

West Harris County Board of Directors

President

Sharon Jorgeson

281.558.4382

sjorgeson@gmail.com

President Elect

Mary Peterson

Program Vice President

Carolyn Stoffel

Membership Vice President

Jo Glidewell

AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents

Nancy Ennis

Georgia Kimmel

Recording Secretary

Sara Dalton

Finance Officer

Diane Roberts

Corresponding Secretary

Suzanne Dalati

Newsletter Editor

Melba Armstrong

mkar@consolidated.net

March Newsletter deadline:

February 15, 2019

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org

27TH ANNUAL EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS CONFERENCE 2019

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 8:00 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.

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

EYH 2019 is here! Our 27th EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS Conference takes place on February 23, 2019, at Spring Forest Middle School.

Here is the EYH 2019 Committee at our January meeting putting the finishing touches to the event making sure all T's are crossed and I's dotted! It takes a team and this committee has been hard at work since June 2018 to make this event a success. Thank you team, and thank you AAUW West Harris County Branch!



Mary Peterson, Lisa Buckner, Lilian Care



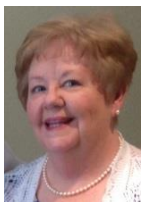
Diana Guarniere, Carolyn Morris, Rose Ennis, Sharon Jorgeson, Carolyn Stoffel, Pat Farnell, Karen North, Susan Boone, Debbie Campbell, Laura Cahill, Mary Andersen, Pam Doan

It's not too late to volunteer. If you want to help, please contact Lilian Care at: tigermoon1@sbcglobal.net.

Lilian Care, 2018 EYH Chair

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If it is February, it must be time for our Branch's Expanding Your Horizon Conference. This will be the 27th year that we have provided an exciting opportunity for middle school girls to be exposed to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that they may not have thought possible. The success of this conference depends on the extraordinary work of the Expanding Your Horizon Committee. This group of dedicated women are Branch treasures. The EYH Conference needs you to volunteer as a facilitator on the day of the conference, **Saturday, February 23, 2019**. Being a facilitator involves being in a classroom with a presenter and students. Your tasks are to help the presenter keep the session running smoothly and filling out a short evaluation form concerning the presentation. This is a fun activity as you have an opportunity to observe a young professional present an interesting STEM topic and get to observe wonderful, inquisitive adolescents hear new information and participate in interesting activities.



Please join your fellow Branch members and step up to the plate to volunteer for our Branch's major annual outreach project. Contact EYH Facilitators Coordinator Gail Rickey at patrickey@aol.com. She will explain what is expected of you as a facilitator. We are depending on you.

Sharon Jorgeson, WHC Branch President

WHC MEMBERS JOIN RICE AFFILIATE IN STUDY BREAK

On December 4, AAUW-WHC hosted a study break for the AAUW Rice University Student Affiliate on the Rice campus. Mary Peterson, Dorothy Lauterbach, Georgia Kimmel, Sharon Jorgeson, and Anne Amador provided refreshments, and greatly enjoyed the conversations with the dynamic students who were beginning their final exams. The Rice AAUW students expressed their appreciation of AAUW-WHC for arranging the event, and we look forward to joining them in more opportunities this semester.

Anne Amador, Student Chapter Liaison

AAUW FUNDS CORNER

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

This year members contributed \$2050 to various AAUW Funds and \$2055 to the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund for a total of \$4105.

AAUW has changed their funds' names to reflect the Mission to respond to the new and emerging challenges facing women and girls. The new funds are as follows:

9110 AAUW Greatest Needs Fund
4450 Education and Training Fund
4449 Economic Security Fund
4452 Leadership Fund

Refer to the last page of this newsletter for an explanation of the Funds.

Birding Group Turns Little House on the Prairie Adventurers

The birding group rerouted their plans on Saturday, January 12 (to avoid highway construction) and ended up on the Katy Prairie for a fabulous cool sunny day of birding and comradery. Miriam Vyles, Bernice Hotman, Pat Pease, Peg McNealy and Diane Statham joined me for a backroad adventure, eventually making it past the sandhill cranes and red-tailed hawks to Katy Prairie Conservancy's Indiangrass Preserve in Waller County.

Using two cars, binoculars in hand (not the drivers), and picnic lunches stowed away, we took over an hour from our parking spot at Memorial City to reach the preserve due to the large



number of birds we spotted along the way. But we had to make it there: I "promised" we would see a barn owl. Barn owls are threatened due to loss of barns! The preserve has a resident that makes her home in a shed on the conservancy land. Sure enough,

there she was sitting up high in the corner, wide eyed and curious. We left her alone and set off to learn more about the work being done in this marvelous, threatened, tall grass habitat.

