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Monthly Meeting

No monthly meeting in December. Join us January 4th for our regular monthly meeting at 9:30 at the Tracy Gee Center. See complete details on page 3.



LATEST NEWS!

WHC RECEIVES \$1500.00 TEXAS AAUW SHARE GRANT!

West Harris County has received the Supporting Hard-working Affiliates Rising to Empower grant to conduct Start Smart and Work Smart Programs in the Houston area! More information will be coming in the January newsletter.

AAUW Funds Corner

Thank you to everyone who made the WHC Branch Mission Possible Fund Raiser a success. Donations totaled \$3005 of which \$2480 was donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund with the remainder donated to various other funds.

A special thank you is extended to the WHC Branch Board members who participated in this effort. A majority, 66%, of your elected and appointed Board members supported the AAUW national organization through Mission Possible.

16 WHC Branch members met the Texas AAUW Sister Suffrage Challenge to qualify to be honored at April, 2020 Texas AAUW Convening.

You can still donate to this effort. Check page 4 and 5 of your WHC yearbook for more information on AAUW Funds and the local Baker-Telfer Scholarship and how to donate.

In appreciation,
Georgia Kimmel and Laura Cahill

President's Message

It is good to finally have cooler temperatures. This is when we can get out more and enjoy activities. It is my favorite time of the year.

At our November general meeting, Linda Thompson of Creative Couture presented her lovely collection. She explained her process of manipulating natural fiber such as silks, cottons and wools. She removes color and replaces colors to create beautiful patterns. Then she shapes these patterned pieces into jackets or flowing capes.

I was thinking about the science to her techniques and the artistic creative process. We could call this a STEAM activity for sure.

I would like to thank Pat Dach for her years of Baker-Telfer Scholarship work. We have a new team of ladies working to simplify the applications and put them on a secure website.

Work Smart/Start Smart is also in its planning stages with our newly awarded grant.

As you begin your calendars for the new year 2020, please note that the branch meeting will be very early in the month - immediately after the holidays - on Saturday, January 4.

The presenter is a woman who visited Chernobyl on two Fulbright Scholarships. This should be very interesting

Mary Peterson



Start Your 2020 with AAUW!

On Saturday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m. we'll begin our year of meetings at Tracy Gee Center with a very thought-provoking program. Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak will present a photo lecture regarding her visits to Chernobyl following the nuclear disaster that the Russians attempted to keep secret. With a Fulbright grant that enabled her to travel to Ukraine in 1991 and 1996, her observations there marked turning points in her creative work and world view. Now on the faculty of Glassell School of Art at the HMFA, she will show how these visits influenced her art as well as her concern for the human condition.

Please note the change in date and program topic from what was listed in our annual directory. Both became unavailable after publication of that schedule. —Cindy Hickok

Biography

Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak completed her undergraduate art studies at Kent State University, studied at the Corcoran School of Art and received her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, she moved to Houston

in 1977, where she continues to live and work. A Fulbright IREX grant enabled her to travel to Ukraine for the first time in 1991; five years later she visited the Chernobyl Zone. These trips marked turning points in her creative work and world view. A concern with the human condition – always at the heart of her art – took new form and urgency. Her current work continues to explore narrative and cultural metaphor by combining collage, text, and figuration.

Since 1991, the artist has participated in several national and international exhibitions and been awarded artist residencies in France, Ukraine, and U.S. venues. Her work can be found in museum and private collections in the USA and Europe, including The Museum of South Texas and Oxford University. A monograph focusing on her art from 1979-

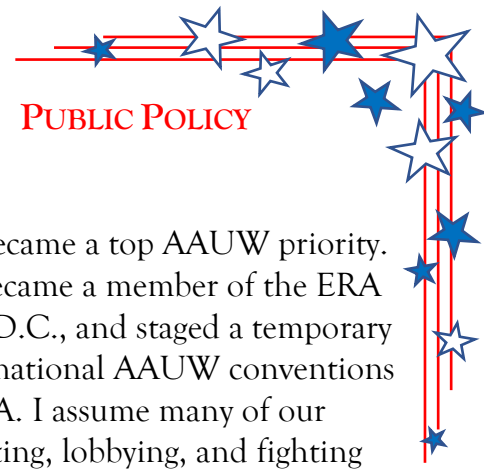
2001 was published in 2005. In spring 2021, a year-long travelling solo exhibition of her work opens at the National Museum in Lviv, Ukraine, and continues to art venues in Chernivtsi, Lutsk, Kyiv, and Kharkiv .

Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak is on the Studio School Faculty of the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

www.LydiaBodnarBalahutrak.com



The ERA Is Almost In Our Grasp



The Equal Rights Amendment – short, sweet, and unratified – was written by Alice Paul in 1921, a year after women won the right to vote, and was first proposed to Congress in 1923. It has been presented to every Congress over the past 89 years and has been through a tumultuous battle for passage and ratification. Opposition to the amendment came from many, and often unexpected, directions. Would it surprise you to learn that until 1971, AAUW did not support the ERA? I was shocked, but the AAUW website states: “In 1938 AAUW did present an official position: opposition to the ERA “as a means of securing the equality of women”. (author’s emphasis) Our organization – dedicated to equity for women and girls – did not support the ERA until 1971, after 50 years of study and debate!

But the turnaround was thorough. After investing 50

years of study in the topic, the ERA became a top AAUW priority. AAUW established the ERA Fund, became a member of the ERA Ratification Council in Washington, D.C., and staged a temporary boycott in 1977 to hold regional and national AAUW conventions only in states that had ratified the ERA. I assume many of our members were involved in demonstrating, lobbying, and fighting for the ERA.

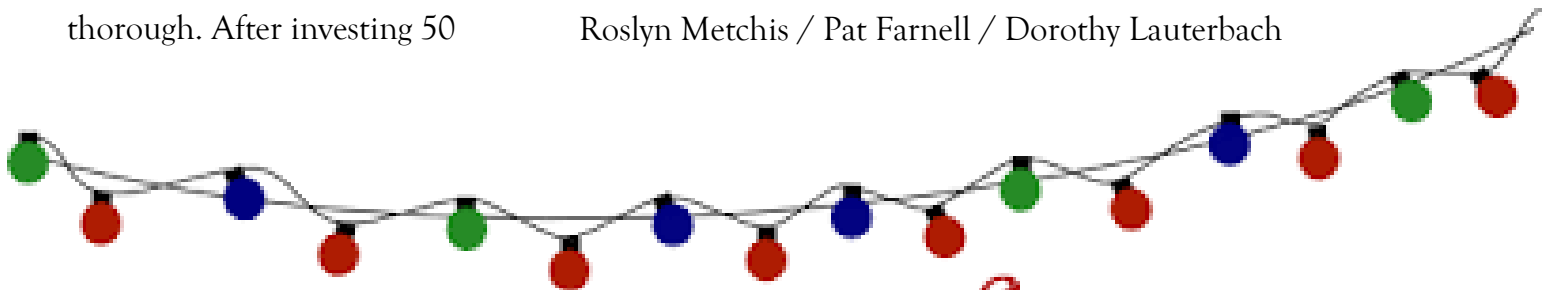
What It Says: The Equal Rights Amendment

| Section 1 | Section 2: | Section 3 |
|--|--|--|
| Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. | The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article | This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification. |

Finally, after 100 years, 2020 could be the year that the ERA is finally ratified and added to the US constitution. Virginia would be the final state to ratify it since the legislature there is now amenable to women’s rights. In fact, they elected a woman as Speaker of the House for the first time in history. Still remaining – an extension to the deadline of 1978 – already in the works in the House of Representatives and passage by the Senate (not a sure thing currently). A constitutional amendment does not have to be signed by the president. Even if these next steps happen, it will be an additional two years – 2022 or 23 – before it will take effect.

Why does it always take 100 years for women to be allowed rights?

Roslyn Metchis / Pat Farnell / Dorothy Lauterbach



Happy Holidays!

2019 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator



BOOK GROUPS

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, December 4, 1:30 p.m.

Paris in the Present Tense by Mark Halprin

Hostess: Linda Fosseen,
12514 Queensbury Lane
713.785.5306

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.

The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim M. Richardson

Christmas Luncheon at Brio's

Enjoying History

Monday, December 9, 1:30 p.m.

The Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone

Hostess: Diana Guarniere,
13814 Kimberley Lane
281.456.5578

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

Monday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant
Kirkwood at Memorial Drive

Mystery

Tuesday, December 17, 1:30 p.m.

Down the River Unto the Sea by Walter Mosley

Hostess: Frances Mayberry
7915 Windy Creek Drive
713.466.6844

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

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. 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



Birding Bear Creek Park

On Saturday December 7 Byway Birders will bird Bear Creek Park and Paul D Rushing Park. We will meet at a parking lot at 3535 War Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

If you are coming from I-10 exit on Eldridge and stop at the light at War Memorial Drive. When you make a left off Eldridge the parking lot is on your right. Plan on being there by 7:30 am.

There should be chickadees, blue birds, pine warblers, cardinals and woodpeckers. We will plan on lunch at the Mexican restaurant near Clay Rd and Hwy 6. Be sure to bring mosquito spray. I will also have my cell phone at the park so if you are running late or get lost please call Pat Dach 281-701-5846 or Diana Tiberia. 832-866-8411. If you want to carpool from Memorial City you can let people know by sending reply all and then you can work out your own arrangements.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



NEW! Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens

On Tuesday, December 10, our exploration of Houston's past continues with a visit to MFAH's Bayou Bend where we'll explore the preeminent collection of early American decorative arts and paintings exhibited in the historic former residence of Houston philanthropist and collector Ima Hogg. If weather permits, we'll also enjoy the surrounding gardens. And, given the advancing holiday season, allow time for some gift-giving purchases at The Shop at Bayou Bend where unique products reflect the quality, craftsmanship and beauty of Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens.

Barbara Butler, our leader, has arranged for small guided tours in groups of six that will enable us to fully enjoy ~ both orally and visually ~ the treasures the setting provides. To this end our group will be limited to the first 18 who sign up. Following our visit, we'll enjoy lunch at Joyce's Seafood & Steaks, a neighborhood favorite on San Felipe at Voss where you will be able to order from the menu and pay by separate checks. Cost for our visit will be \$12 ~ which includes the \$11 fee, plus our usual \$1.00 for the driver's lunch.

The fee will be paid directly upon our arrival at the location. (If you are an MFAH member and show your i.d. card, there will be slight reduction in the price.)

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 return by about 2:00 p.m.

To secure your reservation, contact Barbara Butler at 713-305-0570 or barbarabutler1959@att.net so you can be along to enjoy this pre-holiday treat.

Plus, save Tuesday, January 21, for our visit to the newly expanded Holocaust Museum Houston.

Watch the January newsletter for details, but if you already know you want to be along for this one,

contact our leader, Dede Statham, at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com right away to get your name on her list.

GARDEN DIVAS



The Garden Divas are going to tour the Campus Community Garden at University of Houston on December 3. Being in the energy capital of the world—a city that is not generally associated with sustainability—people are commonly surprised that UH is consistently rated as one of the nation's greenest colleges. The city of Houston is also making strides in sustainability, and for the third consecutive year, is the top municipal purchaser of renewable power in the nation.

In 2008, the sustainability movement at the University of Houston began with the creation of the sustainability task force and the campus-wide recycling program. The Campus Community Garden is part of the sustainability effort. It is approximately 600 square feet of university land devoted to growing organic produce and educating campus and community members about healthy living. All of its produce is donated directly to local food pantries and facilities serving low-income families and individuals.

We will have a guided tour of the area with Michael Mendoza. Michael joined the Office of Sustainability team as the sustainability manager in November 2017. Upon his arrival at UH, he became very involved in the newly developed sustainability program. "They were just starting a sustainability program, and I became the champion for that program," he said. "It went really well and got me interested in sustainability. We put recycling bins all around the Student Center, created a lunch and learn for sustainability topics, brought in an eco-artist to speak about using recycled magazines to create artwork, and partnered with a masters in graphic design class to install a sustainable art exhibit."

The Office of Sustainability has been the driving force behind many important achievements in sustainability and conservation. As sustainability manager, Michael hopes to not only continue that

success but also take it to the next level. We are indeed fortunate to be able to find out about this program from Michael.

Afterwards we will enjoy lunch at Eric's. The innovative dishes and sleek contemporary atmosphere are not the only things that set it apart from other restaurants in the area. Because of the Hilton University of Houston's affiliation with the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management, more than 80 percent of Eric's staff members are students, making the restaurant a unique training ground for the future leaders of the hospitality industry.

We will leave Memorial City mall from the Satellite parking area at 9:15. If you would like to meet us at UH, please let me know and I will tell you where to meet us on campus.

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.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT



Girls' Night Out will not meet in December.

At this time, the group does not have a coordinator to plan the bi-monthly dining out experiences. If there is a member or group of members of the GNO who wish to continue the group activities and are willing to volunteer to coordinate those activities, please contact Jan Groves at 281.497.2295 or jamgroves@aol.com.

GOURMET DINING



Classic Gourmet

This group will not meet in December. Details of the meeting will be published in the January newsletter.

Nouveau Gourmet

This group will not meet in December. Details of the meeting will be published in the January 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.

Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon

The Thursday Afternoon Group will hold its first meeting February 6, 2020, at the Tracy Gee Community Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Martha Ewell, 713-782-2084.

The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons February through May, beginning Tuesday February 4, 2020 at 3 pm. The meetings are held in various members' homes, followed by a potluck 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. For additional information about this group or how to join, please contact Willette Norman at 281.497.3626 or willetten@gmail.com.

HIKING HONEYS



This group will not hike in December.

Information about the next hike will be published in the January 2020 Newsletter.

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 10, 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



Wine, Women & will not meet in December.

The next gathering will be on Monday January 20th at McCormick and Schmick's City Centre from four to six. 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

Celebrate the life of Grace Hopper during Computer Science Education Week, December 9-15, csedweek.org. Learn more about the importance at www.csforall.org. Let Karen know if you want to celebrate together with a glass of wine, a little coding and continue our Science Fair fun inspired by Kris' party and video.

Other ways to celebrate include the following two events:

1) TECHNOLOchicas and AT&T are celebrating CS Education Week by hosting 50 students from Houston Math, Science & Technology Center and providing them with interactive computing activities, workshops, tours and a Q&A panel for the day at AT&T Houston headquarters. TECHNOLOchicas, is a program co-produced by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and Televisa Foundation, designed to raise awareness in and bring information to Latino communities about the opportunities that come from pursuing a career in technology.

2) Ellis Wyms Founder of Athletes For Computer Science www.athletesforcomputerscience.org will be

coding with students at Burrus Elementary as a guest celebrity. This is hosted by Rice's RUSMP, <https://rusmp.rice.edu/>. Our Debbie Campbell is the Code.org project manager.



Please let Karen North knorth@me.com know if you would like more details on joining in on an Hour of Code event.

Directory Updates

Melba Armstrong's new email address armstrong.melba@comcast.net

Out & About with AAUW

The Divas venture to Exploration Green in Clear Lake in November. Pictured are Suzanne Dalati, Georgia Kimmel, George Kyame (guide), Kathryn Sandlin, Susan Thompson, Loretta Coussirat, Jane Campbell, Kris Bybee-Finley, Pat Farnell, Karen North, Susan Boone & Mary Adams, (not pictured -Michael Farnell)



AAUW WHC December

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--|--------|--------------------|
| 1 Holiday Party | 2 Monday Evening Contemporary Group | 3 Garden Divas | 4 Afternoon Contemporary Literature Contemporary Readers | 5 1 st Thursday Bridge Group | 6 | 7 Byway Birders |
| 8 | 9 Enjoying History | 10 Bayou Bend Collections & Garden | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 3 rd Monday Bridge Group | 17 Mystery | 18 | 19 3 rd Thursday Bridge Group | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |