

## WEST HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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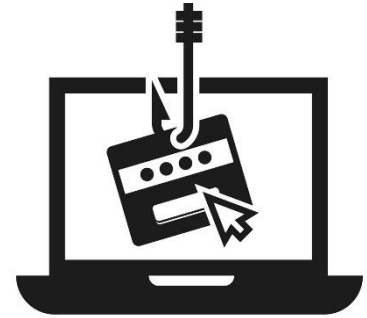
*April Newsletter deadline:*  
March 15, 2020

**MARCH BRANCH  
MEETING**  
Saturday, March 21  
9:30 AM  
Tracy Gee Center  
3599 Westcenter

## MARCH BRANCH MEETING

### “Don’t Fall for a Scam!”

Scam artists are skillful criminals who successfully change their schemes on an ongoing basis to steal money from their victims. The number of people caught in scams, like foreign lotteries and grandparent scams, are increasing every day. Jennifer Salazar, program director of the Better Business Bureau Education Foundation in Houston, will tell us about the latest scams and how you can protect yourself from becoming a victim.



The March 21 meeting is one of the most important meetings of the year, not only because of the dire necessity of being alerted to the latest scams, but also because it is the Annual Meeting for AAUW West Harris County Branch. Officers for the coming year will be elected and a quorum (20% of members) is needed for the election.

We will see you at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at Trace Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter, Houston.



## President's Message

We have been fortunate to have such interesting speakers at our general meetings. Jennifer Salazar, representative from the Better Business Bureau, is an informative speaker and very entertaining. Plan to attend the branch's March 21 meeting, as this is the Annual Meeting at which the election of new board members for 2020-2021 will be conducted.

Members in our bridge group were talking about their azaleas blooming so soon. Years ago, when I lived in Massachusetts, I would dream about Houston (home) with the azaleas blooming. Winters in Massachusetts can last until April or May. We are glad to be in Houston during this colorful season. The mild spring weather makes this the perfect time to enjoy the branch's outdoor activity groups: Hiking Honeys, Byway Birders, and Cultural Activities. Check out the offerings of these groups elsewhere in this newsletter and "hop on board" to take advantage of Houston's beautiful spring weather.

Mary Peterson



## START SMART Update

by Carolyn Morris

On February 24, 2020, Michele G. Taylor, Ed.D., Assistant Dean of the Graduate School at Texas Southern University, presented the Start Smart program to TSU students. The workshop teaches college age students:

### How to Negotiate for a Higher Salary and Help Close the Wage Gap

- Learn what the wage gap means
- Determine what their salary and benefits should be
- Develop a personal budget to determine their minimum acceptable salary
- Practice salary negotiation skill-building exercises

The event was sponsored by Texas Southern University, Capital One Bank, AAUW-West Harris County, INTV and Positive Perspective Mentors & Educational Services. Arlene Russell from INTV videoed the presentation for promotional use by our branch and Dr. Taylor.

Special Guests included Celia Lopez (Capital One Bank), Susan Kizer (Federal Reserve Bank), Arlene Russell (INTV), Ed Bubb (Network of Opportunities Abound Here, "NOAH"), AAUW-West Harris County members and Dr. Sonnice Estill (Health Care Administration-Graduate Advisor at TSU).

Our branch provided \$550 from an AAUW Texas grant to enable TSU to purchase a 3 year Start Smart license. In addition, branch members provided a light meal for the event.

On March 31, 2020, Dr. Taylor will again present the program at TSU. This event will be coordinated by students of the Wesley Foundation, Barbara Jordan Student Leadership Program. Our AAUW grant will provide \$300 toward food for this gathering.

Up next is organizing the Work Smart portion of our state grant. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please email Rose Ennis [roseennis@att.net](mailto:roseennis@att.net) or Carolyn Morris [morriscs@att.com](mailto:morriscs@att.com).



## PUBLIC POLICY

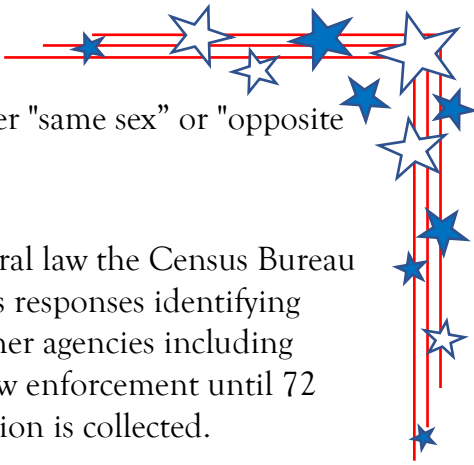
The US Census is a headcount of every person living in our country ~ regardless of citizenship or immigration status. It's required by the Constitution and has occurred every decade since 1790. The information gathered determines the number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state will get in the next decade. There are a fixed number of 435 seats allocated to the House of Representatives. Texas and Florida are expected to increase their number of congressional seats. Other states will lose congressional seats.

