

## WEST HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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713.560.1889  
morriscs@aol.com

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Cynthia Hickok

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### Newsletter Editor

Kris Bybee-Finley  
aauwhcnews@gmail.com

*November Newsletter deadline:*

October 15, 2020



**Tuesday, November 3rd**

**Early Voting: October 13-30**

**Last Day to Register: October 5**

## October Meeting & Program

Saturday, October 17, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Questions You Wish You Had Asked Your Doctor,  
But Didn't Have Time For

Shari Rubin, MD, FACP



Or perhaps you had a good question and then forgot to ask.... We have all been there!

Dr. Shari Rubin will answer a number of those questions in our Zoom general meeting, on the morning of Saturday, October 17, at 10 a.m. As an internal medicine physician Dr. Rubin believes in building long-lasting relationships with her patients by treating them with respect and partnering with them to develop personalized health plans. Her areas of clinical expertise include prevention and wellness, health screenings and diagnosis, and management of acute and chronic illnesses. Dr. Rubin is board-certified as an internist by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians. We are fortunate to have the opportunity of learning more about family and community health issues during this stressful pandemic period from this respected and caring physician.

If you have questions, general rather than personal, which you would like addressed, please send them to [cynthiahickok@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynthiahickok@sbcglobal.net) who will present them to our speaker as time permits.

*Cindy Hickok*

## President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,

What a successful Fall West Harris County branch has enjoyed!



### Masked Ball

October is the month that WHC fundraises for AAUW National and our Baker/Telfer Scholarship Fund. The COVID-19 crisis is projected to greatly impact the long-term earning power of women. Our National organization is working in Washington and throughout the county to address the financial inequality of women. The Baker/Telfer Scholarship gives out \$6,000 each year to 3 deserving college bound senior girls. Both of these causes are near and dear to our hearts. Please give generously.

### Directory

Kudos to Mary Andersen, Pam Doan, Sharon Jorgeson, and the Membership Committee for collecting the information, entering the data, and getting the directory printed. Directories should be in your hands by the end of September.



### Happy Birthday

Many of you know Arlene Baker, founding member and first president of West Harris County branch. Newer members will know her as the Baker in the Baker/Telfer Scholarship Fund. Arlene has been active in books clubs and many other WHC groups. I first met her as a mover and shaker in the Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics for Middle School Girls program. Arlene's birthday is October 1. She is no longer going out and does not Zoom. Please consider sending her a birthday card to 11805 Meadowglen Lane, Unit 2127, Houston, TX 77082.

### 5 STAAR Program

Rose Ennis, President-Elect and Mary Peterson, Past President are submitting all the good works our members have done for the AAUW National 5 STAAR Award. This award recognizes premier branches in AAUW. West Harris County Branch has already earned the STAAR for Communications! With your help, we hope to complete all 5 categories.



### Outreach

Do you know someone who needs or would like a card? Suzanne Dalati, WHC Corresponding Secretary, would like to send them one. Please email her at [sdalati@att.net](mailto:sdalati@att.net) or call at 281.460.4030.

It is fun to be the president of such an active/interesting group!

*Happy Fall,  
Carolyn Morris*

### **Help Wanted**

Are you computer savvy? Do you want something that you can do from home? West Harris County has an American Greeting Cards subscription that we are using to send birthday cards to members. If you are interested in helping with this member outreach project, please email [morriscs@aol.com](mailto:morriscs@aol.com). Thank you for considering this!



*Carolyn Morris*



## Fall Funds Campaign



How do you tell branch members that you care? I have been a member of this branch for almost forty years. It has changed my life. I have held every office except membership vice president and the experiences, friendships, and the positivity my membership has given me is priceless. So when asked to lead a fund raising campaign during a pandemic, I said absolutely!!

During this past summer we made and distributed face masks to many of our members and the feedback of gratitude and appreciation was overwhelming. So we want to do it again. As you will see on the “Masked Ball” invitation, we are sending all members who donate \$, a Christmas face mask and sleep mask. For our Jewish members we will have Hanukkah masks.



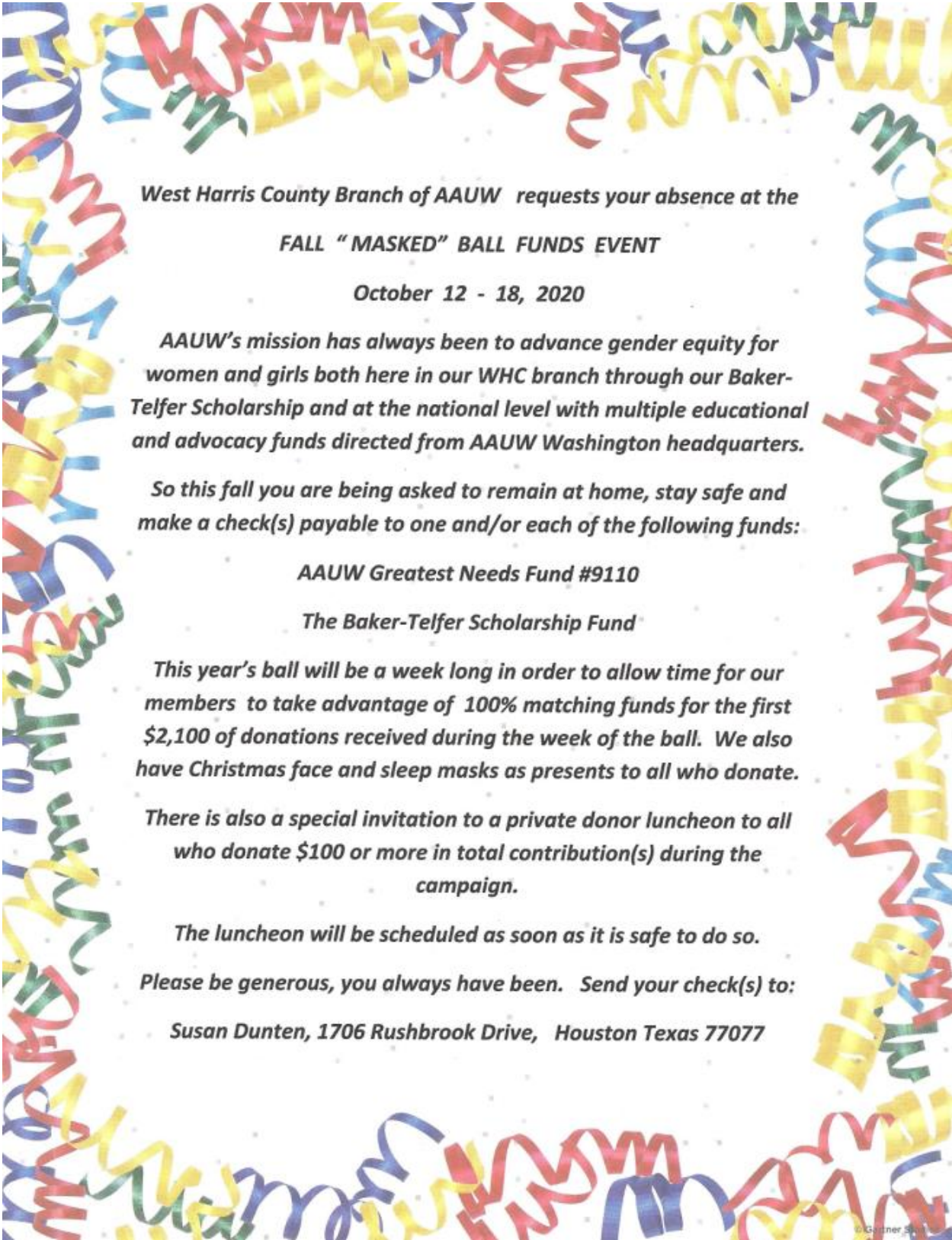
Generosity is a value that is shown in spirit, in acts of kindness and commitment to causes near and dear to our hearts. So gender equity for women and girls is a constant goal that keeps being met and pushed back at the same time. At my age I have seen so many barriers come down, yet while there are now many more opportunities for girls, the need for financial support grows as well. Many of these young women will be left behind without our help.

The Baker-Telfer Scholarship has never been more important. I hope we can be extra generous this year to show our caring, even during a pandemic.

West Harris County Branch of AAUW is the largest branch in Texas so we should be the largest donors in the state! I really have no idea how much the other branches give, but I hope we can continue to show our gratitude and generosity.

Your long time member and Funds co Vice President,

*Susan Dunten*



**West Harris County Branch of AAUW requests your absence at the  
FALL "MASKED" BALL FUNDS EVENT**

**October 12 - 18, 2020**

**AAUW's mission has always been to advance gender equity for women and girls both here in our WHC branch through our Baker-Telfer Scholarship and at the national level with multiple educational and advocacy funds directed from AAUW Washington headquarters.**

**So this fall you are being asked to remain at home, stay safe and make a check(s) payable to one and/or each of the following funds:**

**AAUW Greatest Needs Fund #9110**

**The Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund**

**This year's ball will be a week long in order to allow time for our members to take advantage of 100% matching funds for the first \$2,100 of donations received during the week of the ball. We also have Christmas face and sleep masks as presents to all who donate.**

**There is also a special invitation to a private donor luncheon to all who donate \$100 or more in total contribution(s) during the campaign.**

**The luncheon will be scheduled as soon as it is safe to do so.**

**Please be generous, you always have been. Send your check(s) to:**

**Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive, Houston Texas 77077**

## Membership

On August 19, 2020 West Harris County Branch had this year's version of New Membership



Coffee via Zoom. A few Board members and new member sponsors welcomed our 10 new members.

Since our usual coffee was not an option, Membership, prior to the Zoom event, delivered and mailed a Welcome Bag with AAUW literature, masks (Thank you Susan Dunten), sanitizer, tea bags and a cookie!

Please add to the new members listed in September Newsletter, Michael Farnell and Sue Jurgens. We would like to encourage all members to help these new members to be aware of the many opportunities available within WHC ongoing groups. We also want to encourage all members to take time to call fellow members to check on health and well being issues. This was a well received and appreciated project done in the Spring.

COVID-19 is still a part of all our lives and we are "all in this together" has never been so true!

STAY SAFE, wear your masks.

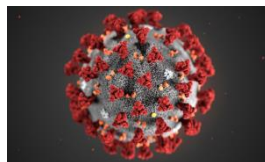
*Carolyn Stoffel*

## Public Policy

"COVID-19 and the Labor Economy: What's Next?"

This is an excellent webinar. Economist, Diane Lim is in

conversation with our AAUW President, Kimberley Churches. Dr. Lim provides helpful insight to how millions of workers, especially women, have been



impacted by the ongoing pandemic and economic downturn. Women had become 50.4% of the work force prior to COVID-19. Due to the economic downturn women, people of color and low-wage workers are most impacted. The effects, especially on women, will be long lasting on careers and earnings. Dr. Lim suggests public policy initiatives by private industry and government that are needed in the future that can help support women in the workforce. The webinar recording is available under AAUW's 2020 Convening Series. I recommend that all WHC members watch.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/>



[www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

If you have questions about voting, the best and most accurate source of information on voting is available on the web at [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

For example: For voters who are using a ballot by mail: the voter can drop off his/her ballot if they do not want to mail it in. The drop off sites are currently listed as [Harris County Clerk Annex locations](#). The voter may deliver their ballot in person and can't bring in another person's ballot by mail ballot. A picture ID is required. Specific times and much more information is listed on the web site.

Updates will be provided up to Election Day.

*Georgia Kimmel  
Public Policy Chair*

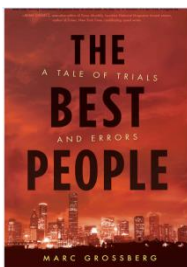
# OCTOBER, 2020 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

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



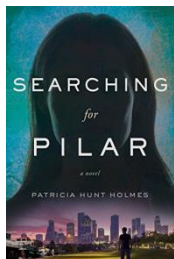
**Wednesday, October 7, 1:30 p.m.**  
The Best People: A Tale of Trials and Errors by Marc Grossberg  
Coordinator, Daphne Scharar, 713.412.2140, dascharar@gmail.com,  
Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-293-0976, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, October 13, 9:30 a.m.**  
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.  
Coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281.596.0161, leighrap@aol.com. Co-Coordinator, Barbara Butler, 713.305.0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net.



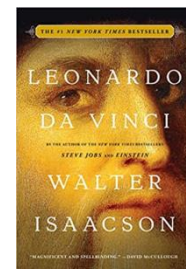
### Contemporary Readers



**Wednesday, October 7, 1:00 p.m.**  
Searching for Pilar by Patricia Hunt Holmes. Coordinator Margaret Gruss, 281-589-0411, mcgruss@att.net. Co-Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713.376.0940, slpope@comcast.net.

### Enjoying History

Our Zoom meeting will be **Monday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m.** Leonardo Da Vinci by Walter Isaacson. Members of this book club will receive an email link for the Zoom meeting. Co coordinators: Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com Nancy Gusler, ntgusler@gmail.com



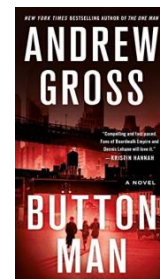
### Evening Contemporary Literature



**Tuesday, October 5, 3:30 p.m.**  
The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple. Coordinator Jo Glidewell, 936.327.2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator Sharon Jorgeson, 281.703.5939, sjorgeson@gmail.com

### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, October 20, 1:30 p.m.**  
Button Man by Andrew Gross.  
Zoom Meeting - Please contact Melba Armstrong at 281.392.3190 or armstrong.melba@comcast.net if you are interested in joining this group.



## Cultural Activities

### An on-line tour of the Metropolitan Museum in November: About Time

For an overview:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2020/about-time>

For a preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OL5tIyi340>



The Met is offering a Microsoft Teams tour (similar to Zoom) with a docent for up to 40 participants for this spectacular exhibit. Tours last 45 minutes with a 15-minute Q&A session. Put on some fancy togs and take a socially distant gander at incredible clothes through 150 years of fashion. We will need at least 25 participants for this virtual tour. If we don't have enough of an interest we will have to cancel. Cost depends on the number of participants (\$7.50-\$15.00). Please email Coordinator, Pat Farnell if you are interested and she will plan accordingly. Or contact Kris Bybee-Finley at KrisAAUW@gmail.com.

*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.

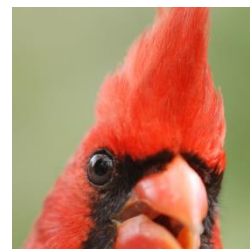
## Byway Birders

October is an exciting month for birders. The weather is cooler and we see migrants on their way south. Byway Birders will be looking for birds in Stephen F Austin Park in October. This will be done individually, not as a group. The phone number to check on availability is 979-885-3613.



Their website indicates the park is open. We will have a Zoom meeting at **7:00 p.m. on October 24** to discuss our recent birding observations and

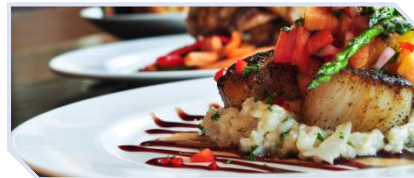
recommendations. If you would like to be included in our birding conversations and you are not on the group list, please contact Coordinator, Pat Dach at [patdach@gmail.com](mailto:patdach@gmail.com) or Co-coordinator, Pat Pease at [poppease@aol.com](mailto:poppease@aol.com).



## 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. We normally do not meet in October. On **November 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will get together virtually to prepare the same menu, 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.

Nouveau Gourmet will host a Zoom dinner on **Saturday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** We will each prepare the same casserole and dessert and provide our own bread and wine. Then we will socialize over our meal. Please contact Coordinator, Diane Statham at [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) to be included on the members list.



## Nouveau Gourmet

### Vicarious Voyagers

An Interest group for travelers

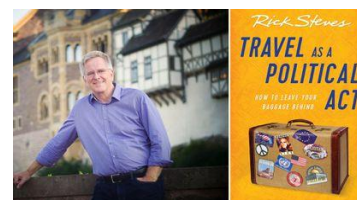
*Travel as a Political Act* - This month we encourage you to log on to the Internet to and watch Rick Steves share his insights on the value of travel. This presentation is very thought provoking and can be viewed without cost at your leisure any time on your own computer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU8oelnzdAQ>

A ZOOM meeting will be scheduled for **Thursday, October 29 at 10 a.m.**, to share comments and experiences. Names on the V.V. distribution list will be reminded and Zoom access information will be given to those wanting to participate. Notify Diana or Nancy if you wish to be added to the group's distribution list.

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



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



Please join us for a WISE Zoom conversation **Monday, Oct. 12 at 10:00 a.m.** as we share a cup of coffee together and celebrate Columbus Day. We will continue our chat about Jane Goodall, an amazing woman in STEM who at 85 still is inspiring action with her <https://www.rootsandshoots.org/> outreach.

In September, we decided to focus on waste reduction, as there are so many things we can do as individuals. See <https://buildagarden.edublogs.org/bees/jane-goodall/zooming-one-sept20/> for details. We are looking into doing Jane's MasterClass together, <https://www.masterclass.com/classes/jane-goodall-teaches-conservation> and getting an AAUW group discount.

Please email [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com) if you would like to join the WISE activity group. A Zoom invite will be sent out to group members prior to our next meeting.



## Great Decisions



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

### Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group 2021

This Great Decisions 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 Spring, 2021 meetings. 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 Coordinator, Martha Ewell, 713-782-3084 or [marthaewell@att.net](mailto:marthaewell@att.net).



### Great Decisions Inside the Loop

This group continues to meet via Zoom, every two weeks on **Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** We socialize to check to see how everyone is doing for 15 minutes or so. We then begin our conversation about an important current topic in the news. These topics are selected and moderated by a member. Our dates for this month are **October 6 and October 20**. The Zoom link will be sent in time for the meeting.

All AAUW members are welcome. For more information, please contact Coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-302-8899, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) or Co-coordinator, Linda Marlin at [marlinl@comcast.net](mailto:marlinl@comcast.net).

### 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).

## Garden Divas

The Garden Divas will meet online on **Tuesday, October 6th @ 10:00 a.m.** We have a road trip excursion to share with the divas. Several Garden Divas including Susan Boone, Susan Dunten and Karen North will be traveling to Asheville, North Carolina to visit the Asheville Botanical Garden.



The Gardens at Asheville are dedicated to the study and promotion of the plants and habitats of the

Southern Appalachians. 23 counties comprising western North Carolina lie within a region noted for its complex terrain and its great diversity of plants and animals. From mid-summer through early fall, the Gardens enjoys a second bloom peak. The show involves many members of the Aster family such as Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Blazing-star (*Liatris sp.*), Green-headed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia lacinata*) and Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*). Many visitors are surprised to find Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) flowering in the middle of fall color or Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) flowering in winter, sometimes through a light blanket of snow. We hope to have lots of pictures and videos about an area very different from Texas. Please join us in a very new and hopefully successful road trip garden experience via ZOOM. Contact Susan Boone (smboone@gmail.com) so you can get the ZOOM meeting information. Link will follow.

*Susan Boone*



Arlene Baker Oct 1

Valerie Koehler Oct 1

Joan Belk Oct 4

Nancy Bowden Oct 5

Josephine Glidewell Oct 5

Denise Bossarte Oct 6

Barbara Cook Oct 7

Robert McNeil Oct 8

Karen North Oct 8

Robert McNeil Oct 8

Karen North Oct 8

Jennifer Gillespie-Malone Oct 10

Jacqueline Shelton Oct 10

Diana Tiberia Oct 16

Sharon Rodgers Oct 18

Kathryn Sandlin Oct 20

Jane Cooper Oct 25

Diane Roberts Oct 27

Mary Dodson Oct 28

Martina Simpson Oct 30

Betsy Calabro Oct 31