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c/o Mary Andersen
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Feb. Newsletter deadline:

Jan.. 15, 2020

JANUARY BRANCH
MEETING
Saturday, Jan 4, 2020
9:30 AM
Tracy Gee Center
3955 Westcenter



President's Message

What a way to start off the December holidays! Our December holiday party at Las Ventanas was very festive and fun. It was great that so many came out that night to share good food and good company. If you missed this event, plan to attend next year.

WHC Branch's contribution to the AAUW Funds this fall was successful. We are pleased that the National AAUW Board of Directors will match our funds. Thank you to Funds VP's, Georgia Kimmel and Laura Cahill, for their hard work and to all of the branch members who donated.

Our January general meeting comes early on January 4th. The speaker will share with us her trip to Chernobyl. This should be an interesting presentation. - Mary Peterson





Public Policy

Too many American workers are forced to face the choice between a job and their health or the health of a loved one every time they get sick or a family member needs care. That's because at least 34 million private-sector workers – nearly one-third of the workforce – don't have access to paid sick days.

AAUW advocates for policies that promote work-life balance and economic security, including paid sick days. We urge Congress to pass the Healthy Families Act, which would provide full-time employees the right to earn seven job-protected paid sick days a year. Workers could use these sick days for their own medical needs, to provide care for a sick family member, or to recover from or seek assistance related to an incident of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault.

For women, who often act as primary caregivers, the inability to earn paid sick days can have particularly devastating consequences. No worker should be forced to make the choice between going to work contagious or missing a paycheck. Caring for a sick child should not mean risking your job. And maintaining your family's economic security shouldn't come at the cost of your health.

Urge your members of Congress to keep America's working families healthy and economically secure by supporting the Healthy Families Act today.

Pat Farnell / Roslyn Metchis / Dorothy Lauterbach

AAUW Funds Corner

Do you regularly shop at Randalls or Kroger? Did you know that you can support AAUW Funds by grocery shopping?

Start the New Year by doing your part. At Randalls link our AAUW WHC Good Neighbor number, 1427, to your Remarkable Card. At Kroger link your Kroger rewards card to WHC Community Rewards number QY091.

The more you shop, the more our organization earns. With many members participating, the more WHC earns. Let us know if you have questions. Georgia Kimmel and Laura Cahill

EMPOWERING WOMEN'S GROUPS: AAUW IS #1!

In case you missed it, the December issue of "University Women Texas", the AAUW Texas state newsletter, provided a link to an article by Fairygodboss. In the article, "Empowering Women's Groups You Should Join", AAUW is #1 on the list.

Fairygodboss is an online site offering A+ women's career community, expert career advice, job openings and company reviews to help women advance their careers.

According to Fairygodboss: "The American Association of University Women has been empowering "women as individuals and as a community" since 1881. It's for university women and helps them through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The American Association of University Women has more than 100,000 members and donors, with 1,000 branches and 500 college and university partners."

Be Part of the Decision Process

The Nominating Committee for AAUW-WHC Branch positions to be elected at the March 2020 annual meeting are Pat Farnell, Chairwoman, Carolyn Morris, Marie Helmy, Susan Dunten, and Rose Ennis.

Please consider becoming a part of the future of our branch by volunteering for

one of the following positions or put forth the name of a member that you feel would do a good job on the board.

President-Elect – one-year term; followed by one-year term as President

Membership Vice-President – two-year term

AAUW Funds Vice President (1) – two-year term

Recording Secretary – two-year term

If you are interested or want to suggest someone for the board, or have any questions, please contact Pat Farnell at Farnellpat@gmail.com by January 15.

Pat Farnell, Nominating Committee Chair.

Out & About With AAUW

Cultural Group Tour of Bayou Bend

Our guided tour was led by extremely knowledgeable docents, and we all learned a great deal about Miss Ima, her family, and her passion for collecting early Texas decorative and fine art including very rare furniture pieces. A real treat was seeing Bayou Bend all done up in Christmas finery, including a beautiful Christmas tree in the main entry hall decorated with more than 850 Michael Radko ornaments. The dining hall was a feast for the eyes with a reindeer peeking in the window, and another room featuring mischievous elves. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at Joyce's on San Filipe. It was a very special day!



Pictured here are AAUW members and guests who were fortunate enough to visit Bayou Bend for the December cultural outing.

Back Row: Lisa Arthur, Sue Phipps, Judy Hamelers, Sharon Hebert, Martha Hebert, Barbara Butler, Carole Ballew, and Priscilla List

Front Row: Diana Tiberia, Pat Dach, Fran Haxby, Noreen Smith, Jo Glidewell, and Marie Helmy.

JANUARY 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, January 6, 8:30 p.m.

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

Hostess: Linda Morgan, 11934 Riverview Drive
281.293.0976

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, January 8, 1:00 p.m.

The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka

Hostess: Nancy Ennis and Ann Teague
1122 Ben Hur Drive, 281.468.8564

Enjoying History

Monday, January 13, 1:30 p.m.

Bad Blood, Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup
by John Carreyrou

Hostess: Cindy Hickok, 523 Briar Path
281.493.2525

Monday Evening Contemporary Group

Monday, January 6, 5:00 p.m.

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
Los Tios Mexican Restaurant
Kirkwood at Memorial Drive

Mystery

Tuesday, January 21, 1:30 p.m.

A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee

Hostess: Pam Doan, 9646 Meadowcroft Drive
832.269.5264

Outstanding Literature Group

Tuesday, January 7, 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



Katy Prairie

At 7:30 on Saturday, January 18th, Jane Woods will lead us into the Indian Grass Preserve on the Katy Prairie. Please note that this is a change from the original date. Last year the group saw many interesting birds including Sand Hill Cranes. We will picnic at the reserve. Bring walkie talkies if you have them. Please let Jane know if you will be joining us at 832-302-6224 or jane.wood9@icloud.com. More information about meeting places will follow.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Holocaust Museum Houston Tour

In March 1996, Houston's Holocaust Museum first opened its doors, inspired by Siegi Izakson, a Holocaust survivor and long-time Houston resident. In June 2019, a newly-expanded facility that triples the capacity of the museum and features 5 permanent exhibits, a theater, cafe and 2 changing exhibits, debuted. On Tuesday, January 21st, 2020,

DeDe Statham, WHC member and HHM docent, will introduce us to this memorable new facility.

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.

Cost for our tour will be \$10, plus our usual \$1 for the bus driver's lunch which DeDe will collect as you enter the bus. Please have exact change available if possible.

Following our museum visit, we'll proceed to Cleburne Cafeteria for lunch where you can order from the wonderful selections they offer and pay separately.

To secure your reservation, contact DeDe Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com right away. This promises to be one of our most inspiring events of the year!

Plus, save **Tuesday, February 11**, for our "Come Rain or Come Shine" ~ Tour of the National Weather Service in League City. Watch the February newsletter for details, but if you know for sure you want to be along, contact our leader, Pat Farnell at 832-867-2908 or farnellpat@gmail.com now to get your name on her list.

Garden Divas



The Garden Divas will start the new year by visiting the site of the NEW Houston Botanic Garden on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020**. The address is 8205 N Bayou Dr., Houston, TX 77017. When it opens on the southeast side of town in late 2020, the Houston Botanic Garden will showcase international and native plant collections, host educational classes for children and adults, as well as providing a venue for celebrations along Sims Bayou.

Ultimately, the Houston Botanic Garden will support a greater mission of conserving the diversity of plants from Houston and around the world, and inspire appreciation for the natural world. The Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Justin Lacey, will lead us on a tour of the development of Phase 1. Phase I prioritizes

essential elements needed to open a beautiful botanic garden and the infrastructure to support future phases. Display and collection gardens, like the Global Collection Garden, will allow visitors to admire the beauty of a blossom and the grandeur of an oak. Natural ecosystem gardens, like the Stormwater Wetlands Garden and Coastal Prairie Garden, will exhibit a remarkably diverse confluence of ecoregions occurring in Houston. Gathering spaces throughout the Garden will bring together families, friends, and the community to celebrate events and enjoy the outdoors.

After our visit at the Botanic Garden we will have lunch at the 'original' Ninfas on Navigation. For those of you not familiar with the restaurant, this is where 'it' all started, where Mama Ninfa first stuffed chargrilled sliced beef into a handmade flour tortilla and launched the national fajita craze. The place is a history lesson with delicious food as a side attraction.

Please let Susan Boone (samboone@gmail.com) know if you would like to join the Divas (need a head-count for lunch). We will carpool from Memorial City from the lot South of Barryknoll and leave at 9:00. If you meet us at the garden, please plan on being there at 10.



GOURMET DINING

Classic Gourmet

Please join us **Saturday, January 11, 2020**, at 7:00 p.m. for our 3rd dinner in this year's series - "Influences on Texas Cuisine". Our dinner will focus on the influence of Bar-B-Q and chuck wagon cooking. Our host will be Kris Bybee-Finley. If you have questions please contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook, 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708.

Nouveau Gourmet

We will meet at the home of Barbara Cook on Saturday, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. for a "Baby, It's Cold Outside"-themed dinner.

For more information or to RSVP contact Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com.

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

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 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

The Hiking Honeys will go to Brazos Bend State Park on **Thursday, January 16**. There are several trails, winding through wetlands and marshes, available for our enjoyment. They range in distance from 1.2 to 2.5 miles. Our leader for this adventure will be Sara Dalton.

We will meet at the usual parking lot on Barryknoll across from the Memorial City Cinemark Theater at 9:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and your Texas Parks and Wildlife Passport if you have one. Without a passport, there will be an entrance fee of approximately \$4.00.

Contact Sara at dalton.sara@comcast.net or 281.693.3824 to get your name on the list.



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

Thursday Morning, January 30, 2020 – 10 AM

This month we will travel vicariously again to Italy- this time to explore Sicily, the crossroads of civilizations. In Palermo we'll sing with merchants and visit a Contessa. We'll sip wine near Mt. Etna, ponder Greek and Roman relics and relax in Taormina. We'll dine well at the fisherman's harbor in Cafalu, ponder the ancient Greeks in Siracusa and commune with monks in a Capuchin crypt.

Bring something to share for a potluck brunch. Visitors are always welcome.

Please RSVP your attendance to our hostess for this month: Dana Cutts, 311 Blue Willow Drive Houston 77041, 713-785-5306, dpcutts@gmail.com.



Wine, Women & Wisdom

This very cordial group will meet on **Monday, January 20th** at McCormick & Schmick's (City Centre) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All members 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

This group has completed its planned schedule for the year. If you wish to add your name to the email list to receive information about upcoming events, contact Karen North, knorth@me.com.

AAUW WHC January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 1 st Thursday Bridge Group	3	4 Branch Meeting Nouveau Gourmet
5	6 Monday Evening Contemporary Group	7 Garden Divas Outstanding Literary Group	8 Afternoon Contemporary Literature Contemporary Readers	9	10	11 Classic Gourmet
12	13 Enjoying History	14	15	16 3 rd Thursday Bridge Group Hiking Honeys	17	18 Byway Birders
19	20 3 rd Monday Bridge Group Wine, Women & Wisdom	21 Cultural Activities Mystery	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Vicarious Voyagers	31	2