It is estimated that \$888 billion a year in federal funding will be distributed to the states based on the census. In addition, the information gathered could be used by all levels of society, from education to politics and from industry to health care. For example, businesses could use the census to determine if and how they should expand; emergency services might decide where best to put their resources.

### Changes

The 2020 Census will be different in several ways. For the first time households can respond online, return a paper form or call an 800 number. For a sample of the 2020 Census go to [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

Questions regarding race and household relationships will be more specific. Regarding race, if you are white and non-Hispanic, you will be asked for example is your origin German or Irish. If you are black, you will be asked for example is your origin Jamaican or Nigerian. Regarding household relationships couples living together can identify their



relationship as either "same sex" or "opposite sex."

### Privacy

Under current federal law the Census Bureau cannot share census responses identifying individuals with other agencies including immigration and law enforcement until 72 years after information is collected.

### Schedule

On or before mid-March you will receive an invitation to respond to the Census Bureau online. Some households will receive paper questionnaires. Between March 16 and April 27, you will receive four reminders to respond. If you have not responded by phone, paper form or online by April 27, expect a census taker at your front door.

### Jobs

The 2020 Census will create approximately a half-million temporary jobs. The jobs will include flexible hours and paid training among its benefits. The Census Bureau is committed to hiring census takers to work in their own communities. For complete details go to [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

### Results

The 2020 census data used for state and local redistricting should be released by March 31, 2021. The 2020 census data used for reapportionment of congressional seats goes into effect with the 2022 elections.

Dorothy Lauterbach,  
Public Policy Committee

Sources:

United States Census Bureau, [census.gov](https://www.census.gov),  
Internet

CBS News, Dec. 31, 2019, 10 States Set to  
Lose....Internet

NPR, Mar. 31, 2019, WhatYou Need.... Internet



## Election List

Announcing the nominees for the 2020-2021 AAUW Board. The slate will be voted on at our March general meeting.

President-Elect	Rose Ennis
Membership VP	Carolyn Stoffel
AAUW Funds VP-Elect	Susan Dunten
Recording Secretary	Cherilyn Jackson

## Out & About with AAUW:

Photo Caption: February culture tour enjoying lunch at the Aquarium in Kemah after touring the National Weather Service.



## Save the Date

Annual Spring Style Show  
Benefiting AAUW Funds

**Sunday, May 3th**

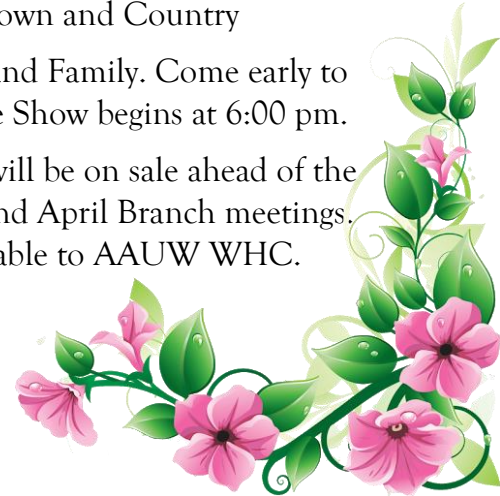
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Talbots in Town and Country

Invite your Friends and Family. Come early to shop before the Style Show begins at 6:00 pm.

Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale ahead of the event at the March and April Branch meetings.

Make checks payable to AAUW WHC.



Cheri Jackson brought these Quick Apple Dumplings to the February membership meeting. The group requested that the recipe from the COSTCO cookbook be printed in the newsletter. Cheri gives this helpful hint. "I used the dough roll that is not precut, and cut it into 8 squares." Thank you, Cheri!

## Quick Apple Dumplings

Yakima Fresh

2 medium Yakima Fresh® Granny Smith apples	1 cup sugar
1 (8 count) package refrigerated crescent roll dough	1 cup orange juice
1/2-1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup butter	1/2 cup very finely chopped pecans
	Ice cream or whipped cream, for serving

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8-inch square baking dish.

Peel and core apples. Cut each apple into quarters.

Unroll and separate crescent roll dough.

Wrap each apple section in a crescent roll. Place in the pan and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Combine butter, sugar and orange juice in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and stir in vanilla. Pour over the dumplings. Sprinkle pecans over the top.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until the crust is golden and beginning to bubble and the apples are just tender when pierced with a fork.

To serve, spoon some of the syrup from the baking dish over the dumplings. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 8 servings.

*\* Brands may vary by region; substitute a similar product.*



## Heads Up, Matey!



Cultural Activities invites you to join your friends for a fun time sailing on Galveston Bay on Wednesday, May 20. We will go by county bus to sail on the Captain Kidd, a Coast Guard inspected 55' Schooner. The captain and first mate will do all the work! There will be room for the first 28 people who send a check right now to our leader, Linda Morgan, and a wait list for others. We must pay in advance for the private charter so "first come, first served". If we are unable to fill the boat you will get your money back. If you find you are unable to go, we hope

to have a wait list for you. You may bring "refreshments" to the boat but no coolers. They have one you can use. The plan is to arrive for a 2PM sail and then go to Noah's Ark Bar and Restaurant in Baycliff for dinner after our 2 hour sail and then return to Houston. If you want to be aboard, send your check for \$36 ASAP to Linda Morgan, 11934 Riverview Dr., Houston, 77077. Questions? Contact her at 281-293-0976 or [amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net) As usual guests will be welcome if space permits.

# MARCH 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator



## BOOK GROUPS

### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

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

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

Hostess: Fran Podell, 12319 Pinerock Lane

832.474.9470

### Contemporary Readers

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

*The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes

at home of Sue Phipps, 12518 Old Oaks Drive

Hostesses: Julie Eisenhauer and Becky French

713.851.4703

### Enjoying History

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

*Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Hostess: Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive

713.502.4594

### Monday Evening Contemporary Group

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

*White Chrysanthemum* by Mary Lynn Bracht

Los Tios Mexican Restaurant

Kirkwood at Memorial Drive

### Mystery

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

*Button Man* by Andrew Gross

Hostess: Mary Kain, 195 Litchfield Lane

713.824.3988

### Outstanding Literature Group

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

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

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

**March 7:** Byway Birders will visit the Texas City Dike. Meet at the Memorial City parking lot, south side of Barryknoll at 8:00 a.m. We will be looking for loons, grebes, gulls surprises. There is a small fee to drive on the dike on weekends. We will have lunch in a local restaurant. Contact Mary Dodson 713-516-4266 or [mpdodson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mpdodson@sbcglobal.net).

Make Your Plans Now for our **May Outing**

**May 5-8:** Birding in Llano State Park. There are many bird blinds there with water features. We will stay at the Best Western Plus, Junction, TX (325.446.3700). The drive to Junction is beautiful with abundant wild flowers. If you plan to join us, please contact Pat Dach, 281-701-5846 or [patdach@gmail.com](mailto:patdach@gmail.com). This Best Western is busy this time of the year so if you plan to go, make your reservation soon.



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Wednesday, **March 18:** “Women of Glenwood” ~  
Glenwood Cemetery Tour with Jim Parsons

Our knowledgeable guide, Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston, will again amuse us with his wonderful stories; this time at Glenwood Cemetery.

Sometimes referred to as the outdoor “Museum of Beauty,” the cemetery includes headstones of notable women important to Houston’s history. Jim will share their stories as we stroll the grounds of statues and monuments under a canopy of live oaks. (For those with mobility issues, please note that this is a walking tour that will last 1 to 1 ½ hours.) Following the tour, we’ll move on to The Dunlavy overlooking Buffalo Bayou for lunch where you will order from the menu and pay with separate checks.

Meet at the Memorial City parking lot, south side of Barryknoll. We will leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. and expect to return no later than 2:30 p.m. Cost for the tour is \$15, which our leader Sue Phipps will collect as you enter the bus along with the usual \$1 for our driver’s lunch. Exact change appreciated.

To secure your reservation, contact Sue, 713-461-9528 or [sbhipps@comcast.net](mailto:sbhipps@comcast.net) ASAP. Jim Parsons is one of our favorite leaders and always draws a crowd.

Save **Wednesday, April 22**, for a “Visit to Historic Victoria”

Watch the April newsletter for details. Contact our leader, Carole Ballew, at 713-467-0775 or [caroleballew@yahoo.com](mailto:caroleballew@yahoo.com) to make your reservation. We’re hoping this will be a delightful spring day with lots of special things to observe and learn.

## Garden Divas



**Tuesday, March 3:** Joy is in the air in March for the Garden Divas. We will stroll the shaded paths, enjoy the beauty of the flowers and spend time in quiet reflection as we escape into the Land of the Rising Sun (also known as the Japanese Gardens). We will return in plenty of time to vote!

The Japanese Gardens have been a focal point in Houston since 1992. We will tour the garden, have

tea in the teahouse and try our skills at a plant-identifying ‘bingo’ game!

Afterwards, we will visit our Rosie the Riveter Rose Garden in the McGovern Centennial Gardens to check the progress of the rose bushes planted last year. If you have your Rosie Bandanna, be sure to bring it!

Lunch will be at Pinewood Café in Hermann Park’s Lake Plaza.

We will carpool from the Memorial City parking lot, south side of Barryknoll and leave at 9:30 a.m. (Directions if you plan to meet us at the garden at 10 a.m.: The entrance to the Japanese Garden is near the Pioneer Memorial obelisk just off Molly Ann Smith Plaza near the Heart of the Park. The closest parking is Lot A located just off Sam Houston Monument circle. To get to the Japanese Garden from Lot A, follow the decomposed granite path along the Jones Reflection Pool under the double allée of trees. The entrance is just off the plaza with the obelisk.)

Call Susan Boone, 713.854.7537 or email [samboone@gmail.com](mailto:samboone@gmail.com) if you are interested in going on this trip so she can get a head count for lunch.

## GOURMET DINING



### Classic Gourmet

Please join us **Saturday, March 14** at 7:00 p.m. for the fourth dinner in this year’s series – “Influences on Texas Cuisine.” Our dinner will focus on the influence of Cajun and Creole cooking. Our host will be Sharon Jorgeson. 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 on **Saturday, March 7** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Laura Cahill. The theme is Italian Cuisine. For more information, contact Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com).

## GREAT DECISIONS

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

### The Great Decisions 1st and 3rd Thursday Afternoon Group

Meetings will be **March 5** and **March 19** at Tracy Gee Community Center from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The discussion topics will be "Red Sea Region" and "Human Trafficking." Please call Martha Ewell, 713-782-2084, for further information..

### The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group

**March 3** will be at the home of Hazel and Otto Kjos, 1100 Uptown Park Blvd, #112 Houston 77056 at 3:00 p.m. The discussion topic will be "India and Pakistan."

**March 17** will be at the home of Diane Roberts, 5607 Saint Paul Street, Bellaire, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss "Red Sea Region."

Please telephone the hostess of each meeting if you plan to attend or if you need additional information.

### Great Decisions Evening Group

**March 11** will be at the home of Willette Norman, 12511 Shepherd's Ridge Drive, Houston 77077 at 7:00 p.m. The discussion topic "Red Sea Region" will be led by Jenni Gillespie-Malone. Please call 281.497.3626 or email [wnorman@gmail.com](mailto:wnorman@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending.

**March 25** will be at the home of Wendy Stackel, 12210 Burgoyne Drive, Houston 77077. Wendy will lead the discussion on "Human Trafficking." Call Wendy at 713.725.1594 or email [wendy.stackel@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy.stackel@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend.



## Hiking Honeys

The March hike is scheduled for **Thursday, March 19**, at the Kickerillo - Mischer Preserve in northwest Houston. The preserve is on an 80 acre property featuring Marshall Lake which spans about 40 acres. The 1.7 mile hiking path is an easy walk on a paved path around the lake. The path is lined with trees

and benches are provided along the route. Though the path is lined with trees, in some areas the trees do not cover the path. Sunscreen and hats are suggested if the day is sunny. There is no entrance fee, nor any cost to park at the preserve. There are restrooms on site. Following the hike, we will meet for lunch at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant located across the street from the preserve.

If you are interested in hiking this picturesque site, please contact Marilyn Watson at 281-639-1787 or [marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net). We will meet at the usual location on Barryknoll Drive at 9:00 am and carpool to the preserve. If you plan to meet the group at the preserve, the main entrance is located at 20215 Chasewood Park Drive, Houston, 77070. Meet at the main parking area at the far end of the preserve where park information and maps are posted and the restrooms are located.



## 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

### Thursday Morning, March 26 – 10 AM

We will travel vicariously to Scotland to explore the Islands of Iona, Skye and Orsky, the highland areas of Glencoe, Inverness, Loch Ness and the Cullodin battlefield (think Outlander) and then on to vibrantly gritty Glasgow. Bring something to share for a potluck brunch. Visitors are always welcome. Please RSVP your attendance to this month's hostess: Cathy Urquhart, 2918 Triway, Houston TX 77043. [catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net) 832-454-5017 (cell)



## Wine, Women & Wisdom

Will meet **Monday, March 16** at McCormick & Schmick in City Center, 4:00-6:00 p.m. 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...



No group activities are scheduled for March. If you would like to join our WISE group, please Karen North, [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com)

# AAUW WHC March

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