

WEST HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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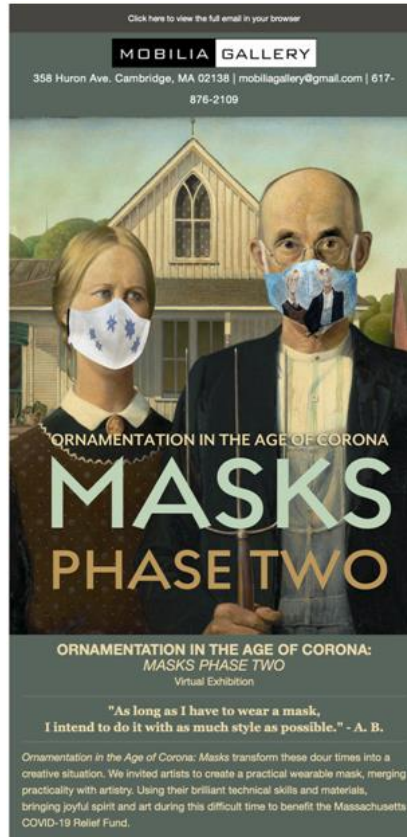
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Oct. Newsletter deadline:
Sept. 10, 2020



September Meeting & Program Saturday, September 19, 2020

West Harris Branch is so fortunate to have fiber artist Cindy Hickok as a member. I first became aware of her work at the Spring Branch ISD Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum. Her work was so impressive that I revisit it often in my mind. Cindy, who is our Program Chair, was hesitant about scheduling herself as a program. I persevered. Cindy is an experienced presenter and an amazing talent. I am so pleased that she agreed to present our September program on Zoom. Save September 19 at 10 AM for her presentation and the WHC meeting. Look for an email Blast closer to the date to give you information on how to attend.

~~~~~Carolyn Morris

As with most of us, Cindy Hickok began the Corona Lockdown by cleaning closets and organizing records. When it became apparent, however, that we were in for a long haul she knew she would want more to show for this time at home. Her desire for a meaningful project ended immediately with a request from a Boston gallery looking for gallery-quality masks for their patrons. After five years of retirement from the art world, Cindy found herself facing one idea after another in the design of masks. The masks in turn have led to further requests for her art and she is now working full-time in her studio. We will see where her creativity and her humor have led her as she develops new ideas that bring subtle smiles to her viewers.



**Tuesday, November 3rd**  
**Early Voting: October 13-30**  
**Last Day to Register: October 5**

## President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,



The 2020-21 AAUW year is off to a good start. Cindy Hickok has a full calendar of Branch Zoom meetings, and book clubs and other groups met via Zoom throughout the summer. Please email me if your group would like to use the WHC Zoom account. I am booking groups through December on Zoom. We are delighted that Texas State AAUW has reimbursed our branch for the \$150 cost of the account. While we are all missing face to face time, we are happy that Zoom is available for us to use.

Fall is the time to contribute to AAUW Funds and the Baker-Telfer Scholarship. Both the National AAUW Fund and our local Baker-Telfer Scholarships do vital work for women's issues. Thank you to Laura Cahill and Susan Dunten VPs of Funds and Sharon Pope, Cathy Urquhart, and Shari Mauthner who manage Baker-Telfer.

Mary Petersen and Rose Ennis are beginning the application for the National 5 STAR Award. Please support them if they call for your help. One area where everyone can help us achieve the award is the 2-minute Activist. (It really does only take that long.) You are able to pick and choose the topics that you want to support by contacting our Senators and members of Congress. Please consider doing it today.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Stay Well!

*Carolyn Morris*



## Membership

Our branch had a very productive Summer getting members to renew. The result: 204 members at the beginning of our 2020-2021 year. Rose Ennis was a telephone genie calling members to remind them to renew. Thank you, Rose!

Membership also has increased with six new members and two returning members. New Members include: Michele Getter-Taylor, Mary Ann Jordan, Linda McGimsey, Noreen Smith, Janet Thrasher, and AAUW State representative-Betsy Calabro. Since we couldn't have our usual New Member Coffee, we will welcomed these ladies via New Member Zoom on August 19th.

