

WEST HARRIS COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 20, 2021

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713-560-1889
morriscs@aol.com

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aauwwhcnnews@gmail.com

April Newsletter deadline:

April 15, 2021

Premier High School



He:

Houston's iconic "Mattress Mack," saw the need for a high school that would prepare its students to capably enter the workforce immediately upon graduation, and he did something about it: he offered space in his Gallery Furniture Store for just such a facility. Next he challenged Jill Wright to create that sort of school.



She:

Jill Wright, retired founding principal of SBISD's Cornerstone Academy, relished the opportunity to help students who have dropped out of high school or are close to dropping out. Together, six months later, they saw Premier High School-Gallery Furniture North become a reality, offering students certifications in construction, electrical and welding, along with the attraction of earning a high school diploma along the way.

Now, nearing the end of its first year, Premier has navigated bumps in the road while taking pride in many students' early accomplishments. Director Wright will speak to our March 20 AAUW meeting on Zoom, acquainting us with the challenges she has faced in guiding these highly at-risk students as they work toward fulfilling their dreams. You will want to hear their stories. Join us at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, using the Zoom link, which will be sent to our members prior to the meeting.

Stay Informed

Branch website:

aauw-whc.org

National website:

aauw.org

Saturday, March 20 at 9:45 a.m.

We continue to Zoom for our programs, so look for an email blast with the link as the day gets closer.



Cindy Hickock
Program Vice President

President's Message



Dear West Harris County Members,

What a Week! I hope are all safe and recovering from the Deep Freeze of 2021. Please reach out if there is any way AAUW-WHC branch can be of assistance.

March is an important month. Please mark your calendars for the following events.

- By March 3 vote for Cindy Hickok in the AAUW Art Contest.
- March 19: Member nominations “from the floor” due to Carolyn Morris (morriscs@aol.com or 713-560-1889)
- March 20: Program: Premier High School at Gallery Furniture, Jill Wright, Principal
- March 27 at 10AM: AAUW-WHC Discussion of National By-laws change

Below this message, you will find the proposed by-laws changes.

It is great to hear that so many of our members have received COVID injections!

*Stay well,
Carolyn Morris
President AAUW-WHC*

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Composition. The members (“Members”) of AAUW shall consist of individual members (“Individual Members”) and college/university members (“College/University Members”).

Section 2. Basis of Membership.

1. Individual Members.

1. Eligibility. An individual holding an associate (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor’s, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (an “Accredited Higher Education Institution”) or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership except that the Board of Directors may establish a process to assess credentials that are submitted based on degree equivalence. *An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.*

B. Saving Clause. No Individual Member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the higher education institution upon which original qualification for membership was based.

2. (C.) Life Membership.

1. Paid. An Individual Member may become a life member (a "Life Member") upon a one-time payment of twenty years' annual AAUW national dues, based on the amount of annual AAUW dues the year the Member elects to become a Life Member but without credit for AAUW dues paid in prior years. Thereafter, the Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.
2. Fifty-Year Honorary. An Individual Member who has paid AAUW dues for 50 years shall become a Life Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

2. College/University Members. Any Accredited Higher Education Institution or other qualified higher educational institutions located outside the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, that pays annual dues to AAUW shall be eligible to be a College/University Member. Each College/University Member shall appoint one or two representatives who are eligible to be Individual Members and who shall each have the membership *benefits rights and responsibilities* of an Individual Member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of College/University Members, as determined by the Board of Directors.
3. Other Organizational Members. The Board of Directors may set forth criteria for other organizations ("Organizational Members") to join AAUW.
4. Appeals of Refusals of Admission to Membership. Any potential Individual Member or College/University Member that has been refused admission to membership may appeal to the Board of Directors for review. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

~~Section 3. Student Associates. The Board of Directors may permit undergraduate students enrolled in Accredited Higher Education Institutions or in other qualified educational institutions located outside of the United States, as determined by the Board of Directors, to associate with AAUW, with fees (if any) and benefits as determined by the Board of Directors.~~

~~Section 4.~~ *Section 3.* Dues.

1. Amount. The annual dues and member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. *Annual dues may be set at lower amounts, or may be waived entirely, for certain Individual Members based on objective criteria including but not limited to the Individual Member's status as a student and the Individual Member's current enrollment at an institution that is a College/University Member.* Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.
2. Payment. Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors.

~~Section 5.~~ *Section 4.* Severance of Membership. Any Member may be suspended or removed from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these Bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. In addition, a College/University Member that is no longer eligible for membership shall be removed from members.

Open Forum on AAUW Membership Change

From recent articles in our AAUW West Harris County Branch newsletter and a letter you received from AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown; you are aware that AAUW National Board of Directors is recommending a change in bylaws. As AAUW seeks to align its membership requirement with our mission statement of advancing equity for women and girls and its 2019 strategic plan of equity for all, the national Board feels it is important to change the bylaws to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership.



Needless to say, this is a very controversial issue. At **10:00 AM on Saturday, March 27**, WHC Branch will hold a Zoom meeting for discussion to enable WHC members to better understand the issues. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. By taking part in this shared discussion, you will be better informed to participate in the national voting that opens April 7. Shortly before the time of the meeting, a “blast” will be sent to members with the link to join.

AAUW Art Contest



Above are pictures of the three-dimensional entry submitted by WHC Program VP Cindy Hickok. This is how Cindy described “This Too Shall Pass”:

As we progressed through 2020, and on into 2021, I kept reminding myself that the pandemic was only a temporary setback. The longer it went on, the greater the worry, however, and I began to think “This Too Shall Pass,” which seemed appropriate title for an image of a car, was more serious than I thought. And so, as a personal distraction, I decided to cover a car with images of “the ravages” of 2020 - 21. Shown in the entry photo, which by the way, can be no larger than 2 megabits for AAUW rules, is one side of the car showing the fun(?) for school kids being let out of school, wearing masks of course. The car’s front depicts our real situation, with everything being stopped. (License plate shows 2020 -21.) The other side of the car represents social distancing—masks, 6 “feet”, hand-washing, buildings closed, and the ever-present virus. Top of the car represents the financial damage of the pandemic, with dollar bills floating off to nowhere. Finally, at the back, more viruses, and the masked Screamer letting off a good scream, which we all felt inclined to do at times.

I was originally asked to do a car image for a Boston gallery, but I have too many hours in the design and stitching to be able to put a fair price on it. I will enjoy the piece myself as a reminder of the changes brought about in our lifestyle by this memorable time. -Cindy Hickock

Find Cindy’s entry by looking for the title in the dropdown menu, “This Too Shall Pass” Entry #150

Click here to [VIEW GALLERY](#); then [VOTE TODAY!](#) **March 3rd Deadline**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each March, AAUW-WHC elects officers for the following year. Since our branch meetings are still via Zoom, we will again use Survey Monkey to hold the election electronically.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations:

President-elect: Anne Amador

Vice President for Program: Lilian Care

Vice President for AAUW Funds: Debbie Campbell

Corresponding Secretary: Becky French

Finance Officer: Diana Tiberia



Step 1 – “Nominations from the Floor”

Under “normal” conditions we would be face-to-face in a regular meeting and members would have the opportunity to make nominations from the floor. The presiding officer would announce each nominee put forward by the Nominating Committee and would then call for further nominations for that office. At that point in the meeting, a branch member could nominate another member (with that member's consent) or nominate herself. If any additional nominations were made, the branch would then have multiple candidates from which to choose for that office.

This year the process to call for additional nominees is being done via this newsletter announcement. This newsletter is sent to all branch members, any of whom may nominate another member or herself for any of the five offices to be filled following this process:

1. Secure the agreement of the person being nominated; then
2. Send the name of person and the office for which she is being nominated to [Carolyn Morris](#), President, either by email or “snail mail,” so that all nomination(s) are received no later than **Friday, March 19**.

If any additional nominations are received, they will be announced at the March 20, 2021, branch meeting.

Step 2 - Voting

The voting will be conducted using Survey Monkey. Following the **March 20** meeting, each member will be sent an email with a link to the ballot. Watch for Step 2 later to cast your ballot.

Carolyn Morris
AAUW-WHC Branch President

Public Policy

2021 Texas Legislative Session: What Is Happening and Voicing Your Opinion

For sixty days after the opening of the Texas legislative session, there is much work being done preparing the state budget for the next two years. The Comptroller's office has issued a biennial revenue estimate of funds available from taxes and all sources. While not a severe reduction this year, the amount available is less than that of the last biennial budget. The Texas House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Finance Committee each hold hearings and each develop a budget. When completed, the House version is sent to the Senate and the Senate version is sent to the House for approval. A conference committee made up of members from both the House and the Senate resolves the differences between the two budgets and settle on a final single budget bill. The final step is the governor's signature on the bill. The governor can veto individual items in the bill. Only rarely is a governor's veto overridden by the required two thirds vote in each the House and Senate.

Also, during this sixty-day period legislators file bills for consideration by committees. Typically, thousands of bills are filed. Bills are reviewed by the committees and only some of those filed end up being passed by the House and Senate.

While the budgeting process and committee work is conducted your opinion matters. Please let your legislators know what issues you believe are important for budget consideration and for new legislation. AAUW Texas priorities include:

Education & Training priorities:

- Continue public education funding: Renew full funding at the level approved last legislative session under HB3
- Strengthen STEM programs
- Expand broadband availability for public school students
- Fully fund job training programs



Economic Security priorities:

- Increase access to healthcare and health insurance: Expand Medicaid; Strengthen Medicaid by implementing 12-month continuous eligibility for children and postpartum women; Maintain the state funding and ease enrollment in the Healthy Texas Women's program.
- Support an increased minimum wage, equal pay, and family paid leave
- Find ways to reduce student debt and to promote racial justice



You can voice your opinion by emailing your legislators supporting or opposing specific bills or issues. Refer to the last issue of this newsletter for specific bills and issues.

You can use this website <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> to find your representatives including state legislators, state board of education member and Senators and Congress member. You can easily send an email to you legislator from the email link on his/her information page.

*Georgia Kimmel
Public Policy*

"Don't Fall for a Scam" Recording

Members may use the following information to view the Better Business Bureau program presented by Jennifer Salazar. Jennifer gave great information about the current top 10 scams. Included in this program are important phone numbers and ways to protect you from potential problems. Permission has been given for you to download the program to your computer. Jennifer's calendar is booked far into 2022.

Please feel free to share the download with friends and other groups. If you have trouble downloading, call or email Carolyn Morris morriscs@aol.com 713-560-1889.

The program is only in the Zoom Cloud for a limited time.

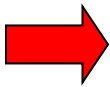


Topic: Don't Fall for a Scam -AAUW Feb. Meeting

Date: Feb 20, 2021 09:28 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Qa7L05UWXmT_1WFqy1vaUPnrrrNCEavvc15zd2sHVQ0cCW71sShkRbMXop3BIFoU.i5jfw99WW3Bd821x



Access Passcode: q@%G4Sds

WISE Activity Group

Please join us on **Monday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m.** as we share a “cup of coffee” and continue our Jane Goodall conversation. We will be listening to Lessons 16 on **Land**, 17 on **Industrial Agriculture**, and 18 on **Organic Farming**. These will include ideas on the importance of forests and growing food to keep up with human population growth. We will learn how organic farming helps restore forests, attracts wildlife and produces healthier and better tasting food to combat the negative effects.

You can sign up for her course at <https://www.masterclass.com>.

Please let Coordinator Karen North at knorth@me.com if you would like to join our Zoom conversation. She will send a Zoom link on **Sunday Feb. 28th**.



Karen North

FEBRUARY, 2021 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, March 3, 1:30 p.m. Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker. Coordinator, Daphne Scharar, 713-412-2140, dascharar@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-293-0976, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, March 1, 3:30 p.m. The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Hazel Gaynor. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com. Co-Coordinator, Sharon Jorgeson, 281-703-5939, sjorgeson@gmail.com.

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, March 3, 1:00 p.m. Valentine by Elizabeth Wetmore. Coordinator, Margaret Gruss, 281-589-0411, mgruss@att.net. Co-Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713-376-0940, slpope@comcast.net.

Mystery Book Club

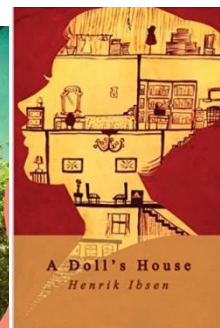
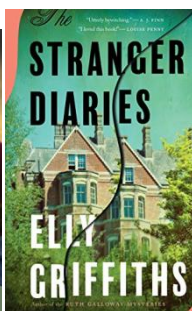
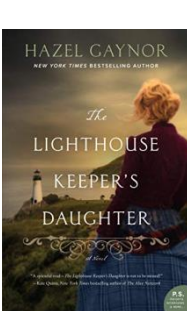
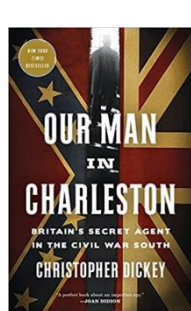
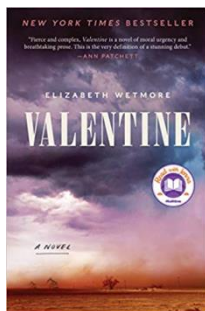
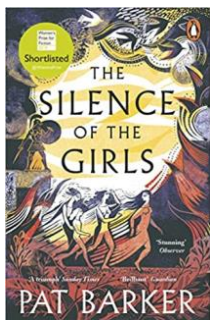
Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 p.m. The Stranger Diaries by Elly Griffiths. Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net. Co-Coordinator, Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, popease@aol.com.

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. Our Man in Charleston by Christopher Dickey. Co-Coordinator, Nancy Guilloud, 713-785-6336, nanguilloud@aol.com, Nancy Gusler, 713-464-5932, ntgusler@gmail.com

Outstanding Literature

Tuesday, March 9, 9:30 a.m. A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen. Coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161, leighrap@aol.com. Co-Coordinator, Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net.





Hiking Honeys

Hikes have been suspended indefinitely. When we start up again 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.

Melba Armstrong

Garden Divas

On **Tuesday, March 9, at 10 a.m.** (CST) the Garden Divas will sponsor a Zoom demonstration and talk about Ikebana, the Japanese form of flower arranging. Two members of Houston's Ikebana International Chapter 12 will be the joint presenters. Che-Hwa Wang, Professor of Contemporary Floral Art Design at Suzhou Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, a sculptor and author of four books, will demonstrate some modern Ikebana arrangements. Audrey Charlton, former president of the Ikebana Ikenobo Society of Texas and a student of both Ikenobo and Sogetsu schools of Ikebana, will talk about the development of Ikebana. And, she will show some ways we can apply the Ikebana concepts of balance, line, space, and movement into our arrangements at home.

If you want to try your hand at this unique and beautiful art, you will need some branches with leaves, and a few flowers, garden clippers, and a vase or container for the arrangement. The container can be just a glass like a whiskey tumbler or wine glass, a tea or ramen-like bowl as well as almost any small to medium-sized regular vase. If you have a frog (floral pincushion) that will be helpful but is not necessary.

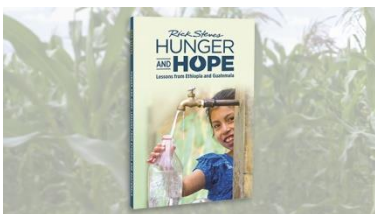
If you are interested in joining us for this unique event, please email, samboone@gmail.com and you will receive the ZOOM link. Thank you, Pat Thomson for finding our guest speaker and thank you Audrey and Che-Hwa for being our guest. This should be a lovely morning.



Please contact Susan Boone, Coordinator, samboone@gmail.com or 713-854-7537 to be added to the participant list.

Susan Boone

Vicarious Voyagers - An interest group for travelers



On **Thursday, March 25 at 10 a.m.**, we will meet on ZOOM to touch base with each other and discuss points made in Rick Steves' program on YouTube, [Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala](#). Invitations to join the meeting will be sent out through the group's distribution list. For inclusion on the Vicarious Voyagers' distribution list, please contact Coordinator, Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com 281-493-2997.

Diana Guarniere

Great Decisions



Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group

This group will meet on Zoom, **Thursday, March 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The topic for discussion will be “Brexit and the European Union”. On **Thursday, March 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**, the group will discuss “Struggles over the Melting Arctic”. All meetings will be via ZOOM until further notice. Please contact Coordinator, Martha Ewell if you would like to join this group or have any questions, 713-782-2084 or marthaewell@att.net.

Great Decisions Inside the Loop

This group meets at **3:30 p.m.** on ZOOM. The **March 9** topic will be “Brexit and the EU. On **March 23** the topic will be “The Coldest War: Toward a Return to Great Power Competition in the Arctic?”. 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 or Co-coordinator, Linda Marlin at marlinl@comcast.net.

Great Decisions Evening Group

This group meets from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesday** through May. The March meetings are on **March 10 and March 24**. The topics will be “Brexit and the EU” and “The Arctic”. For additional information please contact Coordinator Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com.

Bridge Groups – Various

Current Bridge Groups

1st Thursday (7:00 p.m.) Jane Judson 713-528-6105

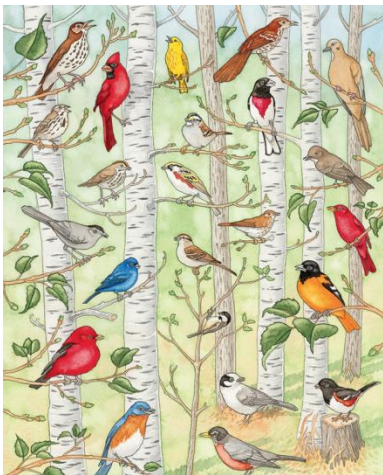
3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy 281-679-7299

3rd Monday (10:00 a.m.) Melba Armstrong 281-392-3190



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

Byway Birders



Byway Birders will Zoom on **Saturday, March 6 at 7 p.m.** Be prepared to talk about places you have been and the birds you have seen. Please contact Coordinator Pat Dach for more information to be included on the contact list at dach@hotmail.com or 281-701-5846.

Even if you are not a birder you may be interested in a birding app that allows you to play the songs of many common birds. This was developed for school children so your children or grandchildren might enjoy this.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/bird_songs_interactive/index.html
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology also has a free app called Merlin that is helpful in identifying birds. Or, go to allaboutbirds.org and search for lovely sounds.

Pat Dach

Classic Gourmet

On **March 13, 2021 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 March, we will visit the Windy City. I will provide some Chicago recipe suggestions; each person can prepare their own dinner. We will eat together through Zoom. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook, chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net, 713-705-7832. Kris Bybee-Finley, braziku@gmail.com, 304-610-8708.



Nouveau

Nouveau Gourmet is planning a zoom event for **Saturday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m.** The menu is matzo ball soup, roasted chicken, roasted fingerling potatoes, stewed carrots and prunes, and poached pear and/or custard. Please contact Diane Statham to RSVP at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com.



Toby Singhania Mar 3

Mary Andersen Mar 4

Karen Harris Mar 06

Janice McNeil Mar 7

Cynthia Wier Mar 7

Linda Busch Mar 8

Margo Johnson Mar 10

Dorothy Lauterbach Mar 10

Sue Jurgens Mar 11

Sue Phipps Mar 14

Joan Wood Mar 14

Karen Welborn Mar 15

Betsy Winn Mar 15

Marianne Cooley Mar 16

Kathryn Palmisano Mar 16

Diane Treich Mar 16

Susan Thompson Mar 17

Ann Sanders Mar 24

Rebecca French Mar 27

Mary Lou Reilly Mar 30

Update Correction

Nancy Bowden
In care of Linda Contreras
2 Treewood Court (not 7)
Mansfield, TX 76063