In the end, we had puffed up chests as we admired our list of 39+ species. Our "Little Shed on the Prairie" experience will not soon be forgotten.

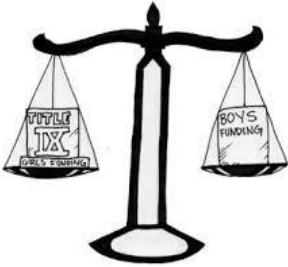
Jane Wood, Byway Birders

PUBLIC POLICY

It's Time to Take Action on Title IX

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities.

Discrimination as defined by Title IX includes sexual violence and in 2016 "sex" was expanded to include gender activities. Title IX applies to institutions that receive federal assistance from Department of Education including state and local educational agencies.



Programs and activities that receive Department of Education funds must operate in a non-discriminatory

manner. [Some key areas in which recipients have Title IX obligations are: recruitment, admissions, and counseling; financial assistance; sex based harassment; treatment of pregnant and parenting students; discipline; single sex education; and employment.] **Under Title IX schools receiving federal funding have an obligation to end sexual violence, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effect.**

Recently, the Department of Education has proposed sweeping changes to Title IX. Much of the proposed new rules are focused on how schools should handle sexual harassment and have expanded the rights of those accused.

First, the rule significantly narrows what counts as sexual harassment. Harassment must be so severe, pervasive, and offensive that it would deny a person access to education. Under this definition courts could say that even rape does not count since a one-time act of violence is not "pervasive."

Second, a school needs only to respond to sexual harassment that occurs within a school program or activity. A 12 year old raped at a park by her classmate? Under the proposed rule the school would not be required to provide her support, like assigning her to a different home room than her alleged rapist.

Third, a school would be held liable only if a narrow set of school staff had "actual knowledge" of alleged sexual misconduct.

The fourth big change limits to holding schools accountable **only** when they are "deliberately indifferent" to sexual harassment. Consider the case of a ninth grader who was raped and then taunted by her rapist and friend. The school responded by offering her the opportunity to drop out and enroll in an alternative school. The court could rule that the decision to offer her a choice at an alternative school does not render the school deliberately indifferent to her plight.

Fifty years ago, schools were allowed to impose all sorts of sexist restrictions on girls' ability to learn. They could be excluded from math and science classes and pushed out of school for getting pregnant. We passed Title IX to end that.

These recently proposed changes would weaken Title IX.

It is crucial that advocates speak up and fight back against any attacks on Title IX that attempt to diminish students' protection.

Click on [Two Minute Activist](#). Add your name today to help AAUW protect Title IX.

Pat Farnell, Public Policy Committee

Public Policy Interest Group

As you all know, one of AAUW's major initiatives is advocating for equity for girls and women both in education and the world at large. Are you interested in getting more involved in this aspect of AAUW? A Public Policy Interest Group is now being formed. Some ideas are: advocating in Austin, registering new voters, generating publicity about AAUW initiatives. etc.

If you have additional ideas and would like to help in formulating the activities of this group, please call or e-mail Pat Farnell, 832-867-2908, Farnellpat@gmail.com.

NOMINEES FOR 2019 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee presents the following as nominees for 2019-2020 officers of AAUW West Harris County Branch:

President Elect: Carolyn Morris
Vice President Program: Cindy Hickok
Vice-President AAUW Funds: Laura Cahill
Corresponding Secretary: Suzanne Dalati
Finance Officer: Diane Roberts

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, Diana Guarniere, Mary Peterson and Jane Wood. Election of officers will take place at the **March 23** Annual Meeting of the branch.

Pat Farnell, Nominating Committee Chair

FEBRUARY 2019 Activities and Interest Group News

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

At the Edge of the Orchard by Tracy Chevalier

Hostess: Sharon Jorgeson, 12518 Honeywood Trail

281.558.4382

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, February 6, 1:00 p.m.

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Hostess: Judy Hamelers, 1126 Ben Hur Drive

713.464.2132

Enjoying History

Monday, February 11, 1:30 p.m.

The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the

Brooklyn Bridge by David McCullough

Hostess: Judy Ryan, 715 Briar Park (daughter's home)

281.416.4980

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

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

The Son by Philip Meyer

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

Tuesday, February 19, 1:30 p.m.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz

Hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Court

281.392.3190

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, February 12, 9:30 a.m.

Tales of Good and Evil by Nikolai Gogol

The Egg and I, 9099 Westheimer Rd @ Jeannetta

BRIDGE GROUPS – Various



Current Bridge Groups:

1st Thursday (7:00 p.m.), Jane Judson, 713.528.6105

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.

