

**WEST HARRIS COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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281.558.6398  
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## 2020 Baker-Telfer Scholarship Winners

by Cathy Urquhart

The Baker-Telfer Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce its 2020 scholarship winners. Each young woman will receive \$2000 to help defray costs of tuition, fees, and books during her freshman year. The generous support of West Harris County AAUW members makes this local scholarship possible, one donation at a time. Thank you, all, for extending your financial aid to Houston's next generation of women leaders.



Rosemary Lozano, of Spring Branch's Northbrook High School, plans to study nursing at Prairie View A & M University.



Kaylee Vu, of Alief's Kerr High School, will study biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin.

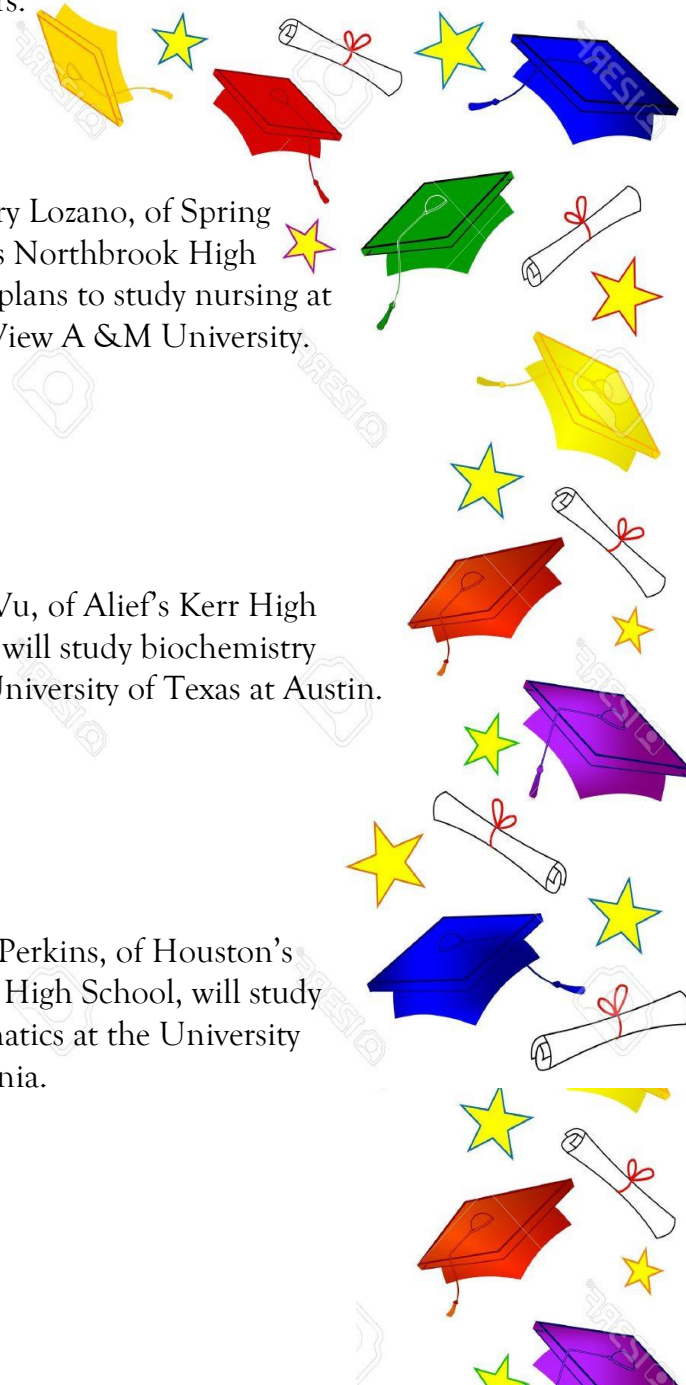


Abigail Perkins, of Houston's Bellaire High School, will study mathematics at the University of Virginia.

Please send all articles for the newsletter to our new email box:

[aauwwhcnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwwhcnews@gmail.com).

The subject line should have the following items: month, year, title, your name. (Example: June 2020 Cultural Activities Your Name)



## New Members

by Carolyn Stoffel

We hope all present members of AAUW-WHC are staying well and safe. In hopes of celebrating additional new members, plans for an August 29, 2020 Membership Coffee are in the development stage. As decisions are made, we will let everyone know. Meanwhile, please send the names and contact information of prospective members to Carolyn Stoffel either by email at [cstoffel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cstoffel@sbcglobal.net) or by regular mail to: 14602 River Forest Dr. Houston 77079. She will contact those members and prospective members with further information.

## President's Message

by Mary Peterson

Our AAUW-WHC Branch held their first Zoom board meeting on May 11, 2020. It was good to see everyone. It seems that some activity groups are continuing to meet on Zoom. Some of our members are even playing bridge this way.



We need to thank all the members who made phone calls to members, sewed face masks, and mailed the masks to members: Linda Marlin, Roslyn Metchis, Willette Norman, Pat Pease, Gail Rickey, Pam Doan, Carolyn Stoffel, Miriam Vyles, Jane Wood, Mary Peterson, Rose Ennis, and Susan Dunten.

Remember to renew your membership; the deadline for renewal is June 30. Also, think of a friend or relative who would be a new member. We are planning our 2020 Membership Coffee for August 29. Like so many future events during this time, we are not sure what the status will be by August, but we are hopeful. Watch for blast updates.

## Outstanding Members

by Carolyn Morris

Traditionally, AAUW-WHC Branch uses the three free national memberships it earns from national each year as an incentive to attend the March business meeting. However, this year, there was no March meeting and elections were held online. We were left with the problem of three free national memberships that needed to be awarded by June 30, 2020.

At that point, we decided to award the national memberships to our outstanding members. Enter another problem. We are an organization of worthy members. The long list could be whittled down to no lower than five members. We had to get creative. Pat Dach and Jan Groves have both devoted years to making our branch a success. Pat has organized the Baker/Telfer Scholarship for numerous years. Of course, she should be recognized. Jan Groves has been the Activities Coordinator for five years. She has earned accolades, too. Their devotion to West Harris County Branch must be honored. Sharon Pope, Cathy Urquhart, and Shari Mauthner (a new member) have together given over 400 volunteer hours to bringing Baker/Telfer online. This is an amazing feat.

How can we honor five people with three free national memberships? We follow the lead of our national government. We borrow. Sharon and Pat had already paid their dues by the time we were organizing our awards. National does not give refunds. Sharon and Pat graciously agreed to receive their free national memberships in 2021.

As this year of Covid unfolds, we are going to have many changes. Hopefully, they will all be as easy to solve as this one.

## Voting Reminders

by Nancy Bowden

### Primary Runoffs are on Tuesday, July 14.

Early voting starts on Monday, June 29.

Go to [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) to see your sample runoff ballot and/or fill out a vote by mail application. To vote by mail, the voter must meet at least one of these criteria:

- 1) be 65 or older
- 2) be disabled or sick (Fear of COVID-19 has not been approved at present.)
- 3) be out of the county during early voting and on election day
- 4) if the voter is in jail but qualified to vote.

The completed vote by mail application must be mailed back to arrive no later than 11 business days before the election.

Call the Election Helpline number, 713-755-6965, if there are any questions.

## AAUW of TEXAS IS ZOOMING

by Pat Farnell

### Conference Calls Are Now Zoom Meetings

I recently attended an AAUW Public Policy Zoom Meeting, which was quite interesting and informative.

These meetings are going to be held monthly and are open to the entire membership. I strongly recommend attending if you are interested in current issues and where AAUW stands on these issues. At this meeting we discussed:

- Equal Pay and the equal pay calendar,
- Advocacy and
- Voter Access

Check the AAUW of Texas webpage ([aauw-tx.aauw.net](http://aauw-tx.aauw.net)) for more details on these issues.

If you would like to attend the next zoom meeting, in June, contact Poupette (Pat) Farnell at [farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com) or check the AAUW of Texas webpage.

## Update on Jeanne Slaydon-Wolbert

from daughter DeDe Springer

Just wanted to let you know that Mom is doing well. She is still at Clarewood House, Apt. 202, 7400 Clarewood Dr., Houston, TX 77036. The facility has been very careful and there have been NO cases of the Covid-19 virus reported!

Her phone number is 713-778-8297. She often neglects to turn on her answering machine, so please let the phone ring at least 10 times before you hang up to give her time to get to the phone. She would love to hear from her AAUW friends!

## Annual Collection of WHC Archival Documents

We will soon be arriving at the end of our branch fiscal year, and time to assemble the WHC Branch records/documents of our activities during the past year. Below are the guidelines for collecting them. Martha Ewell, Historian, is responsible for gathering them for transfer to the U of H Library Carey Shuart Women's Research Collection.

**Timeline:**

- Data collection takes place on an annual basis at the end of the WHC fiscal year, June 30.
- All documents collected are submitted to the U of H Library Special Collections in August of that year.
- The Branch Historian is responsible for collecting all documents both digital and paper.

**Types of Documents:**

- Digital documents—including primary digital documents. May be submitted on a zip/thumb drive or by email if appropriate.
- Paper documents—handouts, brochures, folders, any kind of paper document that supports the activity, etc. Paper documents are an important source of research material. Researchers like to “feel” the material and to view it in its original format. Original documents are especially important for the collection as researchers find these documents add to their understanding and appreciation of the materials by bringing it alive. Please make sure the documents are identified and dated.
- Memorabilia—Any special items/artifacts that are pertinent but do not fall into the category of paper or digital documents.
- Audio-visual materials-Photos of meetings, events, special interest group activities—documented with date, activity, the names of AAUW participants featured in the photo, power point presentations, videos. These may also be included in newsletters.

**Documents to collect and person responsible:**

- AAUW Board meeting minutes—Recording Secretary
- AAUW newsletters—Newsletter Editor
- AAUW annual meeting—program for luncheon, any video or photos, paper copies of handouts—President Elect
- AAUW directory (digital and paper copies)—Directory Editor
- AAUW treasurer's reports—Finance Officer
- AAUW meetings—Program Chairperson
- AAUW membership roster—Membership Chairperson
- AAUW special interest groups (contents of emails or other publications when appropriate, photos, etc.)—the Leaders of each special interest/activity group
- AAUW funds (reports)—Funds Chairperson(s)
- AAUW Baker-Telfer Scholarship (the history, reports, recipients, etc.)—Scholarship Chairperson
- EYH documents: the brochure, steering committee minutes, list of presenters and categories, a copy of the video of the past key-note presentation, list of past key-note speakers and their vitae, a history of EYH, photos especially of branch members with identification, sample folders of materials distributed to students and presenters, photos of event t-shirts
- Obituaries of AAUW-WHC Branch members—Corresponding Secretary
- Records still held in the personal collections of past leaders and members
- Records of Student Affiliate's activities

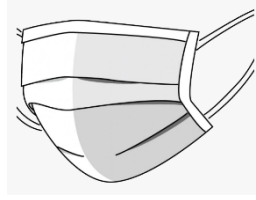
In general, we are encouraged by the U of H Library Archivist to collect as many digital, paper, and loose materials as possible. There is ample archival storage space to accommodate all materials that we collect that contribute to our history and activities throughout the year.

How Do You Say We Care?

Zoom Tips

# Face Masks!

The idea was born of an internet do-it-yourself video. Member Susan Dunten took up quilting in retirement so she had



lots of material and a sewing machine. She started sewing for her long time AAUW friends, but quickly found the need to be greater than she realized. That's when Carolyn Morris, Branch President, and Rose Ennis Branch President-elect, joined her to help sew masks, call members, and deliver the goods.

The team made and sent more than 300 masks, two to each member who needed them. When the team could not reach everyone, a blast was sent out to the membership. The response has been tremendous, positive, and full of gratitude. Our membership is of an age where manners still count. Thank-you cards, emails, and phone calls have flooded us, and we are extremely grateful.

What started out as a skill set filling a need, turned into a wonderful love fest for all of us. We thank our members for their appreciativeness. We will make masks as long as this pandemic continues.

Thank you for being the wonderful branch you are and stay safe. *Carolyn, Rose, and Susan*



Everyone wants to look their best on ZOOM. Chad Blackburn, son of Marsha Blackburn, U.S. Senator from Tennessee, and friend of David Carlson, is sharing ZOOM tips. Thank you, Margaret, for passing this information along.

Get Ready to B.L.E.S.S. Zoom meetings with your virtual presence!

**Background** - Use a virtual background if your background (what the other participants "see" behind you) is cluttered or unprofessional. Note that bright windows in your background can cause lighting issues.

**Lights** - Ensure you have the best lighting. An easy way to improve lighting is to take the shade off a lamp or two and place them behind your computer. You will look better, and it will fill out shadows.

**Elevate** - Set your laptop on a box to elevate your camera to just above eye level. This keeps us from looking up your nose and eliminates double chins.

**Sound** - Improve sound quality by connecting a set of headphones that have an integrated microphone to your computer. Headphones that come with smartphones work well. This eliminates echoes and improves sound quality when you speak.

**Shirt** - Dress professionally out of respect for those who are participating in the meeting.

**BONUS:** Clean your camera lens especially if you've had a sticky note over it!



# JUNE 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

## BOOK GROUPS



### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

On **June 3**, the group will have a Zoom meeting with those who have nominated books for next year to discuss their nominations. Members will have a week, until **June 10**, to send in responses to Daphne by email. Look for an email on June 2 for instructions to join the meeting.

The group will discuss *House of the Broken Angels* on **July 1**. Whether this will be a Zoom meeting or in person is to be determined.

### Contemporary Readers

Contemporary Readers met on June 3 to select books for the upcoming year.

### Enjoying History

Nancy Guilloud is organizing the book selection process for the Enjoying History group. We will be trying to set up meetings as normal but may consider Zoom for September and October if necessary.

### Monday Evening Contemporary Group

The group will have a Zoom book club meeting on **June 8**, 2020 at 2:00 PM to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* led by Jo Glidewell. Please note the date and time change.

### Mystery

The Mystery Book Club has cancelled its June book selection luncheon. Book recommendations for next year, voting, discussion leader and hostess planning will all take place using email.

## Outstanding Literature Group

This group will hold a planning meeting to choose next year's books on Tuesday, **June 9**, at 9:30 a.m. via a Zoom session led by Coordinator, Leigh Rappole. If you need further information, contact Leigh at 281.596.0161 or [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com)

## CURRENT BRIDGE GROUPS



The determination of whether we meet for bridge in June has not yet been made. Regular members and substitutes will receive notifications via email.

## BYWAY BIRDERS



Byway Birders have no planned activities at this time, but if you are interested in armchair birding, check out this excellent video, *Gulf Crossing Story of Spring*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e20qNjdcSUk>. This is a one-hour relaxing tour of our Gulf Coast or try some of the bird cams from Cornell University. If you are a user of Facebook, join the Birds of Texas site. Amateur and professional birders post their pictures on this site and it is a good way to learn to identify birds because most are labeled.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Due to our branch "Shelter in Place Policy" all culture tours and activities have been cancelled for the summer. Read about the scheduled activities for the new season in the September Newsletter. For additional information, call Pat Farnell at 832.867.2908 or email her at [farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com).

## GARDEN DIVAS



On **Tuesday, June 2**, the Garden Divas will virtually gather to plan next year's events. This critical gathering will inspire us to discover more exceptional gardens in our vicinity. We have had a lovely year although the virus has taught us to grow in alternative ways. I appreciate your flexibility. We all have enjoyed nature, beauty, technology, and friendship to the fullest. The ZOOM meetings have really been very nice and I for one, had a great time making my succulent ball.

Plan to attend a ZOOM meeting at 10:00 a.m. on **June 2**. Bring ideas for future explorations. Afterwards we will enjoy a glass of cool tea someplace in a shady spot if possible. Wish we could be together. I'm looking forward to a great closure and a new beginning.

It will be necessary to let Susan Boone know whether you will be able to make this meeting so I can send a link to the meeting. You may join virtually or via phone. If you cannot attend, please send ideas to me via email prior to June 2. **Put on your thinking hats!**

## GOURMET DINING



### Classic Gourmet

This group will not meet in June, but we will try to have brunch either by Zoom or in person to plan for next year. If you have any questions, contact Barb Cook at 713.705.7832 or [chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net).

### Nouveau Gourmet

This group has a dinner planned for **July 11**, hosted by Diane Statham. Please contact Diane for additional information about the dinner at 281.497.6259.

## 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

Thanks to Carolyn Morris, our Zoom host, the Thursday Afternoon Great Decisions Group completed the eight discussions in the briefing book by the end of May. We started our meetings in the usual fashion at the beginning of February and had covered three topics when all meetings abruptly ceased. After a hiatus of several weeks, we restarted our meetings via Zoom, a format which has worked incredibly well. We met once a week for the last five weeks to complete the series. These Zoom meetings have given us a chance to see each other, to engage in stimulating discussions, and to learn a new, useful technology. If you are interested in learning more about the WHC Branch Great Decisions groups, please contact Martha Ewell, or one of the other AAUW Great Decisions group leaders.

### The Inner Loop Great Decisions Group

All AAUW members are welcome to join us on Zoom. For more information, write or call Pat Thomsen at [Patthom75@att.net](mailto:Patthom75@att.net), 713.302.8899.

Our two remaining meetings are:

**May 19**, *The Philippines and The U.S.*

**June 2**, *Artificial Intelligence and Data*

### Great Decisions Evening Group

We now have our meetings on Zoom. The remaining schedule for this year:

**May 27**, *U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle*  
Discussion Leader: Willette Norman

**June 10**, *China's Road into Latin America*  
Discussion Leader: Susan Dunten

## Great Decisions Evening Group

(continued)

**June 24, *The Philippines and The U.S.***

Discussion Leader: Earl Simpson

**July 8: *Artificial Intelligence and Data,***

Discussion Leader: Toby Singhanian

**July 22, *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking,***

Discussion Leader: Wendy Stackel

## HIKING HONEYS



The Hiking Honeys will take their usual hiatus for the summer months of June, July, and August. Check out the September 2020 newsletter for news about the September 2020 hike.

## VICARIOUS VOYAGERS



An interest group for U.S. 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

The Vicarious Voyagers have concluded their agenda for this year. If you want to add your name to the mailing list to receive information for next year's voyages, contact one of the chairs

listened

Please send all articles for the newsletter to our new email box:  
[aauwwhcnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwwhcnews@gmail.com). The subject line should have the following items: month, year, title, your name. (Example: June 2020 Cultural Activities Your Name)

above.

## WINE, WOMEN & WISDOM



Wine, Women & Wisdom will not meet again until September 2020. 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

The WISE group is going virtual. I love TED Talks - see <https://knorth.edublogs.org/learn/ted-talks/>. If you are interested in having a Zoom conversation on WISE ideas for COVID19, please let Karen know: [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com).

Start by watching a TED conversation at <https://www.ted.com/topics/coronavirus> - Karen's favorite has been the one by Rabbi Sachs. What is your favorite?







## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Needham	4	Judy S Davis	20	Martha Inskeep	27
Catherine Urquhart	4	Jill Kaeser	20	Brenda Moss	28
Linda Fosseen	6	Melba Armstrong	22	Lisa Startzman	28
Sharon Pope	9	Dana Cutts	23	Nancy Gusler	29
Pat Farnell	18	Lisa Arthur	24		

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Connie Stone	5	Elizabeth Leachman	13	Ed Alami	24
Mary Ann McMordie	6	Margaret Wittenmyer	14	Millie Haste	24
Carla Burns	8	Linda Marlin	13	Gail Rickey	27
Gloria Ballard	10	Linda White	14	Linda Allbright	30
Miriam Vyles	10	Mary Lou Fowler	15		

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sabrina Kesler	1	Linda Fountain	8	Lynn Smith	19
Jean Vining	1	Penelope Gaither	15	Mary Kain	20
Linda Morgan	2	Maureen Kraker	15	Carolyn Stoffel	20
Gail Peterkin	5	Willette Norman	15	Julie Eisenhauer	22
Pamela Young	5	Betty Shropshire	16	Kristine Bybee-Finley	24
Debbie Campbell	6	Suzanne Minton	18	Carol Thielemann	27

Gloria Montalbano	6	Daphne Scharar	18	Marie Rem	28
		Monica White	18		

# AAUW WHC June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Garden Divas	3 Afternoon Contemporary Literature  Contemporary Readers	4	5	6
7	8 Monday Evening Contemporary Group	9 Outstanding Literary Group	10 Afternoon Contemporary Literature RSVP	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4 Fourth of July	5