We also want to welcome back Sheila Jaynes and Traci Jensen. Both ladies took active parts in our branch in the past.

In the Spring Carolyn Morris asked several members to reach out to Members on a page in the Directory to check on their health and possible needs. It was a greatly appreciated activity and probably impacted the numbers that renewed memberships. Please continue to check on other members' health and safety in this crazy pandemic that we all are experiencing. Also continue to invite new members to this wonderful organization that is meant to empower women, no matter what age.

*Carolyn Stoffel*

## Public Policy



## BE COUNTED!

Have you completed the 2020 census form? The Census Bureau announced September 30, 2020 as the deadline for collecting information. As of early August, Texas was ranked 39th out of 50 states with a 58% self-response rate. In our area, Fort Bend County had the best self-response rate at 70.2%; Harris County had only a 57.6 % response rate; and Waller County self-response rate was only 49.7%.



The Census form is easy! It takes 10 minutes or less and can be done online, by phone or by mail. Are you worried about your private information? Just know that it is illegal for The Census Bureau to share identifying information with any other government agencies.

The Census is extremely important for Houston or whichever community you live in. For example, each person who does not complete the 2020 Census (who doesn't get counted) results in Houston or your city could lose as much as \$1,700 per year over the next ten years.

Help get everyone counted by making sure you friends, family members, neighbors, and others get counted by completing the census form.

For more information about the Census and the Census form, please visit <https://2020census.gov/> Remember the deadline to complete your 2020 Census is September 30, 2020.

*Georgia Kimmel*

## AAUW Archives

### Out from under the bed and into the U of H Women's Archives~an Update on WHC Materials

Three years ago the WHC Branch began the process of transferring all past records, materials, memorabilia, and other related items to the University of Houston Library located on the main campus. The slow and meticulous process was underway to organize, place in state-of-the-art storage facility, process and publish our records.



Each year the WHC Branch continues to update the existing U of H archive collection by providing the records of our activities from the past year. Last spring Vince Lee, U of H Library Special Collections Archivist, and Polina Kharmats, graduate assistant, provided the update that the processing for the West Harris County Branch collection is now complete. The finding aid has been published and is available online. [Collection: American Association of University Women, West Harris County Branch Records | University of Houston Libraries](#)

Please have a look. If there are any edits or tweaks that you notice on the finding aid or any preferred changes, Vince Lee requests that we please let him know. You can contact me, Martha Ewell, Historian, or Nancy Guilloud with any comments that you might have.

## Outreach Program

### Have a Buddy - Be a Buddy

There are those who have noticed that in this time of the pandemic and separation that we have some members that have been long term, very active in the past and have influenced us in their membership. We thought they might enjoy hearing from someone.



If you would like to have an AAUW buddy or **be a buddy** that you may contact once or twice a month, please contact Linda Morgan at 281-293-0976 or [amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net)

*Linda Morgan*

## WISE.... Women in Stem, Entertainment, and Education



Please join us for a WISE Zoom conversation Monday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 as we share a “cup of coffee” together and celebrate Labor Day. We will chat about Jane Goodall, an amazing Woman in STEM who at 86 still is inspiring action with her [rootsandshoots.org](http://rootsandshoots.org) outreach.

See <https://www.ncwit.org/profile/dr-jane-goodall> and hear her voice at <https://www.ncwit.org/video/change-leadership-call-courageous-action-dr-jane-goodall-video-playback>. Please email [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com) if you would like to join the WISE activity group. We will be sending out the Zoom invite to members.

*Karen North*



Sometimes, you just need some purple prettiness.

## November Election Presents Challenges

The heavy voter turnout expected in November presents many challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic may make some voters hesitant to go out in crowds, and some older citizens who usually work at the polls may decide to decide not to work this year. The Ballot by Mail (BBM) option may be an option for those who qualify, but that process could also be slowed down by current operational changes at the postal service, such as budget cuts that have ended overtime work.

