



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

VOLUME XXXXIII NUMBER 10

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

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

Sep Newsletter deadline:

Aug 1, 2019

JUNE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Saturday, June 8, 2019

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Maggiano's Restaurant

Memorial City Mall, Gessner at I-10

Alice and the White Rabbit are looking for you! We are looking for you too!

Please join fellow AAUW-WHC members and this year's Baker-Telfer Scholarship winners for our Spring Luncheon on **June 8, 2019**, at 11:00 a.m. at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant in Memorial City (Gessner at I-10).

Our speaker is sculptor Bridgette Mongeon who is well versed in the story of *Alice In Wonderland*. She created "Move One Step On," a depiction of the tea party from the well-known story. The sculpture resides in Evelyn's Park in Bellaire and features Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the March Hare and the Dormouse. Bridgette incorporated not only artistic talents, but elements of science, engineering, and technology, in her tea party presentation.

As it was at the tea party, seating at Maggiano's is limited; so please send your check for \$35.00 to reserve a place to:

Diane Roberts
5607 St. Paul Street
Bellaire, TX 77401

Payment will not be accepted at the door.

In addition to awarding the Baker-Telfer scholarships, the 2019-2020 branch officers will be installed.

Carolyn Stoffel, Program Vice-President

SAVE THE DATE

AAUW-WHC Membership Coffee

Saturday, August 24, 2019

9:30 to 11:30 AM

Memorial Drive Methodist Church

12955 Memorial Drive

Houston, TX 77079

Stay Informed

Branch website:

www.aauw-whc.org

National website:

www.aauw.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that my term as president is already coming to a close. I have so enjoyed being your president and want to acknowledge the wonderful women who have served this year on our branch board as officers and committee chairs. Each one has worked tirelessly to fulfill their commitment to the duties of their position. We have worked together to make certain that our branch continues to operate successfully. Also, I wish to thank all the interest group chairs for their leadership in keeping our activities flourishing.



It takes many people to make this large branch one of the best in the country. I am so hopeful that you will consider offering your talents and volunteer when those in leadership request your help. It may just be a one-time event or an ongoing project. You will find that it is very rewarding and fun as you meet people you may otherwise not have a chance to know.

I know our incoming president, Mary Peterson, will be a very capable leader and wish her and the branch board much success.

Sharon Jorgeson, WHC Branch President

Study Break With the Rice Student AAUW Affiliate

On Monday afternoon, April 22, Sharon Jorgeson, Georgia Kimmel, Margaret Carlson, and Anne Amador provided a study break for the Rice AAUW students as they began their final exams. These delightful young women (and one hungry and supportive boyfriend) enjoyed sharing their stories and summer plans with AAUW West Harris County members. The comfort food was much appreciated by the students, who were also provided goody bags and snacks to take with them for fueling their late-night review sessions that week. In turn, our WHC members were truly inspired by these young women's enthusiasm and energy. We look forward to continuing this wonderful relationship between our groups in the fall semester.



Margaret Carlson, Anne Amador & Georgia Kimmel
With Rice Students

Time for Membership Renewal

Don't put off your dues renewal and/or directory changes until too late. We need your renewals by July 15, 2019 to ensure you are included in the coming year's AAUW West Harris County Directory. The directory is not published until September; however all the new information has to be typed in, formatted and proofed before going to the printer. Mary Andersen will be very busy with adding, formatting, and proofing new members' information from the fall Membership Coffee in August.

It's hard to understate the value of the friendships, activities and our contribution to the common cause of empowering women provided by AAUW and the West Harris County Branch. You make all of these things possible with your dues.

Some of us joined AAUW for the many social and cultural opportunities our branch provides, and are happy that so many of us are also working for the higher goals of education, empowerment, and equity. Activism is easier with an effective community behind you, and AAUW provides support, advice, guidance, and assistance.