BYWAY BIRDERS



In February, Byway Birders will visit the Aransas NWR and the Fulton/Rockport area. We will stay at the Fulton Inn and take a boat trip to see the whooping cranes and other birds. The boat captain is a good guide and very helpful in pointing out birds. We will leave **Friday, February 8**, and return on **Sunday February 10**.

If you plan on going on this trip, please, contact Peg McNealy, peg525@gmail.com, soon and make your reservations at the Fulton Inn for two nights. There are no rooms reserved, so check for the best rate.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

“Art Is Everywhere in Houston”

You knew they were there, but have you ever stopped for a close look at some of Houston's iconic art pieces? On **Wednesday, February 20**, we will visit the huge sculptures by David Adickes, Houston's best known artist and creator of the latest sculpture “Art is Everywhere in Houston” in his closed-to-the-public facility. You can photograph yourself with your favorite president or just stand back and be amazed at Adickes' creativity and skill.

After an early lunch at The Dunlavy in Memorial Park, we will see Houston's “Cloud” before proceeding to the top of the Glassell School for a visit to the new roof garden and its great views. Brief stops at a few other outdoor art installations will allow you to be creative yourself if you bring your camera set for selfies.

We'll meet our Precinct 3 bus at the usual location on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City Mall, and leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is at your expense, but bring \$1.00 for the driver's lunch which will be collected as you enter the bus.

To participate in this delightful day of looking at Houston's outdoor art and getting some wonderful tongue-in-cheek photos, contact our leader, Cindy Hickok, at cynthiahickok@sbcglobal.net or call her at 281.493.2525. Guests will be welcome if space on the bus permits.

Plus, save Tuesday, March 19, for our next event, Preservation Houston's tour - “Downtown East - Union Station to Discovery Green” with Jim Parsons, our favorite guide. Watch the March newsletter for details, but if you want to be sure to be on the bus for this one, contact our leader Sue Phipps at 713.462.9528 or sbhipps@comcast.net right away.

GARDEN DIVAS



The Divas will be visiting Levy Park on **Tuesday, February 12**. The park is the result of a 1941 bequest from the estate of Leon Levy. In 2015, the Upper Kirby Redevelopment Authority, in partnership with the Upper Kirby District Foundation, undertook the transformation of Levy Park into a world-class park. The 6-acre park, designed by the Office of James Burnett and Natalye Appel and Associates Architects, reopened in 2017.

Levy Park Conservancy, an affiliate of the Upper Kirby District Foundation, is the private, nonprofit organization responsible for the maintenance, operation, and programming of Levy Park, a public City of Houston Park.



Levy Park is a vibrant urban space located in the heart of the Upper Kirby District of Houston. The park's thoughtful design features activity areas, a dog park, a community garden, a children's park, and beautiful landscaping. Accenting the grounds are free, year-round passive and active programming in wellness, the arts, education, and recreation. Whether visiting the park for a special event or to enjoy the outdoors, Levy Park is an inclusive, safe space to connect, experience, do, and play.

Meet in our "old" location, the parking lot south of Memorial City Mall, at 9:30 a.m. Note that I will be there in spirit ONLY while I am wandering around Australia. Please RSVP to **Suzanne Dalati**, sdalati@att.net, so we can get an accurate count for lunch.

You may meet us at the park: 3801 Eastside Street, Houston, TX 77098. Levy Park is located just south of Richmond Avenue between Kirby Drive and Buffalo Speedway. Parking is available adjacent to the park, along Eastside Street and Wakeforest Avenue. Additional public parking is available in the Kirby Grove parking garage located on the corner of Richmond Avenue and Wakeforest Avenue.

After visiting the park, we will dine at Carriage House Café, 7955 Fallbrook Drive, Houston, Texas 77064. The restaurant is famous for vintage decor and really good home/country cooking.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The GNO group will not meet in February.

Our next dinner will be **Wednesday, March 20**. Details of the evening will be published in the March newsletter.

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 February. Please join us **March 9, 2019**, for a dinner featuring foods of New England. 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 February. The next dinner will be **March 2, 2019**, hosted by Ruth Fowler. Details will be published in the March newsletter. For additional information, please contact Diane Statham at 281.497.6259.

HIKING HONEYS



On **Thursday, February 21**, the Hiking Honeys will venture to Keith Weiss Park located in North Houston. This is a beautiful park that is nestled within pine forests along Aldine-Westfield Road and is a key to flood control for the Hall's Bayou watershed.

In 1979, James and Margaret Elkins deeded nearly 500 acres to the City of Houston to establish Keith Weiss Park. The name memorializes Mrs. Elkins' parents.

