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Nov. Newsletter deadline:
Nov. 10, 2019

NOVEMBER BRANCH
MEETING
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019
10:00 AM
Tracy Gee Center
3955 Westcenter



Creative Couture

Linda Thompson of Creative Couture will present her collection of one-of-a-kind garments at our general meeting at Tracy Gee Center, 3955 Westcenter, Saturday, November 16, at 10 a.m. An artist who took her talent and her education and developed a creative line of art to wear, Ms. Thompson is now in demand to present her collections for wearable-art exhibitions nationwide. She has designed, perhaps dyed, and assembled each piece in her artist's studio in Houston. You will delight in seeing what imagination and determination can do. There will be informal modeling; we recommend that if you would care to see yourself in one of these original creations, you wear something basic, such as black slacks and top. Come early for light refreshments at 9:30.





AAUW Holiday Party

December 1, 2019 4:00-6:00 PM

Las Ventanas, 14555 Grisby Rd. Houston, TX 77079

Choice of:

- Chicken Breast
- Chicken Enchiladas
- Beef or Chicken Fajitas

RSVP by November 22 to Carolyn Morris
713-560-1889 morriscs@aol.com

Please send your check for \$30 to Diane Roberts
5607 St. Paul Street. Bellaire, TX 77041



AAUW Funds Corner

Did you participate in The Mission Possible Celebration Fund Raiser?

If you did, **thank you!**

If not, it is getting to the time to review and make year end charitable contributions. It is also not too late to submit your donation to be counted as part of Mission-Possible.

Please consider a contribution to any AAUW Fund. Look on pages 4 and 5 of your WHC Directory to learn about the various AAUW funds and how to submit your donation. AAUW National is requesting donations for the Greatest Needs Fund for the flexibility to use your unrestricted donation when there is a funding need, but any fund donation is appreciated.

Our local AAUW initiative, the Baker-Telfer Scholarship, information is on page 5 of your WHC Directory including how you can contribute.

Watch for Mission Possible results in the December newsletter.

Georgia Kimmel and Laura Cahill,
AAUW Funds VPs

President's Message

Our September meeting was cancelled due to the flood warnings. The October meeting had to change as well. As a teacher, I learned to make plans and be ready for any changes that came along. I appreciate our hardworking board. They plan our programs, archive our materials, notify us about public policies, streamline our scholarship forms, organize our refreshments, notify us about ill members, etc.

By now, I hope you are enjoying your activity groups.

Mary Peterson



86th Texas Legislative Session - A Wrap-up

The Texas Legislature is over the the results are in. It was a well-behaved group when compared with the previous Legislature. This time there were no gun threats or fisticuffs between legislators. The admirable behavior appears to be a direct result of the 2018 election when Democrats picked up 14 seats in the Legislature 12 seats in the House and 2 in the Senate. The Legislature moved toward the center right.

Governor, Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor, Dan Patrick and the new House Speaker, Dennis Bonnen remained united and focused. They hammered away until they increased state spending on schools and cut property taxes. A feat thought impossible except by court order. Fortunately they had enough money this year to do it. But will money be there in coming years is a concern.

An enormous number of laws (1,400) were passed. Here are some of them. Please find complete information on new laws at: legiscan.com.

- SB 21 Prohibits the sale of tobacco products and e-cigarettes to Texans under 21
- HB 3703 Expands medical uses of medical marijuana (CBD oil) for certain conditions
- HB 541 Allows women to pump breast milk as well as breastfeed anywhere in public
- SB 22 Prohibits state and local governments from partnering with agencies that perform abortions even if they contract for service not related to the procedure
- HB 650 Prohibits the shackling of pregnant female prison inmates, requires trauma screening of each incoming female inmate and a study of visitation policies
- HB 1631 Bans red light cameras across the state but allows contracts to be enforced until they expire
- HB 2048 Repeals the driver responsibility program. It is estimated that over one million drivers will have surcharges lifted from their record
- HB 37 Makes stealing packages from your front door a possible third-degree felony
- SB 1264 Prevents surprise medical bills when your medical provider and insurance company can't agree on payment
- SB 535 Allows licensed handgun owners to carry their guns in places of worship unless prohibited by the institution
- SB 476 Allows diners to bring their pets to a restaurant's outdoor patio
- SB 339 Expands rules for selling houses in a floodplain, near a reservoir previously flooded land

