

## WEST HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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March Newsletter deadline:

Feb. 15, 2020

### BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, February 1, 2020  
9:30 AM Tracy Gee  
Community Center 3955  
Westcenter Drive

## AAUW -WHC Branch General Meeting

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, 77042

Potluck brunch following program and meeting

### On Becoming an Author

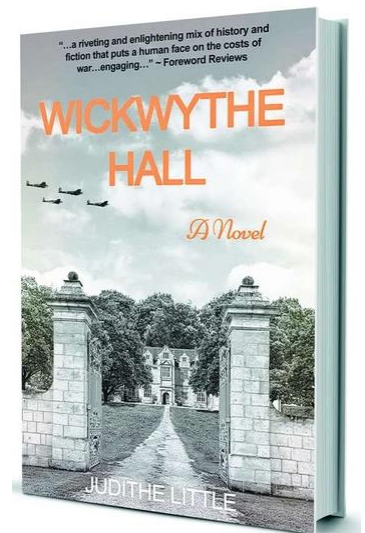


Judithe Little, author of *Wickwythe Hall*, will be our guest speaker for the AAUW-WHC February 1st branch meeting. A first-time yet already award-winning author, she will tell us about her path toward a writing career, from the concept of an idea through the research, writing and eventually finding an editor and publisher. You have an opportunity to meet Ms. Little at 9:30 Saturday, February 1, at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Described as “part *Downton Abbey* and part *Darkest Hour*,” this novel of World War II historical fiction has already won numerous awards for Ms. Little. Her second book, *The Chanel Sisters*, was sought after by a number of publishers and will be available in January 2021. We are fortunate to have this talented writer introduce us to the intricacies of writing and publishing a book.

The program will begin promptly at 9:30, followed by a potluck brunch. Please bring your favorite brunch dish, for all to enjoy.

Cynthia Hickok, Program VP.



## President's Message

The holidays are over, and it is time to get organized for the new year. Anyway, this sounds like a good idea.

At our January general meeting, we were looking forward to hearing about Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak's trip to Chernobyl. She toured ten years after the disaster. What she brought to share turned out to be touching. Lydia showed slides of the dead trees, abandoned playground and empty buildings. Then, she showed us slides of her paintings and collages. These works were filled with her feelings of her homeland.

Our February 1, 2020 general meeting will feature author, Judithe Little. She will tell us about the process of writing, and then finding an editor and publisher for her first novel. Award winning Wickwythe Hall is a historical novel about life in England during WWII. After Ms. Little's presentation we will have a potluck brunch. Bring your favorite sweet or savory dish to share.

Mary Peterson

## Out & About With AAUW

The Garden Divas visited the city's first botanic garden—a 120-acre site carved from Glenbrook Park Golf Course. Located along Sims Bayou near Hobby Airport, the new garden is already taking root and will be ready for visitors by late 2020. The master plan, rolling out in phases over the next 30 years, includes not only a beautiful park but also opportunities for education and research. Visitors will be able to learn about plants, conservation (like natural flood mitigation), and nature.

The Divas donated \$1000 for recognition on the entry-way bridge. We are certainly looking forward to the official opening. Check out an introductory video <https://vimeo.com/265470838> and plan to visit later this year: Houston Botanic Garden, 8205 N. Bayou Drive.

Susan Boone



**Front Row:** Kris Bybee-Finley & Justin Lacey, Director of Communications for Houston Botanic Garden. **Second Row:** Charlotte Kibler, Georgia Kimmel, Susan Dunten, Karen North, Suzanne Dalati, & Sue Jurgens (guest). **Third Row:** Jane Campbell, Mary Adams, Susan Boone, Mike Farnell, Pat Farnell & Irene Infante



**Top:** A huge water wheel is part of the hands-on area of the Garden. Justin Lacey explained the area to the Divas.

**Bottom:** Kris Bybee-Finley is trying out the water pump that is part of the children's area.

# FEBRUARY 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

## BOOK GROUPS



### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

*Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

Hostess: Cindy Hickok, 523 Briar Path  
281.493.2525

### Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.

*White Chrysanthemum* by Mary Lynn Bracht

Hostess: Judy Hamelers and Jan Kerekgyarto  
1126 Ben Hur Drive, 713.464.2132

### Enjoying History

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

*The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham

Hostess: Kris Bybee-Finley,  
15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive  
304.610.8708

### Monday Evening Contemporary Group

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

*A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra  
Los Tios Mexican Restaurant  
Kirkwood at Memorial Drive

### Mystery

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

*Mr. Flood's Last Resort* by Jess Kidd

Hostess: Kris Bybee-Finley,  
15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive  
304.610.8708

### Outstanding Literature Group

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

*A World Lit by Fire* by William Manchester  
La Madeleine, Carillon,  
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.

## Byway Birders



On **Saturday, February 8**, Byway Birders will go to San Bernard NWR. We should see a variety of wintering birds as well as ducks, geese and Sandhill Cranes.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking area on Barryknoll across the street from the food court at Memorial City Mall to form carpools. Bring your binoculars, hats, snacks, drinks and bug spray. Lunch will be at Dido's.

Please let Miriam Vyles know if you are going and if you want to carpool, or if you plan on meeting the group at San Bernard. Her email is [mvyles@att.net](mailto:mvyles@att.net), or phone 713.501.7945.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



### “Come Rain or Come Shine!” ~ Tour of National Weather Service in League City

If there's one thing Houston is famous for it is “weather” ~ too hot, too wet, too dry, you name it and we've got it at one time or another! On **Tuesday, February 11**, we will tour this state-of-the-art facility with the meteorologists who track threatening weather and give us our forecasts.

Our visit will start at 10:00 a.m., so we'll 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 return no later than 3:30 p.m.

Following our tour, we'll move on to the Flying Dutchman in Kemah for lunch where you can order from the menu and pay with separate checks. There will be no charge for our visit, but Pat Farnell, trip leader, will collect the usual \$1 as you enter the bus for the driver's lunch. To secure your reservation, contact Pat at 832-867-2908 or [farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com) before Friday, February 7. As usual, guests will be welcome as space permits.

**Plus, save Wednesday, March 18, when Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston will lead us on a Glenwood Cemetery Tour – “Women of Glenwood.”** Watch the March newsletter for details, but if you know for sure you want to be along, contact our leader, Sue Phipps at 713.461.9528 or [sbphipps@comcast.net](mailto:sbphipps@comcast.net) to get your name on her list right away. Jim is one of our favorite leaders and always a very popular draw.

## Garden Divas



The Garden Divas will venture to Westbury Community Garden (WCG) **Tuesday, February 4**. It is one of the largest, most successful community gardens in Houston. Becky Edmonson, Westbury Area Improvement Corp. President and Rachel Folkerts, Farm Programs Manager for Plant It Forward Farms will join us for a tour of the garden. WCG is 7 acres owned by the City of Houston and leased to Brays Oaks Management District to be a permanent green space. Daily operations are managed by WCG which is a project of the nonprofit Westbury Area Improvement Corporation. Since its inception in 2010, the garden has won both local and national awards. The mission for the gardens: “The Westbury Community Garden educates adults and children about good nutrition and ecology, strengthens community spirit, provides organically-grown food, and serves as a gathering place for the community.” The garden's slogan is “Growing Community through Gardening” and that

is what it does. Located at 12581 Dunlap St., 77035, WCG has successfully created a space where residents of area single-family homes garden with residents from nearby multi-family housing. The gardeners are as diverse as the produce they grow, and they come from all over southwest Houston. People from different backgrounds, cultures, and circumstances come together as gardeners. Currently there are 62 allotment beds, an educational pavilion, a native plant area, an orchard, a tree farm and more. Fundraising for the Master Plan created by Akasura Robinson will kick off this year as part of their 10-year anniversary celebration. Visit the WCG website at <https://westburycommunitygarden.org/>.

Afterwards, we will visit Politan Row (2445 Times Blvd., 77005); a chef-driven food hall platform featuring a thoughtfully curated mix of local food and beverage talent. Kin by Chef Evelyn uses produce provided by the Westbury Community Garden. The 'Row' offers an elevated food hall experience that encourages the exploration of shareable dishes in beautiful, inviting, and communal spaces. The place looks fascinating! Give the website a visit at <https://houston.politanrow.com/>.

Email Susan Boone, [samboone@gmail.com](mailto:samboone@gmail.com) if you are interested in going on this trip. We will leave Memorial City Mall from the satellite parking area at 9:15 a.m. If you would like to meet us at the garden, please let Susan know.

If you are not on the regular mailing list, but would like to be, let Susan know so she can add you to the list.

## GOURMET DINING



### Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet will not meet in February. Please join us **Saturday, March 14** for a dinner featuring Cajun and Creole influences on Texas Cuisine. Contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook, 713.705.7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304.610.8708 for information about the dinner.

## Nouveau Gourmet

There will be no dinner meeting in February. Details of the March dinner will be published in the next newsletter.

## 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 Thursday Afternoon Group

The first meeting of the Thursday Afternoon Great Decisions Group will take place at Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, TX 77042, **Thursday, February, 6** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The discussion topic for this meeting will be "Climate Change and the Global Order." The second meeting, **February 20**, will take place at the home of Martha Ewell from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the discussion topic will be "India and Pakistan." If you have any questions, please contact Martha Ewell, 713.7822084.

### The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group

will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons February through May, beginning **Tuesday, February 18** at 3 pm. The meetings are held in various members' homes, and we generally go out to supper in the neighborhood of the meeting's host. The first meeting will be at the home of Pat Thomsen when we will discuss "Climate Change." On **March 3** we will discuss "India and Pakistan," hostess TBD. For additional information, please contact Diane Roberts, [diane77401@gmail.com](mailto:diane77401@gmail.com) or Pat Thomsen, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net).

### Great Decisions Evening Group

meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays February through May. The first meeting will be **Wednesday, February 12** at Sharon and Eric Jorgeson's home, 12518 Honeywood Trail, Houston, 77077. Contact Sharon at 281.703.5939 or [sjorgeson@gmail.com](mailto:sjorgeson@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. The topic will be "Climate Change and the Global Order."

The next meeting will be on **February 26**. The discussion topic will be "India And Pakistan." The meeting place has not yet been determined. Contact Willette Norman, 281.497.3626 or [wnorman@gmail.com](mailto:wnorman@gmail.com) for further information on this meeting.



## Hiking Honeys

The Hiking Honeys are returning to Buffalo Bayou Park in downtown Houston **Thursday, February 20**. Jane Wood, who lives on the bayou, will be our leader. We will start and end at the Dunlavy, where there are restrooms, ambience and great food. Our hike is the middle section of the trail on mostly paved level sections, approximately 2 miles.

The group will meet at the parking lot on Barryknoll at 9 a.m. Parking at the Dunlavy is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Jane will meet us at the Dunlavy, 3422 Allen Parkway at 9:30.

Please contact Jane if you want to join us at [jand.wood9@icloud.com](mailto:jand.wood9@icloud.com) or 832.302.6224.



## Vicarious Voyagers

An interest group for travelers.

Diana Guarniere, Chair  
[guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com) 281.493.2997

Nancy Bowden, Co-Chair  
[nanbowd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbowd@sbcglobal.net) 281.589.7423

There will be no meeting in February. Details of the next meeting will be published in the March newsletter.



## Wine, Women & Wisdom

Wine, Women & Wisdom will not meet in February. Our next meeting will be **Monday, March 16**.

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



## West Houston Institute Tour

On **Monday February 24** we will have the opportunity to go on a guided tour of the West Houston Institute, an innovation of Houston Community College that is redefining learning spaces and pathways to authentic student learning. We will tour the IdeaStudio with the 3D-printing and maker space, the Collaboratorium, and the teaching innovation labs. You will have the opportunity to see this futuristic school located near Westheimer and Wilcrest.

We will meet at **10:00** at **HCC, 2811 Hayes Road**. Afterwards we will go to lunch and reminisce about EYH and brainstorm future connections for Start Smart/Work Smart. Please let Karen North know if you are interested in this activity.

## Movies monthly outings through WISE Women

Every month, we will offer an afternoon movie outing if there is a movie worth attending. A post movie lunch or coffee will be arranged for movie discussions. If there is nothing at the theaters, Kris Bybee-Finley will offer a free screening of a noted film or documentary at her home. Food will always be present. Let us know if you are interested. Details to follow.

If you would like to join our WISE group, please email Karen North at [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com).

AAUW WHC February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Branch Meeting
2	3	4 Garden Divas	5 Afternoon Contemporary Literature  Contemporary Readers	6 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday Bridge Group  Great Decisions	7	8 Classic Gourmet  Byway Birders
9	10 Enjoying History	11 Cultural Activities  Outstanding Literary Group	12 Great Decisions Evening	13	14	15
16	17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday Bridge Group	18 Mystery  Great Decisions Inner Loop	19	20 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Bridge Group  Great Decisions  Hiking Honeys	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29