The trail is a 2.2 mile barbell-shaped loop which winds nicely through the forest and wraps about the central pond. In this short space, you will get a wide variety of nature and a surprising amount of seclusion.

We will carpool from the triangular lot on Barryknoll across from the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City Mall at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Melba Armstrong at 281.392.3190 or mkar@consolidated.net to sign up for this hike.

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 first meeting of the 1st and 3rd Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group will be held **Thursday, February 7, 2019**, at the following location: 13194 Memorial Drive, the Adult Learning Center, Memorial Drive United Methodist Church (to the left of TJ Maxx), Room 460, **from 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** The two topics for February will be *Refugees and Global Migration* and *The Middle East Regional Disorder*. Please contact Martha Ewell, 713.782.2084 if you have any questions

Inner Loop Great Decisions Group will meet on **Tuesday, February 12 and on Tuesday, February 26 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** The discussions will be followed by a light dinner at a nearby restaurant for those who choose to do so. We need more members to be a viable discussion group.

You are invited to join our group especially if you live inside the loop, downtown, museum district, West U, River Oaks area. We need you to participate. For more information, contact Pat Thomsen Patthom75@att.net or Linda Marlin Marlinl@comcast.net.

February 13, 2019 - Great Decisions Evening Group will meet at **7:00 p.m.** at Willette Norman's home, 12511 Shepherds Ridge Drive, Houston, TX 77077. The discussion topic is "Global Migration." Discussion Leader is Jenni Gillespie. For more information call 281.497.3626.

February 28, 2019 - Great Decisions Evening Group will meet at **7:00 p.m.** at Pat Dach's home, 6014 Ballina Canyon Lane, Houston, TX 77041. The discussion topic is "Middle East." Discussion Leaders are the Dachs. For more information call 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.

VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

This group will not meet in February. The next meeting will be on **March 28, 2019**, hosted by Carolyn Morris. Details of the next interesting discussion will be published in the March newsletter.



WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM

Wine, Women and Wisdom will not meet in February. The next meeting will be on **Monday, March 18, 2019**, at McCormick & Schmick, City Centre location, for happy hour starting at 4:00 pm. All are welcome.

For further information, contact Marie Helmy at 281.787.6396 or Dorothy Lauterbach at 512.217.7899.



WISE...

Women in Stem, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Expanding WISE Horizons will be the focus in February. **Saturday February 23**, is a hands-on experience to meet Houston's STEM professionals, find "Hidden Treasures" and motivate middle school girls to study STEM. Bridgette Mongeon will be our keynote speaker and is working on STEAM curriculum. See Bridgette's [Alice In Wonderland Sculpture](#) to find your adventure. Volunteer at the Expanding Your Horizons Conference to help with:

Student volunteers from 8:30 – 10:00 or 11:00-12:30,
– contact Brenda Moss, 281.494.7889

Being a facilitator morning or afternoon – contact Gail Rickey, 281.440.0353

Being a Wrangler for the day – contact Debbie Campbell, 713.851.3966

Being a research observer or being involved in sharing ideas – contact Karen North, 713.789.6482



The Garden Divas at Discovery Green December 2018



Front Row: Loretta Coussirat, Bev Snedeker, Unidentified
Middle Row: Linda Busch, Karen North, Susan Boone, Sheila Jaynes, Margaret Pratt
Back Row: Kathryn Sandlin, Suzanne Dalati, Pat Thomsen, Linda Albright

Next WHC Branch Board Meeting February 11, 2019

The next branch board meeting will be at Sharon Jorgeson's home, 12518 Honeywood Trail, Houston, TX 77077 at 6:00 p.m. All members are welcome. Please RSVP your attendance to sjorgeson@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

We are pleased to welcome the following new member. Please update your directories with her information.

Watson, Marilyn S.

49 Briar Hollow Lane, #706

Houston, TX 77027

Cell Phone: 281.639.1787

Email: marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net

Please update your directories with the following members' revised information:

Cahill, Laura

New Email: Laura.Cahill@HCFCD.org

Coveler, Gail

New Address: 5202 Barons Cove

Houston, TX 77041

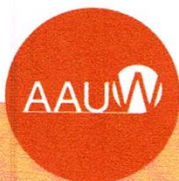
To insure you do not miss any communications from the Branch, if you have a change in your contact information, please inform **Margaret Carlson** at AAUW.Margaret.Carlson@gmail.com.

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.

How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

STEM Title IX Pathways to Jobs

Examples of programs include:
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research



Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

Pay Equity Title VII Retirement Security

Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund



Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

Career Workplace Training

Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCWSL

Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible