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morriscs@aol.com

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September Newsletter deadline:

August 12, 2021

Stay Informed

Branch website:

aauw-whc.org

National website:

aauw.org

June Luncheon and Meeting

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Maggianos, Memorial City



"Returning to Earth--

My Journey from Moon Missions to
Women's Rights Advocacy"

Frances "Poppy" Northcutt

We are indebted to our speaker for all she has done for mankind! The first-ever woman in the room at Mission Control, NASA, Poppy Northcutt was an engineer on the technical staff, involved in writing the computer program that got our Apollo 8 astronauts safely back to earth following their landing on the moon. Not only did she gain a reputation as an extremely competent engineer, but she went on to become an attorney and to prove to the nation and the world that women can succeed in their chosen fields as well.



Cindy Hickock
Program Vice President



RESERVATION FORM
ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING
Guest Speaker Poppy Northcutt
First Woman in Mission Control

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY

602 MEMORIAL CITY MALL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

June 12, 2021, 11:30 AM-2PM



In consideration of current COVID best practices, Maggiano's will serve a plated lunch of either Shrimp Fra Diavolo or Meat Lasagna

Please follow the CDC guidelines announced on May 13, 2021, and posted on the website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.
- You can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Reservations are due by June 6

Printed Name: _____

_____ Number of meals at \$36 per meal Total Enclosed: _____

Circle Your Entrée Preference: Shrimp Franc Diavolo or Meat Lasagna

Make checks payable to AAUW-WHC/Send to
Diane Roberts
5607 St. Paul Street
Bellaire, TX 77401

President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,



What A Year!!! It is wonderful that the CDC has relaxed some of the COVID 19 restrictions. It will be so nice to be able to meet in large and small groups again. One of the reasons we joined AAUW was to meet others with similar interests. We are social beings who crave the face-to-face contact of others.

This has certainly been a year with lots of ups and downs. The membership and the board have gone above and beyond to reach out to one another. It will be fun next year to have a more relaxed "normal." Texas AAUW has once again purchased a Zoom membership for WHC. The Zoom platform will be available for any group or WHC event. That means if we have one of our famous Houston rainstorms, your group may decide to use Zoom instead of rescheduling an in-person meeting. I will be available to set up and host Zoom meetings again next year.



Please be sure and rejoin AAUW-WHC. The pandemic has been hard on women and children. Your commitment to the cause is needed as much now as before.

I have enjoyed being your president! Good luck, Rose, and WHC 2021-22 Board! You have a strong membership to guide you.

*My face is anxious to see your face!
Thanks for the great year!
Carolyn Morris
AAUW WHC President*

Membership



RENEW! RENEW! It is time to make sure you are still a part of West Harris County Branch-AAUW.

Much has been accomplished this year despite the COVID pandemic. WHC Branch is now a 5 Star rated organization. This is thanks to some hard working members that made it happen. As a result we have people wanting to be members.

We want to keep Membership growing, so please advise me of persons that might be interested in joining this active, futuristic group of progressive members. We are still planning on a Membership Coffee on **August 28th**, and if all goes well it will be an in-person event!

The word has gotten around that West Harris County Branch has much to offer!

Please send checks for \$86.00 to renew Membership dues to Diane Roberts @ 5607 St Paul St., Bellaire TX 77401, or go online to National AAUW to use your credit card. Thank you

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

*Carolyn Stoffel
Membership Vice President*

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

Sadly, we now have an enormous number of displaced persons worldwide desperately seeking alternative places to live – refugees, asylum seekers fleeing crime, terrorism, oppression, war, natural disasters; and immigrants looking for a better life and economic opportunity. Climate change frequently plays a role in the worldwide movement of migrants. Europe has experienced many difficulties in dealing with migrants flowing into their various countries leading to political and social upheaval. Over time, tensions inevitably arise between the refugees/asylum seekers and the citizens of the region. Frustrated citizens looking for answers to problems relating to immigration can open the door for leaders with extreme political views which are likely contrary to democratic principles.

In the United States we have strong anti-immigration ideology competing with strong pro-immigration ideology. The last time a comprehensive, bipartisan immigration bill was brought before Congress was 2013. Such a bill has not passed in more than 30 years. There are few areas where partisanship is more pronounced. Not to be overlooked in this debate is the fact that legal immigration to the U.S. from all parts of the world is the lowest it has been in four decades. Fewer of the best and brightest are coming to the U.S. In his March, 2021 opinion piece for the Washington Post, Fareed Zakaria writes, “Census data show that without immigration, the United States faces a dire demographic future. It would mean fewer people and especially fewer young people, which would mean less growth, dynamism and opportunity for everyone. This is the real immigration crisis...”

In the 2021-23 AAUW Public Policy Priorities document we have the following statements relating to immigration.

“We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies.”

AAUW advocates “Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns.”



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) states, “The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.”

The situation at the southern border appears to be a crisis with no easy answers in sight. President Biden has sought a humane and generous policy through six executive actions. He has outlined a proposal for comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for more than 10 million undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States. In the current fiscal year, the number of people trying to enter the U.S. southern border is expected to be in excess of 2 million. There are approximately 20,000 unaccompanied minors in Border Patrol and HHS custody. Biden is strongly encouraged by the Progressive wing of his party to allow more immigrants than the previous administration. Political centrists and conservatives alike are concerned about the large numbers of those entering, or attempting to enter, the United States outside of a clearly defined legal process.

A good approach would be to continue encouraging our leaders to work with other nations from whom large masses are coming to our southern border. Our focus should be on enabling potential migrants to remain in their own countries or by helping them to move to countries closer to them, an approach that is being looked at by the current administration. Congress must pass legislation to clarify the legal asylum seeking and immigration processes. They must have sufficient numbers of personnel to enable success. The situation is dire and action is needed. We must meet the difficult challenge of being a nation of laws as well as a nation which welcomes new immigrants legally. Perhaps more of our attention, energy and public policy formation should go toward problem solving in the Western Hemisphere, our home – the Americas.

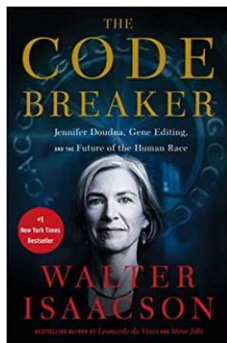
Sheila Jaynes



JUNE 2021 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

AAUW Wise - Nature and Code Breaker Book Chat



Our WISE group has been inspired by Jane Goodall's lessons and the discussion around advocacy for women in STEM. So, over the summer we are continuing our journey by reading [The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race](#) by Walter Isaacson. This also makes a fascinating and thoughtful book to listen to as you drive or garden. The hyperlink will take you to an NPR review of the book.

[npr.org/2021/03/08/972764825/walter-isacson-code-breaker-spotlights-the-woman-at-the-forefront-of-crispr](https://www.npr.org/2021/03/08/972764825/walter-isacson-code-breaker-spotlights-the-woman-at-the-forefront-of-crispr)

We will return in **September** with a book discussion led by Susan Dunten along with Rose Ennis and Susan Boone. The North Harris County WISE Women Beyond Candy Crush interest group led by Elizabeth Wilson is planning to join us and brainstorm other STEM-related books we could read and discuss. Please send an email to Karen North, knorth@me.com if you would like to share your thoughts and join our email communication activity group. Thank you for your interest and wishing you a WISE fun summer.

Karen North



Byway Birders

Byway Birders will meet on **Wednesday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m.** on ZOOM. Be prepared to talk about your recent birding experiences. This will be our planning meeting for 2021-22. Please come with some good ideas for birding next year. Hopefully, we will be able to bird together.

For more information contact Coordinator Pat Dach at 281-701-5846 or patdach@gmail.com.



Pat Dach

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



The Garden Divas Plan For Next Year!

On **Tuesday, June 1, at 11:00 a.m.**, the Garden Divas will meet outdoors at the 'Red Balloon' to plan next year's events. This critical gathering will inspire us to discover exceptional gardens in our vicinity and hopefully plan some much needed actual visits. We have had a lovely year although the virus has taught us to grow in alternative ways and be more creative than I ever thought possible. I appreciate your flexibility. We all have enjoyed nature, beauty, technology, and

friendship to the fullest. The ZOOM meetings have really been very nice and I for one have had a great time with these sessions. My succulent ball is still alive, I have the fall wreath in storage, and my hydroponic garden is getting reworked. We will meet at 11:00 at the restaurant - 1800 W. Sam Houston Parkway N., 77043.

Bring ideas for future explorations. (If you have already submitted ideas, I would appreciate resending before June 1 to ensure that none are inadvertently forgotten.) Afterwards we will lunch at the Red Balloon restaurant that has yet to open, but should by the first of June! I am so excited about the possibility of a face-to-face gathering. I'm looking forward to a great closure and a new beginning. It will be necessary to let Susan Boone know whether you will be able to make this meeting by Saturday, May 29, so I can make reservations at the restaurant. If you cannot attend, please send ideas to me via email (smboone@gmail.com) prior to May 30. **Put on your thinking hats!**

Susan Boone



Bridge Groups – Various

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 June.

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





Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group 2021

The Great Decisions Thursday Afternoon Group has completed its series of discussions for the spring. The eight topics, selected by the Foreign Policy Association, formed the basis of very meaningful and thought-provoking discussions. In early fall the FPA will announce the topics for the spring of 2022 and discussions will resume in February 2022. 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. every other Tuesday on ZOOM. The Zoom link will be sent in time for the meeting. All AAUW members are welcome. For dates of June meetings and to be included on the notification list, contact Coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-302-8899, patthom2@sbcglobal.net or Co-Coordinator, Linda Marlin at 832-533-31265, marlinl@comcast.net.

Great Decisions Evening Group

The Evening Group has completed its series of discussions for 2021. We will resume our meetings to discuss relevant topics chosen by the Foreign Policy in the Spring of 2022. We are hopeful to meet in person when we resume our discussions. For additional information contact Coordinator, Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com.



Vicarious Voyagers

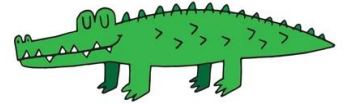
Vicarious Voyagers completed their programs for this year. No more have been scheduled at this time. Future plans TBD. For further information contact Coordinator Diana Guarniere at 832-465-5578 or guarniered@gmail.com.

Gourmet Groups

Classic Gourmet

The Classic Gourmet group will not meet during the summer. We hope to get together in person in September. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.

SEE YOU LATER



Nouveau Gourmet



On **Saturday, July 17** Laura and Rob Cahill will host a Nouveau Gourmet Mexican Fiesta at **6:30 p.m.** The outdoor gathering will be at their home, 2806 Manila. For more information please contact Coordinator, Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com for details.

Don't Miss the Fun!

We need you more than ever next year in AAUW West Harris County.

We are all anticipating that things will get back to normal this fall and we will be able to meet in our various activity groups in person. Don't miss out on all the fun! Make sure that you get your dues in soon for the upcoming year, 2021-2022.

You have received a personalized membership renewal email from AAUW; all you

have to do is click on it to start the renewal process, and you can pay with your credit/debit card. If you prefer to write a check, my address is below.

Diane Roberts,
West Harris County Finance Officer
diane77401@gmail.com
5607 Saint Paul St., Bellaire, TX 77401



Directory Update

Sharon Pope's new email: spope576@gmail.com



Michael	Farnell	June 2
Andrea	Needham	June 4
Catherine	Urquhart	June 4
Linda	Fosseen	June 6
Sharon	Pope	June 9
Poupette	Farnell	June 18
Jill	Kaeser	June 20
Melba	Armstrong	June 22
Dana	Cutts	June 23
Lisa	Arthur	June 24
Martha	Inskeep	June 27
Brenda	Moss	June 28
Martha	Startzman	June 28
Nancy	Gusler	June 29
Connie	Stone	July 5
Mary	McMordie	July 6
Elizabeth	Wilson	July 6
Carla	Burns	July 8
Gloria	Ballard	July 10
Miriam	Vyles	July 10
Elizabeth	Leachman	July 13
Margaret	Wittenmyer	July 14
Linda	Marlin	July 15
Linda	White	July 20

Mary Lou	Fowler	July 22
Michael	Alami	July 24
Millie	Hast	July 24
Gail	Rickey	July 27
Linda	Albright	July 30
Sabrina	Kesler	Aug 1
Jean	Vining	Aug 1
Linda	McGimsey	Aug 2
Linda	Morgan	Aug 2
Gail	Peterkin	Aug 5
Pamela	Young	Aug 5
Debbie	Campbell	Aug 6
Gloria	Montalbano	Aug 6
Linda	Fountain	Aug 8
Penelope	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
Mary	Eisenhauer	Aug 22
Kristine	Bybee-Finley	Aug 24
Carol	Thielemann	Aug 27
Marie	Rem	Aug 28