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713-560-1889  
morriscs@aol.com

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aauwwhcnnews@gmail.com

*Dec. Newsletter deadline:*

November 15, 2020

## November Meeting & Program

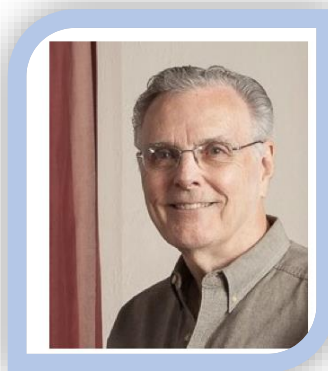
Saturday, November 14, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

## Iran

Chris Schaefer, an expert on affairs in the Middle East, will present our November 14 program, outlining for us the current situation in Iran. Having been bombarded with news reports regarding the political situation as well as the economic picture in that nation, we will have an opportunity to hear a speaker who devotes his life to understanding others' points of view. We all yearn for peace abroad, and he can lead us to a realization of the many-faceted problems that face our leaders as they make policy decisions. This is an opportunity for us to become better informed about affairs in that part of the world.

Schaefer has taught courses about the history and politics of the Middle East at the University of Utah's Osher Learning Institute in Salt Lake City for over ten years. He is the recipient of the university's Brooke Hopkins Award for Excellence in adult teaching. In 2019 he brought his first course on the Middle East to the Women's Institute of Houston.

Cindy Hickock  
Program Chairman



## President's Message



Dear Members,

Once again, our membership has outdone itself! I am amazed by the ways our branch has stayed connected during the pandemic. My personal joy has been hosting many of the different Zoom activities. I have gotten to know so many members that in normal times I might not have in come in contact with, and I have learned so much. The intellect in this organization is amazing. Our diverse careers give discussions a balance that is unequaled.

Thank you to those who have donated to the national AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and our local Baker/Telfer Scholarship. Our work is not done until women and girls have educational, financial, and political equity.

The branch has purchased an American Greeting ecard subscription? The October birthday members were the first to receive the cards. Look for a card around your birthday. Hopefully, it will go to your inbox. However, depending upon your security setting, it may go to another folder. This is just another way for our branch to say, "We are thinking of you. You are the backbone of AAUW."



*Stay Safe! Have Fun!*  
*Carolyn Morris*  
*Branch President*

*We be Zoomin' all the time.*

## Arlene Baker Moves to Baltimore

Without Arlene Baker and the other dedicated women who started West Harris County branch in 1976, our city, county, state and country would not be as far along with women's rights, and our lives would not be as enriched with wonderful friendships. Arlene was the first president of AAUW West Harris County and a driving force in the branch. During this pandemic year, we have enjoyed the camaraderie and vision that she and the other founding members instilled in the West Harris County Branch.

Arlene is moving to Baltimore, Maryland, to be near her son Peter. Peter has shared his mom's new address with us. Her phone number has remained the same. Please join our membership in showering Arlene with cards at her new address.

Arlene Baker  
2209 West Rogers Ave. Apt 203  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
Phone: 832-291-9885





## *Meet a Member in December*

We all wish the Coronavirus would disappear, and our traditional holiday party was still going to take place. That is not a reality for us this year. However, we have been fortunate to stay virtually connected through Zoom, and many groups report a high level of participation.

Meet a Member in December, is encouraging members to get together for lunch while, at the same time, limiting the number gathering to four or less. We strongly recommend all participants abide by current safety standards such as wearing a mask, choosing a restaurant that follows capacity and seating restrictions, and satisfies your personal level of comfort. Here are the rules to follow so everything runs smoothly:

1. Contact Rose Ennis if you want to participate no later than November 15th. You will hear back from Rose by November 20th. Let her know if you are including your spouse/significant other in the response.  
[roseennis@att.net](mailto:roseennis@att.net) or 281-755-6483.
2. Contact the member/s you have been given and arrange where and when you will meet during the first two weeks in December.
3. Take a picture at the venue and send it to Rose identifying who is in the picture, the name of the venue, and any other anecdotal information you want to share. Obviously, things can change if the city shuts down restaurants. In that case, each group might want to come up with another creative way to celebrate.

If you requested a complimentary mask this summer, have the new directory in hand, participated in our fall fundraising event benefitting AAUW's National Greatest Needs and/or the Baker/Telfer Scholarship programs, and availed yourself of the branch's monthly Zoom meetings, you are aware that we continues to focus on our strategic plans and will not be deterred by things out of our control!

*"Tis the season to Meet a Member in December"*

## Support the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act



On September 17, 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. The vote was 329 in favor to 73 against. The bill defines unlawful employment practices related to employees affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. The bill also identifies enforcement procedures and remedies to unlawful employment discrimination. Once passed

and signed this law will protect pregnant women against workplace discrimination. It will require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees who can perform the essential duties of the job. For employed pregnant women, the accommodations can make the difference between staying fully employed and being unemployed. Accommodations can include allowing for extra restroom breaks, allowing for the employee to have easy access to water, or allowing work to be done while sitting instead of standing. None of the accommodations can cause undue hardship for the business.

AAUW supports this bill. As an AAUW member, you can help to get this bill passed in the Senate. Log on to <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/pregnant-workers-fairness-act/> and read more about the bill. In addition, you can become a two-minute activist by completing the form that is at the end of the information. This allows you to quickly send an email to your senators to asking them to support this bill.

*Georgia Kimmel  
Public Policy Chair*

## Fall Funds Campaign: Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

I am so proud of you, and personally humbled by the generosity our membership has given to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund and our own Baker-Telfer Scholarship for high school graduating seniors. No pandemic got in our way! As a matter of fact, forty seven members now have a holiday face mask and sleep mask for being donors to our local and National charitable goals. Of the \$9,000 raised so far, through your on-going support, \$6,000 was given to the Baker-Telfer Scholarship and \$3,000 to AAUW Greatest Needs funds. Forty women will now be on the invitation list for our spectacular outdoor luncheon to be held this next spring thanking them for their generosity.



What do I hear? You still want to donate? You can but we want to make you aware of our extended time table for donations to include the month of November. Any amount is welcome; however \$100.00 will ensure the coveted luncheon invitation. This branch would so love to get to the \$10,000 threshold. Checks for Baker-Telfer should be separate from checks for the AAUW Greatest Needs fund. Send to: Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive, Houston, TX 77077

Great effort has been put into fundraising this fall with our Masked Ball event promoting our worthwhile causes because we are not sure we can have our usual spring fashion show fundraiser due to the virus. Please consider giving now if you haven't done so already.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. From the bottom of my heart to your heart,

*Susan Dunten  
Funds Co-Vice President*



# NOVEMBER, 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, November 4, 1:30 p.m.** American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. 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).

### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, November 4, 1:00 p.m.** Bluebird by Attica Locke. Coordinator Margaret Gruss, 281-589-0411, [mgruss@att.net](mailto:mgruss@att.net). Co-Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713-376-0940, [slpope@comcast.net](mailto:slpope@comcast.net).

### Enjoying History Book Club

**Tuesday, November 9, 1:30 pm.** Justinian's Flea by William Rosen. Coordinator, Nancy Guilloud, 713-785-6336, [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com)

### Evening Contemporary Literature

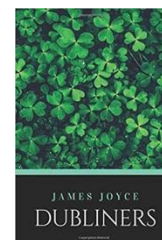
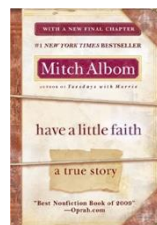
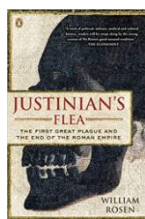
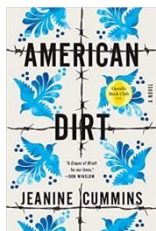
**Monday, November 2, 3:30 p.m.** Have a Little Faith: A True Story by Mitch Albom. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, [WCGLIDE@gmail.com](mailto:WCGLIDE@gmail.com). Co-Coordinator, Sharon Jorgeson, 281-703-5939, [sjorgeson@gmail.com](mailto:sjorgeson@gmail.com).

### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, November 17, 1:30 p.m.** The Great Darkness: A Cambridge Wartime Mystery by Jim Kelly. Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net). Co-Coordinator, Pat Pease, 713-824-1681. [popease@aol.com](mailto:popease@aol.com).

### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.** Dubliners by James Joyce. 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).



## Hiking Honeys

After seven months of the Covid19 pandemic, are some of you getting a little stir crazy? Or, maybe, just getting tired of taking the same walks and seeing the same scenery?

With the weather getting cooler, it's a great time to spend time outdoors and get a little sun. One outdoor activity is hiking or walking in some of our local parks with your dog, a family member, or a friend. Walking outdoors usually allows for social distancing, but wear a mask if it makes you feel safer and more comfortable.

Here are some suggestions:

**The Eastern Glades at Memorial Park.** This is a new 100-acre park space in Memorial Park that was designed in honor of the park's original master plan from the 1930's, but also with a renewed emphasis on science-driven resilience and conservation in mind. It's the first major project of the 2015 Memorial Park Master Plan.



It is truly an outdoor treat during these trying times with oodles of dragonflies, birds, sun flowers, bushes of plump beauty berries, and hundreds of native plants and trees. There is a 5.5-acre lake, Lake Hines, where you will find newly planted cypress trees jutting out from its wetland shelf, alongside of lovely bloomers like irises and lilies. Egrets and cranes stalk the shores and thanks to a boardwalk that wraps around the lake and wetlands, you can too.

The Glades is located on East Memorial Loop Road within Memorial Park. You will have to pay for parking at a machine or by the Parkmobile app, a fee of \$1.50 per 3 hours. All parking fee proceeds are used for the park's upkeep. Or, you can park in free spaces along the nearby Seymour Lieberman Trail.

**The Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center.** The Jones Park is a premier Harris County Precinct 4 nature preserve. It is open daily to visitors free of charge. Located in a hardwood and pine forest, it is home to a variety of plant and wildlife species, white sand beaches along Spring Creek, and swamps with century-old cypress trees. It includes over 8 miles of paved pedestrian trails and several unpaved primitive trails.

Other features of the park include the Nature Center, the Akokisa-Ishak Indian Village, picnic tables, and a fort-style playground for children. At the Nature Center, you can obtain specially formulated turtle food that is a popular snack for the diverse water turtle population at the Overlook Turtle Pond.



The park is located north of Houston at 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble 77338.

Hopefully, some of you will try one or more of these suggestions and come home with smiles on your faces and feeling good about yourselves. If you would like more information about these parks, contact Melba Armstrong at [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net) or 832-778-9467.

More suggestions for walks will be forthcoming from Jane Wood in the December newsletter.

*Melba Armstrong*

## Garden Divas

If you have ever thought of making your own fresh evergreen wreath, maybe this is the year you'll do it? This is an easy project...a bit tedious, but simple enough. The garden Divas will kick-off the holiday season creating a welcoming wreath using natural elements that you find in your yard (or your neighbors, or in parks). You can decorate for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah or for just the joy of plants. We will host this workshop via ZOOM on **Tuesday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**

What you will need to make your own fresh Christmas wreath:

- [Gardening or Work Gloves](#)
- [Floral Wire](#)
- Live pine boughs\*
- Wreath form (either a wire form or a plastic laundry basket from the Dollar Store)
- Wire Cutters
- Assorted evergreen and greenery (suggestions: eucalyptus, olive tree branches, and boxwood cuttings)
- Berries (on a stem). If you have trouble finding these, I know they have artificial ones at all the craft stores.
- Some wide ribbon of your choice. (I will teach you how to make a lovely bow)



Other options: Add some more fresh greenery to make it pop! I used eucalyptus, olive branches, cedar tree cuttings, and boxwood cuttings. I got my eucalyptus from Trader Joes, the olive branches from my sister's house, and got the boxwood cuttings and cedar cuttings from some of the bushes on the side of my house.

Please consider joining us for our ZOOM workshop. Email Susan Boone; [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com) to get access to the ZOOM link. Workshop is scheduled **for November 3, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.** Please have supplies available to create your wreath to welcome to holiday season. And once you have it put together you can embellish it however you like! Add ornaments, berries, twigs, ribbon, lights...the possibilities are endless!

## Foraging for Natural Elements

Whatever you choose to add to your wreath, take time to enjoy the process of collecting your materials out in nature. There is nothing like mindfully walking through nature and looking for the beautiful plant life that catches your eye as you pick and choose which elements to harvest and add to your wreath. If you are collecting materials from your own backyard and garden, try to look at things from a new perspective. You may just find a ton of beauty in something you never paid much attention to before. Seed heads, evergreen branches, and even some vegetables make lovely additions. Take a slow walk around your whole yard, collecting anything and everything that tickles your fancy.



*Stay safe and enjoy nature!*  
*Susan Boone*

## WISE Women

Please join us for a WISE Zoom conversation **Monday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m.** as we share a “cup of coffee” and learn about Jane Goodall. We will show video lessons on her *Dreams of Africa*, the *Breakthrough*, and *Chimpanzee Behavior*. Then discuss how her questions apply to our community. You can sign up for her course at <https://www.masterclass.com>.

In October we overviewed Jane Goodall’s Master class. Then shared answers from the Family workbook linked on <https://buildagarden.edublogs.org/bees/jane-goodall/zooming-oct-2020/>. Also included are connection ideas from Cherokee women.

Please let me know if you would like to join our Zoom conversation (<mailto:knorth@me.com>). I will send out a link on Sunday.



**Dr. Jane Goodall**  
Conservation

**Dr. Jane Goodall Teaches Conservation**

Dr. Jane Goodall shares her insights into animal intelligence, conservation, and activism.

*Karen North*

## Byway Birders

Byway Birders will get together **Saturday, November 7 at 7 p.m.** via Zoom to discuss shore birds. Please contact Coordinator, Pat Dach, 281-701-5846, [dachpd@hotmail.com](mailto:dachpd@hotmail.com) or Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, [popeace@aol.com](mailto:popeace@aol.com) to be included in the birding conversations.

If you don’t make it to the coast you can use these sites to practice your bird identification skills. If you have trouble opening these with a click, try copying the link and pasting it in your browser

<https://www.projectnoah.org/missions/14083185> These are labeled so you can use them like flash cards.

[file:///C:/Users/pat/Pictures/Saved%20Pictures/audubon\\_beach\\_birds\\_identification\\_terns\\_gulls.pdf](file:///C:/Users/pat/Pictures/Saved%20Pictures/audubon_beach_birds_identification_terns_gulls.pdf)



Birds from the Rockport area

<http://www.texasescapes.com/TexasAnimals/Coastal-Birds-of-Texas-by-Ken-Rudine.htm>

A short film about the American Oystercatcher

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

Shore birds of Bolivar Peninsula

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdxrp3sJKO>

*Pat Dach*



# Great Decisions

## The Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group 2021

This 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. The proposed topics have been announced. You can access the Foreign Policy Association website for further information about Great Decisions, [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org) and, also, check the Great Decisions 2021 Update, [https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show\\_announcement&announcement\\_id=448](https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=448), for a list of the proposed topics. 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

This group continues to meet via Zoom twice a month on **Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. November meetings will be on Nov. 10 and Nov. 24.** The Zoom link will be sent in time for the meeting. All AAUW members are welcome. For more information, 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 Coordinator, Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com).

## Bridge Groups – Various

### 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 November. If there is a change to this, you will be advised by your coordinator.



## Vicarious Voyagers

There are no meetings currently scheduled for November or December. Depending on those in the group who wish to continue chatting via Zoom, plans will be determined for the new year....or not. For more information please contact Diana or Nancy if you wish to be added to the group's distribution list. Coordinator, Diana Guarniere, 281-493-2997, [guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com). Co-Coordination, Nancy Bowden, 281-589-7423, [nanbowd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanbowd@sbcglobal.net).

*Diana Guarniere*

## Classic Gourmet

On **Saturday, November 14, at 7 p.m.**, we will eat together virtually. Since we are unable to travel in person until Coronavirus is under control, this year we try to visit some of the places through food. In November, the dinner will be French. I will provide recipes for an entrée and dessert, each person can choose their own salad, bread, wine, etc. We will eat together through Zoom. For further information, please contact the co-coordinators: Barb Cook 713-705-7832, [chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net) or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708, [braziku@gmail.com](mailto:braziku@gmail.com).



## Nouveau Gourmet



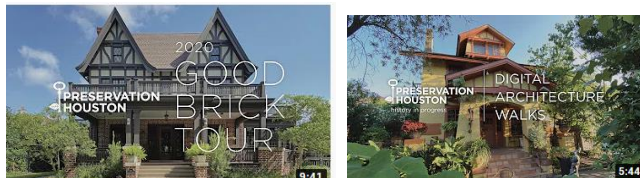
Zoom Virtual Nouveau Gourmet dinner will be on **Saturday, November 7 at 6:30 p.m.** Casserole dinner will be prepared by the guests, with wine, bread and dessert. For further information, please contact coordinator, Diane Statham at [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) or 281-497-6259.

## Cultural Activities

Thanks to all of you that showed interest in the Met Tour of "About Time". Our group was not large enough to warrant the cost. There are other digital experiences, though, and even though you have to see it on the screen, every adventure can be enticing, stimulating, and motivating. When the clouds have parted, you will have previewed potential adventures.

We highly recommend Preservation Houston's Digital Architecture Walks on YouTube.

<https://preservationhouston.org/tours>



We also recommend  
Smithsonian tours:

<https://washington.org/dctogether/virtual-dc-museums>

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>

*Pat Farnell*



Cherilyn Jackson	Nov 1	Martha Hebert	Nov 15
Marie Helmy	Nov 2	Priscilla Singer	Nov 16
Betty Cartmell	Nov 4	Leigh Rappole	Nov 17
Karen Dittert	Nov 4	Traci Jensen	Nov 18
Mary Edward	Nov 5	Nancy Ennis	Nov 22
Barbara McDonald	Nov 6	Michele Taylor	Nov 26
Marcia Lindsey	Nov 12	Janet Kennedy	Nov 28
Lilian Care	Nov 15	Charlotte Kibler	Nov 28
Karla Dunn	Nov 15		

## Directory Updates

We are welcoming two new members to WHC and ask you to update your Directory to include their information.

Sue Jurgens (new member)

3003 Bernadette Lane  
Houston, TX 77043-1302  
713-870-5261  
sjurgens@swbell.net

Cheryl Smith (returning member)

9137 Buffalo Speedway  
Houston, TX 77025  
402-651-2445  
ccherylsmile@gmail.com

Sheila Jaynes: Correct birthday: February 12

Janet Thrasher: janet\_thrasher@comcast.net

Carla Burns: Delete work number as she does not answer that phone