What voters can do is take advantage of opportunities to cast their ballots as early as possible, whether by Early Voting or Ballot by Mail (BBM), if they qualify for that. Important voting information and dates are as follows:

- **[HarrisVotes.com](http://HarrisVotes.com)~This excellent website for the County Clerk's office has all the information you will need for voting. Phone: 713-755-6965.**
- **Early Voting Period~October 13-30 at all polling places in the county.**
- **Ballot by Mail (BBM)~Applications must be received no later than October 23. They must be received back to the County Clerk's office by no later than November 3.**
- **Election Day~November 3.**

AAUW has long been committed to open and free elections, nonpartisan voter education, and the expansion of voting rights. In 1965 Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, but in 2013 the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* removed some of the restrictions that had kept voter suppression in check. The House in 2019 passed legislation to counteract the restrictions, and in July 2020 the legislation was passed unanimously by the House and renamed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4/S. 4263. It has not been passed yet in the Senate. AAUW has joined 155 other organizations to urge the Senate to approve it. On the AAUW website there is a link with a letter to our two Texas senators urging them to work for its passage. ([advocacy@email.aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@email.aauw.org))

Ballots by Mail (BBM) is the same thing as an absentee ballot, but it has received criticism by some politicians who say it leads to voter fraud. In some states all voters vote by mail, but not in Texas. The voter must meet any one of four qualifications for BBM. The voter must:

1. Be 65 or older.
2. Have a disability.
3. Be absent from the county.
4. Be confined in jail but eligible to vote.



Detailed instructions are available from the County Clerk's office for BBM. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully to avoid having your completed ballot sent back. Be sure to sign the mailing envelope on the flap with the name you use for voter registration as directed.

Remember to vote as early as you can!

*Nancy Bowden*

# SEPTEMBER, 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

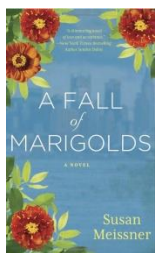
Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

## Book Groups

All groups are meeting via Zoom until further notice. Please contact Coordinator or Co-coordinator if interested in joining the group and to be put on contact list. Group members will be contacted prior to each book club meeting with Zoom information.

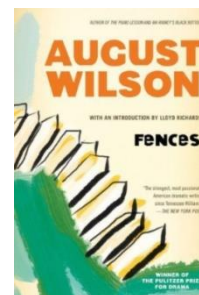
### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, September 2, 1:30 p.m.** **A Fall of Marigolds** by Susan Meissner. Coordinator, Daphne Scharar, 713-412-2140, [dascharar@gmail.com](mailto:dascharar@gmail.com). Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-293-0976, [amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net).

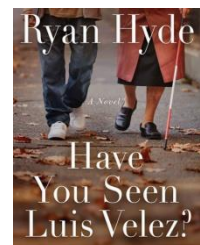


### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 am.** **Fences** by August Wilson. Coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com). Co-Coordinator, Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570, [barbarabutler1959@att.net](mailto:barbarabutler1959@att.net).

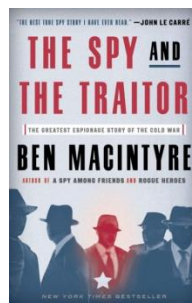


### Welcome Back History Buffs!



**Contemporary Readers**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 1:00 p.m.** **Have You Seen Luis Velez?** by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Coordinator Margaret Gruss, 281-589-0411, [mcgruss@att.net](mailto:mcgruss@att.net). Co-

Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713-376-0940, [slpope@comcast.net](mailto:slpope@comcast.net).

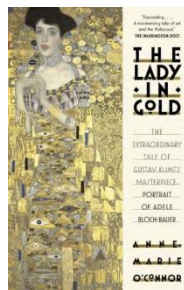


Our first Zoom meeting will be **Monday, September 14th at 1:30 PM**. Pat Dach will lead the discussion on the riveting book, **The Spy and the Traitor** by Ben Macintyre. Members of this book club will receive an email link for the zoom meeting.

