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End of Year Notice

All AAUW-West Harris County Branch events have been cancelled for the remainder of the season, including both the Style Show and End-of-Year Luncheon. Since we will not be able to recognize our Baker-Telfer Scholarship recipients at a luncheon, we will send names, schools, and bio information when these recipients are finalized.

Meanwhile, several activity groups are staying connected via Zoom meetings. Be thinking about who among your friends would enjoy being part of AAUW. Send names and contact information of at least one person to Carolyn Stoffel, Membership VP to invite to our August 29 coffee.

Carolyn Stoffel
14602 River Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77079
281-558-5666

This is also our time of the year to renew our membership by paying our dues for the 2020-2021 season. Our dues are \$ 83. Send it through the link that will be provided soon or to:

Diane Roberts
5607 St. Paul St.
Bellaire, TX 77401
832-752-9690



President's Message

At the August Membership Coffee, I shared a conversation I had with the president of AAUW San Jose Branch, CA. This was about how AAUW-West Harris County Branch members supported each other during Hurricane Harvey. Once again, our Branch members have stepped up to support each other during this world-wide pandemic. Some activity groups have used Zoom to hold their meetings. Some of us have formed an old fashion telephone chain. We shared frustrations of isolation and grocery store and restaurant delivery solutions. Just hearing a friendly voice is comforting. Some of us have family in distant places. We worry about them and they worry about us. There have been jokes about adult children telling their parents to stay home.

We need to head their advice and stay home and stay safe.

Mary Peterson



May Birthdays

Judy Starr	May 4	Cindy Edwards	May 23
Janet Thies	May 8	Marilyn Watson	May 23
Sharon Jorgeson	May 12	Pam Doan	May 26
Mimi Miller	May 14	Edith Dunlop	May 27
Marilyn Arendt	May 16	Susan Wilson	May 28
Donna Harshman	May 16	Janelle Meredith	May 29
Irene Infante	May 18	Margaret Pratt	May 29
Shari Mauthner	May 22		

Start Smart/Work Smart

From Texas Southern University- Dr. Michele Taylor

Dr. Taylor mentioned in her Start Smart Course at TSU the success her student, Bridgette Yates, had with Start Smart. I requested a copy of Bridgette's statement to Dr. Taylor. Bridgette graciously gave us permission to use it on our website and for advertisement. Here are her wonderful words:

Professor: Dr. Taylor
Bridgette Yates
5/15/19

Personally, equal pay has been a life changer for me. Knowing that I am under paid, over worked, and would never catch up is horrifying. During class, I mentioned not being sure if I could stand up for myself. Realizing all I had to lose was a low paying job or a bad company to work for (if they didn't address salary negotiation). With God on my side, I decided to negotiate the salary. I called. No answer. I called again. No answer. So, I emailed. The email stated my enthusiasm for having an opportunity to work for their company and enthusiasm for getting into a career I would enjoy. I asked for \$10,000 more than the salary they initially stated was non-negotiable. I also asked for a signing bonus. They countered with the increased base salary of \$10,000!!!!

Awareness is key and not being afraid to ask is also key. Thank you, Dr. Taylor for the awareness of equal pay. Your class was priceless!!!!!!

For Our Friends

Do you know anyone who is out of work because of COVID-19? Now would be a good time for them to update their salary/benefit negotiation skills. Direct them to AAUW.org. On the home page use the GET EMPOWERED drop-down menu at the top right-hand corner. The START SMART and WORK SMART online programs are FREE! I've taken the updated course recently and can recommend its ease of use. When the country goes back to work, we want our friends and relatives to be prepared.

For Our Branch

As we come to the "new" normal, let's think about people and organizations that can use the Start Smart/Work Smart information. It looks like our outreach is going to be mainly electronic for the next few months. Please feel free to copy the above information and send it on to others or send me your ideas.

Carolyn Morris

morriscs@aol.com



AAUW Texas Convening

Saturday, April 18, was the day of the AAUW Texas “Convening.” This event, conducted via Facebook and Zoom, replaced the in-person convention previously planned for Pflugerville, TX.

Congratulations to AAUW West Harris County members who were elected to the AAUW Texas 2020-2022 Board: Margie Poole as Funds VP and Diane Roberts as Finance Officer.



Margie Poole



Diane Roberts

Melinda Gaul, AAUW Texas President, addressed participants for the morning convening. She commended AAUW West Harris County Branch for:

- having received a \$1,500 grant to implement the Start Smart / Work Smart program in the Houston area
- having contributed to Tyler Branch 75th Anniversary Fellowship (only \$8,000 remains to complete this \$100,000 fellowship endowment).