The 2020 election looms over Texas politics. The party that wins in 2020 will control the 87th Texas Legislature. The 87th Texas Legislature will control the congressional redistricting scheduled for 2021 and its direct descendent gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the process of carving out districts to favor a particular party. Being an apathetic Texas voter is not an option.

Sources: The Texas Monthly, 2019: The Best and Worst...June 18, 2019, internet
 Texas Tribune, Winners and Losers...May 21, 2019, internet
 Texas Bar Journal, The 86th Session Overview...September 2019, print
 Texas Tribune 820 New Texas Laws...August 29k 2019, internet

NOVEMBER 2019 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator



BOOK GROUPS

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney

Hostess: Dana Cutts

311 Blue Willow Drive 713.785.5306

Contemporary Readers

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

The Glovemaker by Ann Weisgarber

Hostesses: Judy Starr

830 Edgewick Court 281.242.8242

Enjoying History

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

West Like Lightning by Jim DeFelice

Hostess: Melba Armstrong

22423 Tullis Trail Court 281.392.3190

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

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

American Rust by Philipp Meyer

Josephine Glidewell, 936.327.2085

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant

Memorial Drive at Kirkwood

Mystery

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

Nemesis by Jo Nesbo

Hostess: Pat Pease

13 Litchfield Lane 713.834.1681

Outstanding Literature Group

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

Poetry by John Keats

La Madeleine, Carillon Center,

10001 Westheimer Road

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 contact Melba Armstrong, and she can put you in contact with groups needing regular players or subs.



Byway Birders

Byway Birders will be visiting the Rio Grande Valley from November 21-24. We will be using the Hampton Inn in Mission as our base.

If you are interested in joining us, make your reservations at the Hampton Inn and let Edie O'Brien know that you plan on going. We include spouses and friends on our trips. These are some of the areas that we may visit as time allows:

Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and World Birding Center

Quintana Mazatlán World Birding Center

Bentsen Rio Grande State Park

Estero Llano Grande State Park

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge

We will also have a trip on the Rio Grande River. Please contact Edie at 281-496-0942 or medieobrien@att.net for additional details about the trip.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



“Houston Takes to the Air ~ Lone Star Flight and 1940 Air Terminal Museums

On Thursday, November 14, we will begin our discovery of Houston’s aviation history with a visit to the Lone Star Flight Museum. This brand new \$37 million facility contains two 30,000 square foot hangers housing more than 20 beautifully-restored aircraft; the Aviation Heritage Gallery chronicling the history of aviation; the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame; and a new exhibit ~ **Ellington Airport: Gateway to Space** -which celebrates the history, future and legacy of Ellington Field.

Following a buffet lunch at Central Texas Bar BQ near Hobby airport, we’ll visit the 1940 Air Terminal Museum on the grounds of the Airport. This beautiful Art Deco building designed by famed Houston architect Joseph Finger opened September 1940 and served as Houston’s only commercial air terminal until 1954. The building was restored in 2004 and 2009 and has been designated a Historic Aerospace Site by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). This year it also was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Cost for the trip is \$38.00 which includes both tours plus your lunch. In addition, we’ll be collecting the customary \$1.00 for the driver’s lunch as you enter the bus.

We will meet our Precinct 3 bus at our usual spot 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 9:00 a.m. We expect to be back at Memorial City by about 3:30 p.m. Note: Comfortable walking shoes are recommended as we will be walking mainly on concrete floors.

