet people and help with a good cause. Please contact Pat Dach, patdach@gmail.com, if you are not already on her list and are able to help.

BAKER-TELFER NEWS

Each year AAUW-WHC membership supports local scholarships to encourage young women that are interested in careers in the STEM fields. Maddie Moudy was one of our 2018 recipients. I recently received a thank you note from her:

"Dear AAUW Members,

Thank you for giving me the generous Baker-Telfer Scholarship. I'm enjoying my first semester at Baylor and I am on the pre-med track. I used a portion of the scholarship money to buy books and I have some left for next semester. I also really enjoyed going to the luncheon this past summer. Thanks again.

Best regards,

Maddie Moudy"

Pat Dach, Baker-Telfer Scholarship Chair



Maddie Moudy, 2018 scholarship awardee, with her father and WHC member Marie Helmy – June 2018 Luncheon



Happy Hanukkah

PUBLIC POLICY

Motherhood and Pay Inequality



It is a known fact that women of all races and educational levels earn less money than men of comparable backgrounds. Workplace discrimination has been considered the main factor.

Recent studies suggest other factors play a significant role. A series of articles* indicate that having children may adversely influence the gender pay inequality. The articles demonstrate that in both the United States and Europe the gender pay gap between men and women is small until the first child arrives. Then women's earnings decline and their career path slows and in many cases drops. It never recovers. In the long term, a woman will earn 20% less than her male counterpart over the course of her career. Having children was associated with 40% of the total pay gap in 1980, but now accounts for 80% of the total pay gap, the articles state. Discrimination and other factors make up the remaining 20% of the pay gap. Child care, particularly in younger years, is a time consuming responsibility. Someone has to do the work. It's usually the woman.

Public policies such as paid leave, working at home after having children, and part-time work options are helpful initially. But these policies take women out of the work force and shorten their hours at work and consequently reduce their competitiveness. They don't seem to work as intended. If men participated equally in these generous policies we might see change. But they do not.

Women who become mothers begin to gravitate toward particular jobs. They look for jobs with fewer hours and consequently lower wages. Many seek employment in the public sector. These jobs usually offer flexible working hours and leave days when children are sick. In other words, women gravitate toward family-friendly jobs. Their chances of moving into high paying jobs declines.

Why does the motherhood penalty exist? The articles offer two possible explanations. First explanation put forth is an environmental one. Social norms make it hard for mothers to stay in the competitive workforce. Public opinion data shows that most adults believe that women with young children should not hold full-time jobs. In addition the perception within the working community is that women are the primary caregivers to children and as such are unable to give the time needed for performing certain jobs. Second explanation is biological. Women may have a strong preference for spending more time with their children. Given that statement, perhaps parents have reached an uneasy decision to split child care unevenly. How can we remove the motherhood penalty? Can it be achieved if both men and women share the responsibility of caring for children, not just women?

More research is needed.

*Cited articles are:

1. "Children Hurt Women's Earnings, But Not Men's" Claire Cain Miller, the New York Times, February 2, 2018.
2. "The Gender Pay Gap Is the Result of Being a Parent, Not Discrimination" Tim Worstall, Forbes, October 1, 2015.
3. "A Stunning Chart Shows the True Cause of the Gender Wage Gap" Vox, February 19, 2018.

Dorothy Lauterbach, Roslyn Metchis, Pat Farnell, Public Policy



Happy
Holidays!

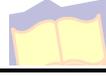


[Hiking Honeys, Lake Sheldon State Park, 11-15-18](#)
Gail Rickey, Jackie Shelton, Joyce Pritchard, Martha Ewell,
Karen North, Susan Dunten, Melba Armstrong, Sara Dalton, and
Abbey Dunten

December 2018 Activities and Interest Group News

Janis Groves, Activities Coordinator

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, December 5, 1:30 p.m.

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Hostess: Linda White, 315 Paul Revere,
713.467.1444

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, December 5, 11:00 a.m.

The Chilbury Ladies' Choir

Christmas Luncheon at Brio's
Hostess: Judy Starr

Enjoying History

Monday, December 10, 1:30 p.m.

The Last Castle by Denise Kiernan

Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Court
281.392.3190

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

Monday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.

History of the World in 6 Glasses by Thomas Standage

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

Tuesday, December 18, 1:30 p.m.

The Whistler by John Grisham

Hostess: Pat Pease, 13 Litchfield Lane
713.824.1681

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, December 11, 9:30 a.m.

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles

Hostess: Pat Farnell, 12531 Piping Rock Drive,
832.867.2908

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



Current Bridge Groups:

1st Thursday (7:00 p.m.), Jane Judson, 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

If you are interested in playing with a particular group, please contact the group coordinator listed above. Remember if you want to play easy relaxed bridge, there are foursomes playing at Tracy Gee every Wednesday. Just get on the sub list by letting Melba Armstrong know you are interested.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Houston Chamber Choir Christmas Concert at the Villa de Matel

There are just a few tickets remaining for our planned return visit to the Houston Chamber Choir's annual Christmas Concert at the Villa de Matel on **Saturday afternoon, December 8**. However, if you had hoped to join us -- and/or bring a guest -- for this always popular holiday event, all is not lost. Contact Barbara Butler at 713.305.0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net to see if there are still any places available or to be put on a wait list pending any last-minute cancellations.

We will travel to the chapel via our usual Precinct 3 bus, but because Memorial City Mall's parking is at a premium during the holiday season, we'll leave from the parking lot of the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, corner of Memorial and Blalock, instead of our usual mall location. Departure will be promptly at 2:15 p.m. We expect to return about 6:00 p.m.

Cost for this year's concert will be \$33 and you can claim your ticket now by sending a check in that amount payable to Barbara Butler at 13719 Carriage Walk Lane, Houston 77077. Given the early response, however, it's probably best to contact Barbara first to be sure there's still an opening before sending your check.

Plus, save Wednesday, January 16, 2019, for "Multi-Media Day" -- Tours of KPRC Channel 2 Broadcast Studios and The Printing Museum.

This inside look at both the latest in broadcast and earliest in print media should be an enlightening adventure in terms of discovering how we learn about what's going on around us. Watch the January newsletter for details, but if you want to be sure not to miss out -- this trip is limited to the first 20 who sign up -- contact leader Pat Farnell at 832.867.2908 or farnellpat@gmail.com now.

BYWAY BIRDERS



On **December 8**, the Byway Birders will be visiting Bear Creek Park and Paul Rushing Park. We will meet to carpool at the old Sam's Warehouse at Highway 6 and I 10 at 8:00 AM. There will be a brief stop at the Randall's at Barker Cypress and Clay for Starbucks, then on to Paul Rushing. Diana Tiberia is the contact person, dltiberia@att.net, Cell: 832.866.8411.



GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas will be visiting Discovery Green, a 12-acre park located in downtown Houston, on **December 11**. Tree-shaded walks lead to a tranquil pond while grassy slopes offer postcard views of downtown. Come decked out for the holidays and capture the moment for your holiday cards – (or at least a new Facebook profile picture!).

This village green was created by a group of visionary philanthropists who transformed a pair of uninspiring parking lots into a vibrant 12-acre park that now hosts over 700 free events for more than 1.2 million visitors annually.

Discovery Green is currently showcasing *GUST; Celebrating a Decade of Discovery*, a kinetic field of color along the park's Brown Foundation Promenade. Commissioned by the Discovery Green Conservancy's Public Art Committee from Mexico City-based design collective Cocolab, the interactive, site-specific artwork brings to life the invisible patterns of the wind with vivid color, subtle motion and patterns of light.

Inspired by simple celebrations of community, and by folk traditions of hand-made art, *GUST* aims to provide a joyful gathering place for people to come together, to feel and see the breeze, and to play. Intended to be playful and interactive, *GUST* also invites you to “be the wind” and make the pinwheels turn and spin yourself. *GUST* will be on view from November 16, 2018, to March 20, 2019.

We will dine in the informal elegance of **The Grove** restaurant. The all-glass exterior overlooks a gathering of live oaks, offering visitors a peaceful, upscale ambiance in the heart of Houston.

Meet for carpooling in the Memorial City Satellite Lot South of Sears. We will leave at 9:30. To RSVP, please email Susan Boone - samboone@gmail.com.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT...



The Girls' Night Out Group will not meet in December. We will dine out again in January. Details will be published in the next newsletter.

A volunteer is still needed as hostess for January, March, and May. If you want to volunteer, please call Jan Groves before December 1.

If you want to be added to our email list, please contact Jan Groves at jamgroves@aol.com or 281.497.2295.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet will not meet in December. Please join us in January for a brunch celebrating foods of New Orleans. Contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713.705.7832 or Tina Simpson 281.558.1031 to be included in the brunch.

Nouveau Gourmet

Nouveau Gourmet will not meet in December. Joyce and Alan Berger will host the next Nouveau Gourmet event on **January 5, 2019**, at their home, 2711 Kismet Lane. The dinner theme in January is French Cuisine.

For additional information, contact Diane Statham at distatham@msn.com or 281.497.6259.

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 AAUW West Harris County Branch has three discussion groups: a first and third Thursday afternoon group (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), chaired by Martha Ewell; a second and fourth Tuesday afternoon group (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), chaired by Pat Thomsen; and a second and fourth Wednesday evening group (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) chaired by Willette Norman.

The briefing books and DVDs for Spring 2019 are published in late fall and can be ordered through the group leader, purchased directly from the Foreign Policy Association at www.fpa.org, or purchased from the Brazos Book Store. More information will be available later in the fall.

HIKING HONEYS



Hiking Honeys scheduled hike on December 20 along Buffalo Bayou has been cancelled.

Our next hike will be on **January 17, 2019**. Please see further details in the January newsletter.

MAH JONGG MAVENS



Mah Jongg Mavens: Learn to play the American version of this ancient game. Our members are always willing to teach beginners who want to join the group. Contact Mary Kain, mlkain@hal-pc.org or 713.824.3988, to add your name to the email list. Tiles are supplied and you may borrow a card to begin playing with us. We meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road at Westview.

VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

The group will not meet in November or December. The next meeting will be **January 31, 2019**. Details of the travelers' vicarious visit to Italy will be published in the January newsletter.

WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Wine, Women & Wisdom will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, January 21**, at McCormick & Schmick, City Centre, starting at 4:00 p.m.

For further information or to put your name on the email list, please contact Marie Helmy at 281.787.6396 or Dorothy Lauterbach at 512.217.7899.



.....**WISE...**

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

Celebrate the life of Grace Hopper during Computer Science Education Week **December 3-9**, csedweek.org. Have fun watching the video about the life of the Queen of Code. Code with a friend, grandchild or in a school during their Hour of Code. Learn more about the importance of www.csforall.org.

Let Karen know if you want to celebrate together with a glass of wine. If we plan anything formal, will send an email. Write Karen North knorth@me.com to join our WISE group.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make the following revisions to your 2018-2019 directory:

Baker, Arlene

Address Correction: 11805 Meadowglen Lane, Apt. 2127 Houston, TX 77082

Campbell, Debbie

New Address: P. O Box 899 Bellaire, TX 77402

Longo, Ligita

New Address: 202 Galveston Crossing #217 Houston, TX 77077
Added Cell Phone: 713.825.1737

Phares, Stephanie M.

Corrected Email: smphares15@gmail.com

Rickey, Gail

Added cell phone: 281.787.4304

Thomsen, Pat

New Address: 300 Saint Joseph Parkway, Apt. 2019 Houston, TX 77002

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 **Suzanne Dalati**, Corresponding Secretary, at sdalati@att.net, about any member news that is important to share with the membership and has been authorized to share by the member involved.*

There will not be a branch board meeting in December.