There are a couple of ways to pay your dues:

1. You will shortly receive a personal email invoice for dues from AAUW if you have not already renewed. The sender will be *memberinfo* and the subject line will be *AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2020*. This gives you the option to pay online directly. **You won't need to log in to do this** – there's a link in the email. Just follow that link to pay with a credit or debit card.

OR

2. you can send an \$83 check to Diane Roberts, 5607 Saint Paul St., Bellaire, TX 77401.

Email Diane if you need help or have questions:

diane77401@gmail.com.

Diane Roberts, Finance Officer

MEMBERSHIP

Please send the names of prospective AAUW members to Jo Glidewell at wzglide@gmail.com so that she can send them an invitation to the annual coffee being held on Saturday, August 24. Include their names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.

Keep in mind that prospective members must have an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution.

Jo Glidewell, Membership Chairman

2019-2020 BRANCH DIRECTORY

It is getting close to time to start production on the 2019-2020 AAUW-WHC Branch Directory and we want to make sure that current member contact information is correct. All new information or corrections for current members must be submitted to the Directory Editor by **July 31, 2019**, for inclusion in the new directory. 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.

Thank you for your help,

Mary Andersen, Directory Editor

Out From Under the Bed and Into the WHC Branch Archives

Now is the time to assemble all records, including digital, paper, and memorabilia, from our activities this past year. **By the end of June**, please send these records to Martha Ewell, Historian. Each August, the Historian meets with the archivist at the U of H Library, located on the main campus, to deliver these records for entry into the Carey Shuart Women's Archive & Research Collection which houses all of the WHC Branch past and current history.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha by email m.ewell@sbcglobal.net or phone 713.782.2084.

Martha Ewell, Historian

SPRING STYLE SHOW

Fun was had by all who attended the Style Show held on May 5.

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

We are pleased to report that we are able to make a \$1400 contribution to the Tyler 75th American Fellowship Fund.

Thank you all for your support of AAUW Funds.

Nancy Ennis & Georgia Kimmel, AAUW Funds VPs



Models: Marietta Hostak, Nancy Guilloud, Sara Dalton, Sue Phipps, Sharon Jorgeson, Marilyn Arendt, Denise Bossarte, Susan Wilson, Arlene Baker



Susan Wilson demonstrating her modeling talents.

PUBLIC POLICY



The Texas 86th Legislature which began on January 3, 2019, will adjourn on May 27, 2019. Please be aware this article is being written two weeks before adjournment. It's crunch time. Many bills are dying or very close to it. What will become law in the remaining weeks is anybody's guess. I will follow the issues introduced in a previous article, namely, marijuana, criminal justice, school safety, property tax and school finance.

Marijuana

Can the Legislature begin to decriminalize marijuana? The House voted to reduce penalties for low-level possession in a proposal called House Bill 63, also known as B-to-C, which lowers the penalty from a Class B to a Class C misdemeanor, the same as a traffic ticket. It passed with two dozen Republicans joining the Democrats. But opposition from the presiding officer of the Senate, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, remains a problem.

Can the Legislature broaden the use of medical marijuana? Medical marijuana usage in Texas is among the most restrictive in the nation. Both the Senate and the House have offered bills to expand use of medical marijuana. Both Republicans and Democrats have offered bills to do the same, but Lt. Governor Dan Patrick remains wary of any medical marijuana proposal that might become a means for expanding access to the drug. He will need a lot of convincing to change his mind.

Criminal Justice

The House moved to repeal the Driver Responsibility Program which many describe as a trap for low-income drivers which forces them into a cycle of debt or even jail time. It is difficult to repeal because it funds half of the state's emergency trauma care system. The lawmakers managed to unite both the hospitals and criminal justice advocates by shifting the funding to a broad base. Specifically, the measure would add a small fee to automobile insurance and increase state traffic fines. If the bill receives final House approval, it goes to the Senate.

School Safety

The Senate voted to approve a school safety bill which tries to prevent another Santa Fe High School tragedy, a tragedy which left 10 dead and 13 wounded a year ago. The Senate bill strengthens the ability of school employees, including substitute teachers, to respond to emergency situations by requiring that telephones or other electronic devices be placed in classrooms. Additionally, school districts must establish threat assessment teams to identify potentially dangerous students and determine how to intervene before violence occurs. Also included is the requirement to appoint school safety committees that meet regularly and provide the boards of trustees with updates. Lt Governor Dan Patrick signaled his approval of the Senate bill. It now goes to the House.

Property Tax Relief and School Finance

The lawmakers are trying to cap property tax increases which will directly or indirectly reduce revenue for Texas schools, while at the same time increasing revenue for K-12 education. Will voters love one tax cut so much they will ignore that another tax is paying for it?

The House approved a school finance bill that puts an extra \$9 billion into Texas schools. It includes pay raises, boosts funding by \$900 for each student, and drops the amount of money wealthy districts pay through the state's Robin Hood plan enacted in 1993. Both the Senate and the House are working on tax bills to cap property tax increases. The caps range between 2.5% - 3.5%.

But here's how we pay for it. The lawmakers raise sales taxes one percent to 9.25%. Oddly, the Republicans are in favor of increasing the sales tax and the Democrats are opposing the increase in sales tax.

You can follow active Texas bills by going to: **legiscan.com.**

Sources: Fort Worth Star-Telegram - Here's what Texas lawmakers are doing about property taxes..., May 2, 2019, Internet; Austin Chronicle - Texas tries to catch up with cannabis..., May 8, 2019, Internet; Texas Tribune - Betting the whole legislative session on one big issue..., May 8, 2019, Internet.



JUNE 2019 Activities and Interest Group News

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

Pot Luck Luncheon followed by

Book selections for 2019-2020

Hostess: Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive
713.502.4594

Contemporary Readers

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

Lunch and Book Selection for 2019-2020

Fratelli's Restaurant

1330 Wirt Road

Enjoying History

Monday, June 10, noon

Salad Luncheon and Book Selection for 2019-2020.

Hostess: Judy Dybell, 3410 Spring Rock Lane
713.939.1320

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

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

Planning and Book Selection for 2019-2020

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

Tuesday, June 18, noon

Book Selection Luncheon for 2019-2010

Hostess: Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive
713.502.4594

Outstanding Literature Group

No meeting is planned for June

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 subbing for a particular group, please contact the group coordinator listed above.

BYWAY BIRDERS



The Byway Birders Group will have a planning meeting in June. Members of the group will be contacted when the date, time, and place of the meeting is determined. For additional information, please contact Pat Dach at 281.701.5846 or dachpd@hotmail.com.

GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas met in May to plan the group's activities for the 2019-2020 AAUW year. There will be no meeting of the group in June. For additional information, please contact Susan Boone at 713.854.7537 or smboone@gmail.com.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



The GNO group will not meet again until September. Details of the first night out of the new season will be published in the AAUW September newsletter.

The Girls' Night Out Group Needs a New Coordinator for the 2019-2010 Season.

If you are willing to take on the responsibility of organizing the dining experiences of the group, please contact Janis Groves, 281.497.2295, to volunteer and discuss the specific details of the coordinator's responsibilities. We also need volunteers to hostess the GNO activities at selected restaurants.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet will meet in June for brunch and planning meeting. For details, please contact Barbara Cook (chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net or 713.782.4398).

Nouveau Gourmet

We will meet at the home of Barbara Cook on **Saturday, July 6**, for a good, old American meal honoring the moon landing 50 years ago. For additional information, contact Barbara at 713.782.4398.

GREAT DECISIONS



The 1st and 3rd Thursdays Great Decisions Group has finished its discussions for this year and will not meet again until in the spring of 2020. In the fall, the Foreign Policy Association will announce the new topics for 2020 and briefing books for the spring will be ordered in late October. In 2020, meetings will take place the first and third Thursdays from February through May. Please check the AAUW newsletter in December and January for further details about the spring meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Ewell at 713.782.2084.

The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group has completed its planned agenda for this year. They will resume regular meetings the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month starting **February 11, 2020**. For more information contact Linda Marlin at marlinl@comcast.com or Pat Thomsen at Patthom75@att.net.

Great Decisions Night Group changed a previously scheduled meeting for April 24, 2019 due to inclement weather to June 12, 2019.

Great Decisions Evening Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. The discussion topic is "Cyber Security." The meeting will be hosted by Mary and Vic Edwards in their home at 611 Timber Circle, Houston, TX. For additional information, please contact Willette Norman at 281.497.3626 or willetten@gmail.com.



HIKING HONEYS

The Hiking Honeys will take a hiatus for the summer months of June, July and August. We are looking forward to September when we will take to the trails again. Last season, we were rained out several times and are hoping for better weather this time. Check the September 2019 newsletter for details on the next outing.

Remember, it's up to YOU to keep us hiking!

VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



An interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

The Vicarious Voyagers have concluded their scheduled destinations for this season. We look forward to new places to explore during the 2019-2020 season.

If you are interested in joining this group to explore interesting places around the world, please contact Diane Guarniere by email or phone.

WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Wine, Women & Wisdom will not meet in June, July, or August. Check the September newsletter for our next planned "happy hour."

For additional information or to add your name to the email list, contact Marie Helmy at 281.787.6396 or Dorothy Lauterbach at 512.217.7899.



WISE...

Women in Stem, Entertainment, Enrichment and Education

Plans this summer are for getting together at Hermann Park for more walks and talks.

See <http://knorth.edublogs.org/planning/roserivets/> for growing fun. Amazing Coexist Exhibit outside Japanese Gardens and Bridgette's Alice at Evelyn's Park are ideas. If you find a WISE place you would like to visit, email the group and let's make it happen with all our Houston area AAUW branches. To join the mailing list, please write knorth@me.com.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



UH Moores School of Music "Texas Music Festival" Concert

If you haven't already signed up for our season-ending trip to the University of Houston Moores School of Music's Texas Music Festival on **Saturday, June 8**, you'll want to do so now. The featured soloist will be the silver winner of this year's Van Cliburn Piano Competition, and it promises to be a wonderful concert featuring the entire young artists' orchestra. Prior to the concert, we'll share Mexican food and conversation at the Cadillac Bar & Grill where we'll order from the menu and pay with separate checks. Linda Morgan and Fran Macy will be our leaders.

We'll meet our Precinct 3 bus at our usual location on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way and will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. and return at the conclusion of the concert.

To get aboard, your check in the amount of \$9 (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 5**.

Questions? Contact Fran at 281.556.0121 or franhm@mac.com or Linda Morgan at 281.293.0976 or amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

As usual, guests will be welcome if space on the bus permits.

Cultural Activities 2019-20 Season Planning Meeting

As our 2018-19 season is drawing to a close, planning for our 2019-20 season is underway. But first, a special thank you to Carol Gee, Judy Starr, Jane Wood, Barbara Butler, Martha Hebert, Pat Farnell, Cindy Hickok, Sue Phipps, Sheila Jaynes, Elizabeth Martin, Linda Morgan and Fran Macy for leading us to a spectacular season this past year. And a special thanks also to Sheila Jaynes who has retired after several years as our official "bus-getter." (**Note:** If you live on the West side and are willing to get up early four times a year to secure our buses for next season, please contact Priscilla List as below.) We had some problems along the way -- weather and otherwise -- but for the most part managed to make lemonade even when presented with lemons!

If you have ideas about 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 11**, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Cultural Chair, Priscilla List, 6923 Lawler Ridge, Houston, 77055, to set the 2019-20 season 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.

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.*

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. Check us out in September.