Elizabeth Martin will be our leader for this high-flying day. To secure your reservation, contact her at 713-542-0598 or elizamart349@gmail.com and send your check in the amount of \$38.00, made out to Elizabeth, to her at 3518 Grennoch, Houston, TX 77025 without delay. And prepare for lift-off!

Plus, save Tuesday, December 10th for our Special Pre-Holiday Event. Instead of the Houston Zoo Lights Holiday Spectacular announced in the directory, we’ll be touring Bayou Bend to enjoy its special holiday decor. Watch the December newsletter for details, but if you already know you want to be along for this one, contact our leader, Barbara Butler, at 713-305-0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net right away to get your name on her list.



Garden Divas

The Garden Divas are traveling to Clear Lake on November 5 to learn about natural habitats & environment conservation. **Exploration Green** is a former golf course that is now a detention pond located between El Camino Real, Bay Area Boulevard and Space Center Boulevard. Once fully built, the pond will hold 500 million gallons of stormwater, protecting an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 homes from flooding. The project includes tree and wetland nurseries that will be used to fill Exploration Green with plants and wildlife as it is constructed. We will have a guided tour by George Kyame of the Conservancy. Wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and bring water. The address for the location is 16205 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062. Street parking is available.

Phase 1 is complete, and residents are using its trails regularly. Phase 2, which was originally estimated to be finished this spring, is in the final stages of completion.

The Exploration Green Conservancy, Inc. (EGC) has been formed and incorporated to develop, preserve and protect the land known as Exploration Green (EG). EGC is dedicated to creating, maintaining and operating the habitat restoration and recreation facilities within Exploration Green while concurrently supporting the use of the area for storm water detention in order to:

- enhance the quality of life and outdoor experience for residents in the greater Bay Area;
- provide abundant natural habitat areas for migrating and resident wild birds, butterflies and other appropriate wildlife;

- create nature trails for hiking, biking and pedestrian commuting, athletic fields and other recreation areas;
- create functioning wetlands, lakes and other water features; and
- sponsor education efforts via area schools and other groups to enhance understanding of natural habitats, wildlife, environmental conservation, wetlands and storm water issues. (we won't be 'creating' :)

After the tour we will dine at Tommy's Seafood and Oyster bar. As a family-owned and operated NASA seafood restaurant business, Tommy's Restaurant Oyster Bar takes pride in offering the best and most responsive service for your family. The restaurant address is 2555 Bay Area Blvd. Houston, TX 77058.

We will leave Memorial City mall from the Satellite parking area promptly at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to meet us at Discovery Green, I would suggest arranging carpools with folks that live near you.

Please email Susan Boone - smboone@gmail.com if you are interested in going on this trip. If you are not on the regular mailing list, but would like to be, please let me know.

*Note, you may want to consider voting early since this is election day. We will be back in Houston in plenty of time too.

Thanks to Susan Thompson for arranging this trip!

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet

Please join us Saturday, November 09, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for our 2nd dinner in this year's series - "Influences on Texas Cuisine". Our dinner will focus on Houston Fusion. Our host will be Ed Alami. If you have questions, please contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.

Nouveau Gourmet

Hazel Kjos will host a dinner at 6:30 p.m. at her home on Saturday, November 2. The theme is Hungarian.

The menu will be Hungarian Beef stew, Yellow Wax Bean Stew, Cucumber salad, Chocolate Mousse Cake.

Hazel will make the Stuffed Cabbage Rolls. We will also need a mixed greens salad, some bread and wine.

Contact Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com for more information.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The groups organize during October and November and meet for group discussions twice monthly, February through May.

The Great Decisions 1st and 3rd Thursday

Afternoon Group meets from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. February through May. Briefing books will be ordered for the spring 2020 meetings in late November. Contact Martha Ewell at 713.782.2084 or marthaewell@att.net for additional information and to join the group.

The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group

will meet every other Tuesday afternoons February through May, beginning Tuesday February 4, 2020. at 3 pm. The meetings are held in various members' homes, followed by a pot luck light dinner or an optional dinner at a local restaurant. If you are interested in joining our group, please write to: Pat Thomsen PatThom75@att.net or Linda Marlin Marlinl@comcast.net.

Great Decisions Evening Group

meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays February through May. Our topic discussion books and DVD will be ordered by November 16, 2019. For additional information about this group or how to join, please contact Willette Norman at 281.497.3626 or willetten@gmail.com.

Hiking Honeys



For their November 21 hike, the Hiking Honeys will visit the Edith L Moore Nature Sanctuary, a wonderful urban park maintained by the Houston Audubon Society. Within the 17.5 acres, there are 1.5 miles of interconnecting loop trails. The park is a paradise for bird watchers and nature lovers. The Moore log cabin, Rummel Creek, several bridges and wooden boardwalks add to the hike's interest. The shaded trails are easy with mulch and wooden surfaces.

Barbara Cook is taking the lead on this hike, so let her know if you will be joining us. Email or call her at chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net or 713-782-4398.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Drive United Methodist Church west side parking lot. After the hike, we will lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Vicarious Voyagers



An interest group for travelers.

Diana Guarniere, Chair
guarniered@gmail.com 281.493.2997

Nancy Bowden, Co-Chair
nanbowd@sbcglobal.net 281.589.7423

This group will not meet again until January 30, 2020. Details of the gathering will be published in the January newsletter. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact the co-chairs to have your name added to the email list.

Wine, Women & Wisdom



The next gathering will be on Monday, November 18, at McCormick and Schmick's City Centre from four to six. Come and enjoy Happy Hour food and beverages. All are welcome.

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

WISE MEETING WITH A MOVIE

Date: Wednesday, November 6
Time: 10:00 am
Where: Kris Bybee-Finley's home
15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive

RSVP: Kris brazitku@gmail.com or 304-610-8708 (call or text).

Food: Of course! Coffee: You bet!

Everyone is welcome to attend.

To inspire us to inspire young women who can inspire the world, you are invited to view "Science Fair", a documentary about high school students working to achieve their dreams. Filmmakers follow nine high school students from around the globe as they compete at an international science fair. Facing off against 1,700 of the smartest teens from 78 countries, only one will be named Best in Fair.

To continue that inspiration, please consider being a reviewer of the NCWIT Aspirations.org award. Go to <http://www.aspirations.org/user/register> and select Award Reviewer. Computing and computational thinking are increasingly important 21st-century skills. These skills lead the way for innovative solutions to long-standing problems at national and local levels. Technology increasingly permeates every aspect of society. And the problem of under-represented women continues.

It is very interesting to read about students who are solving local problem such as Aspirations winners from Bellaire High School who started Fresh Hub Houston. See knorth.edublogs.org/2019/09/26/why-apply-for-aspirations-award/ for more details.

Please contact Karen North, knorth@me.com if you have any questions.

Directory Updates

Address Update:

Debbie Campbell
7814 Shady Villa Cove
Houston, TX 77055-5244

Please notify [Mary Andersen](#) of any information to be updated in the directory. Corrections will be noted in future newsletters.

Jeanne Slaydon Wolbert is currently residing at Clarewood House. She misses her friends from AAUW! Here's the info to contact her:

Jeanne Wolbert
Room 202
7400 Clarewood Drive
Houston, TX 77036
713 778-8297

AAUW WHC November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 New Members Brunch Nouveau Gourmet
3	4 Monday Evening Contemporary Group	5 Garden Divas	6 Afternoon Contemporary Literature Contemporary Readers WISE...	7 1 st Thursday Bridge Group	8	9 Classic Gourmet
10	11 Enjoying History	12 Outstanding Literary Group	13	14 Cultural Activities	15	16 Branch Meeting
17	18 3 rd Monday Bridge Group Wine, Women & Wisdom	19 Mystery	20	21 3 rd Thursday Bridge Group Hiking Honeys Byway Birders (21 - 24)	22 RSVP for Holiday Party	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30