Co coordinators:  
Nancy Guilloud [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com)  
Nancy Gusler [ntgusler@gmail.com](mailto:ntgusler@gmail.com)

### Evening Contemporary Literature

**Tuesday, September 8, 3:30 p.m.** **The Lady in Gold** by Anne-Marie O'Connor. Coordinator Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, [WCGLIDE@gmail.com](mailto:WCGLIDE@gmail.com). Co-Coordinator, Sharon Jorgeson, 281-703-5939, [sjorgeson@gmail.com](mailto:sjorgeson@gmail.com).



### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 1:30 p.m.** **Gray Mountain** by John Grisham  
Zoom Meeting - Please contact Melba Armstrong at 281-392-3190 or [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net) if you are interested in joining this group.



## Garden Divas

**Easy-to-grow microgreens pack a nutritional punch.** Microgreens are seven- to 14-day-old seedlings from a variety of plants, including arugula and other lettuces, plants from the brassica family, such as broccoli and cauliflower, and other plants like amaranth, kale, mustard, spinach and peas. The seeds are planted densely in flats and grown under lights or in a sunny windowsill. After a few days, they reach or surpass the sprout stage and continue on to develop their first leaves. By the two-week mark, or even earlier, they are ready to harvest. The Divas will try their hand at creating a fun little garden for our kitchen that not only is very nutritious but would quite likely work well as a grandchild activity! A recent study published in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry indicated that microgreens can have up to six times more nutrients - especially vitamins A, E and beta carotene - than the mature versions of the same plants. What this means is that a small bundle of microgreens scrambled into eggs, tossed into a smoothie, or layered into a salad automatically boosts the health benefits of your food without increasing volume.



We will be ZOOMing this activity not only to learn about the benefits of *microgreens*, but to actually build a small garden to get started. **If you would like to join us for this event, please RSVP by September 1.** I will send a list of materials you will need. We will watch an instructional video together, discuss where and why we would want this garden, then try our hand at creating one! A two-week follow-up will allow us to check in and compare our efforts.

I know I miss you all and although this cannot be face-to-face; I look forward to actually SEEING your face and having a bit of discussion about all of our summer adventures. Welcome back although from afar. I look forward to hearing from you. Please let Susan Boone know if you want the specifics for this activity as well as the link to the ZOOM session by replying to [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com). The session will be held **Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

*Best, Susan Boone*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### An on-line tour of the Metropolitan Museum in October

The Met is offering Microsoft Teams (similar to Zoom) tours with a docent for up to 40 participants. Tours last 45 minutes with a 15 minute Q&A session. We can sip Manhattans and nosh on deli sandwiches as we view great works of art. The cost will be about \$8.00-\$15.00 per person, depending on how many people sign up. The Met is offering a general highlights tour and will be announcing more tours after Labor Day. Please, email me to let me know if you are interested and I will plan accordingly.

Email: [KrisAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:KrisAAUW@gmail.com)

For a look at what is being offered: <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions>

(pictured: "Horse Fair" by Rosa Bonheur)



*Pat Farnell*

## Hiking Honeys



There is no hike scheduled for September. If this changes, you will receive a notice from your coordinator. If you are interested in joining the Honeys, contact

Melba Armstrong at 281.392.3190 or [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net).

## Current Bridge Groups

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (7:00 p.m.) Jane Judson 713.528.6105  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy  
281.679.7299  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (10:00 a.m.) Melba Armstrong  
281.392.3190



The bridge groups are not planning on meeting in September. If there is a change to this, you will be advised by your coordinator.

## Classic Gourmet

Ongoing safety concerns related to the Coronavirus mean we will not be able to gather in person to share a meal in the near future. **On September 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. we will get together virtually to share food, a glass of wine and some conversation with friends until we can be together in person.** For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



## Byway Birders



**Byway Birders will visit Anahuac NWR while social distancing on September 26, 2020.** We will not meet as

a group but individuals are encouraged to tour Anahuac NWR and then we will use Zoom to share experiences and photos. Novice and experienced birders, spouses and friends are welcome. To be added to our contact list email Coordinator Pat Dach at [patdach@gmail.com](mailto:patdach@gmail.com) or Pat Pease at [popeace@aol.com](mailto:popeace@aol.com).

## Vicarious Voyagers

An Interest group for travelers  
Coordinators: Diana Guarniere,  
[guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com) 281-493-2997  
Nancy Bowden, [nanbowd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbowd@sbcglobal.net) 281-589-7423

### September 2020

Due to the nature of this group and the current pandemic, there are no gatherings currently scheduled for this year. However, the *spirit* of the group continues through communication via email. In a recent article published in the Houston Chronicle, Rick Steves, our virtual travel guide, was asked, "What would be your advice to travelers who are struggling to stay at home right now or feeling low because of dreams put on hold?" Rick replied, "Take this opportunity to hone your ability to appreciate different cultures....their art....their history....There are ways we can sort of *vicariously travel* through wonderful information available that you can watch or read." Let's take his advice. Ideas will be shared through the group's distribution list. To be added to the list, please contact Diana or Nancy.





## Great Decisions For September and October



[https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/)

### Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group 2021

The Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group will meet the first and third Thursdays of February, March, April, and May 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In late October 2020 members will have an opportunity to purchase a briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association for the meetings to take place the following spring. By early fall 2020 the Foreign Policy Association will announce the eight discussion topics for the spring. (Access the Foreign Policy Association website for further information, [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)) If you are interested in foreign affairs and would like to participate in these discussions, please contact Martha Ewell, tel. 713-782-2084. Plans for the spring meetings will be announced in the January 2021 newsletter.

### Great Decisions Inside the Loop

The Inside-the-Loop Great Decision group continues to meet, every two weeks on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 pm. Hosted by Pat and Leon Thomsen on Zoom.

We socialize over a beverage and a snack, and discuss “current news topics”, suggested by the members.

For September 1, the topic is: “Global Economy and Coronavirus”

September 15 and 29, TBA.

For more information, contact:

Pat Thomsen [patthom75@ATT.net](mailto:patthom75@ATT.net) or

Linda Marlin [Lmarlin@comcast.com](mailto:Lmarlin@comcast.com)



### Great Decisions Evening Group

The Great Decisions Evening Group meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9: p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday February through May. Our topic discussion books and DVD will be ordered in November. For additional information or to be added to the contact list, please contact Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com).

## Happy Birthday To All Of You!

Connie Stone Jul 5

Mary Ann McMordie Jul 6

Carla Burns Jul 8

Gloria Ballard Jul 10

Miriam Vyles Jul 10

Beth Leachman Jul 13

Margaret Wittenmyer Jul 14

Linda Marlin Jul 15

Linda White Jul 20

Lou Fowler Jul 22

Ed Alami Jul 24

Millie Hast Jul 24

Gail Rickey Jul 27

Linda Albright Jul 30

Sabrina Kesler Aug 1

Jean Vining Aug 01

Linda McGimsey Aug 2

Linda Morgan Aug 2

Gail Peterkin Aug 5

Pam Young Aug 5

Debbie Campbell Aug 6

Gloria Montalbano Aug 06

Linda Fountain Aug 8

Penny Gaither Aug 15

Maureen Kraker Aug 15

Willette Norman Aug 15

Betty Shropshire Aug 16

Daphne Scharar Aug 18

Monica White Aug 18

Lynn Smith Aug 19

Mary Kain Aug 20

Carolyn Stoffel Aug 20

Julie Eisenhauer Aug 22

Kris Bybee-Finley Aug 24

Carol Thielemann Aug 27

Bernice Hotman Sep 2

Misako Ajouz Sep 4

Pam Kelley Sep 5

Priscilla List Sep 6

Laura Cahill Sep 10

Susan Boone Sep 11

Dorothy Harrison Sep 12

Lynn Gamblin Sep 13

Martha Ewell Sep 14

Susan Hertz Sep 15

Fran Haxby Sep 18

Mary Adams Sep 19

Lois Neal Sep 21

Georgia Kimmel Sep 22

Don Morgan Sept 22

Jeanne Wolbert Sep 25

Mary Rouse Sep 30