Other achievements were announced throughout the day. West Harris County was pleased to have 18 members recognized as AAUW Texas “Sister Suffragists” for their donation of \$100 or more to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund this membership year:

Anne Amador	Marietta Hostak
Susan Boone	Sharon Jorgeson
Margaret Carlson	Mary Kain
Marianne Cooley	Georgia Kimmel
Pat Dach	Barbara Kyse
Sara Dalton	Peg McNealy
Tish Driscoll	Carolyn Morris
Rose Ennis	Mary Peterson
Nancy Guilloud	Wendy Stackel

The afternoon Zoom conference call was attended by more than 70 AAUW members. West Harris County Branch again received several recognitions:

MAP Award (M for Membership Retention, A for Advocacy, P for Philanthropy)

AAUW Funds, 2018: 5th highest amount in Texas

AAUW Funds, 2019: 2nd highest amount in Texas.

AND it was FUN! And we didn’t have to travel to attend!

MAY 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Jan Groves, Activities Coordinator

BOOK GROUPS



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

did not meet in April. However, we plan to have our May 6th meeting by ZOOM! We will discuss the book that was scheduled for April, *Home Front* by Kristin Hannah. Sharon Jorgeson will lead the discussion, starting at 1:30 pm.

All members are requested to get their book club recommendations for the 2020-2021 year in to Linda Fosseen by May 15.

We will wait until social distancing restrictions are lifted before making plans for our year end luncheon and the summer meetings.

Thank You,
Daphne Scharar, Coordinator

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



“Welcome Aboard, Matey!” ~ *Bay Cruise with Captain Kidd*

Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic, has caused us to cancel our planned May 20th boat trip with the Captain because the Precinct 3 bus will not be available to get us to Galveston. The good news is that the event proved to be a very popular one and Linda Morgan, our trip leader, has contacted Captain Kidd and he has promised to hold our money and allow us to reschedule when the coast is clear. Probably in the Fall. Those who currently have paid will be contacted by Linda and given the first chance to rebook their spot on the boat when things stabilize. If you were not on the list at this point, you can contact Linda at 281-293-0976 or amorgan352@sbcgloval.net to be put on the wait list to replace those who will no longer be able to attend in the Fall. Meantime, stay safe and well.

Plus, the U of H's Moores School of Music Texas Music Festival has been cancelled so our June 20th plan to attend has also been cancelled. We'll hope all is well this time next year so we can get that back on the schedule for next June.

Garden Divas



Garden Divas Virtual Meeting,
Tuesday May 5, 9:30 a.m.

The second VIRTUAL meeting for the Garden Divas will be held at May 5, at 9:30 a.m. We are going to make a Succulent Sphere (shown at the bottom of this email). This follows a virtual lesson presented to the group on April 18.

We will have a step-by-step ‘build’ of the actual succulent sphere. You are more than welcome to participate even if you do NOT want to create the sphere. It should be fun watching those of us that actually are going to try to do it.

If you are interested in actually MAKING the sphere, you will need to order the supplies soon! I just placed the order with Amazon on April 16 and they all should arrive before the end of April. You could possibly find items at nurseries, although I am not leaving the house. I did not order the exact items that were seen in the video; however, I think they will work.

If you are interested in attending and/or actually creating the sphere, you MUST reply to this email to obtain the link to the meeting as well as a list of supplies that you will need. Hoping for the best with this effort to keep us connected!

If you were unable to attend the meeting on April 18, please watch this video prior to the May 5 meeting.

How to Make a Succulent Sphere:
<https://youtu.be/BKT5uNG15QA>



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 Inner Loop Great Decisions Group

We meet on Tuesday afternoon on Zoom. The agenda includes a little socializing over a glass of your favorite beverage, looking at the GD video, and discussing the topic. The upcoming topics are:

Northern Triangle,

China in Latin America,

The Philippines and

* Artificial intelligence and data.

Don't be "shut in". Any member can join us, from home. All you need is a laptop, or iPad, or smart phone.

If you are interested, contact me and I will send you an invitation.

Pat Thomsen

patthom75@att.net

713 302 8899

Nouveau Gourmet

If we are allowed to meet in groups, Lou Fowler is scheduled to host a Nouveau Gourmet group on Saturday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. The theme is Cajun Cuisine.

Diane Statham

