

WEST HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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roseennis@att.net

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November Newsletter deadline:

October 15, 2021

Stay Informed

Branch website:

aauw-whc.org

National website:

aauw.org

Pink Phurree Dragon Boat Team



October Membership Meeting
Saturday, October 23, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Tracy Gee Community Center (or Zoom)

Did you know that Houston has its own competitive dragon boat team? Well, we do! Please join us on October 23 to learn more about this team and the history of dragon boat racing.

PINK PHURREE (pronounced "fury"), Texas' first all women and cancer survivor dragon Boat Team, was founded by Frances Arzu in 2007. **PINK PHURREE**, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is an unconventional cancer support group where dragon boat paddling is used to promote active survivorship both on and off the water.

As members of the [International Breast Cancer Survivor Paddler Commission](#), the team is made up of breast cancer survivors. As cancer survivors, we embrace the moment and show the world that there can be a purposeful life after a cancer diagnosis. As Pink Phurree embraces new survivors, the journey continues to expand our ability to touch and enrich many lives.



Our presenter is Tarshia Boutte, herself a young cancer survivor, has been on the team since its inception. Tarshia will talk to us about the history of dragon boat racing and how Pink Phurree began in Houston in 2007.

*Lilian Care
AAUW - WHC Branch Program Chair*



President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM! Who would have guessed that the sound many of us mimicked as children when playing with toys would become common nomenclature today: the verb became the noun almost overnight during COVID. Zooming has kept us connected, and if anyone still doesn't feel comfortable using it, please let me know. We can figure out a fix! We want every member to be active even if at present it has to be on Zoom.



Fall is here and so much is already happening! The directory was printed and is in the process of being distributed to all of you. The work that goes into its publication is incredible: constant collection and updating of data, verifying information from multiple sources, and endless revisions. So keep it handy because it contains a wealth of information that you will use throughout the year. Mary Andersen, Pam Doan, Carolyn Stoffel, Sharon Jorgeson, and Diana Tiberia made all of this happen, and the hard work they poured into it will be evident as you turn each page. Special thanks to those who placed ads in the directory.

Fall is a time for fundraising through AAUW Funds and our very own Baker/Telfer Scholarship Program. Learn more about these worthwhile programs in this month's newsletter.

Do we have any "Hidden Figures" ready to step up to the plate this coming year? There are plenty of opportunities available for anyone interested in taking a more active role in our branch, but you may not know where to start. This is the perfect time to explore and begin shadowing a member. If interested, please contact me by e-mail to discuss where you can help.

Cheers!

*Rose Ennis,
President*

Our 2021 Half-Masked Ball



Each October, WHC invites members to support AAUW National and our local Baker/Telfer Scholarship Fund. This year's fundraising non-event is our Half-Masked Ball. The COVID-19 crisis has greatly impacted the long-term earning power of women. Our national organization advocates in Washington and throughout the county to address the financial inequality of women. The Baker/Telfer Scholarship gives \$6,000 each year to 3 deserving college bound senior girls who are pursuing studies in STEM. Both of these causes are near and dear to our hearts. As you have always done, please give generously again this year. Please note the invitation on the following page.



West Harris County Branch invites you to *not* attend

Our 2021 Half-Masked Ball

October 1-31, 2021

Celebrate our mission from the comfort and safety of your home.
No outfit to shop for, no driving after dark, and Mask Optional ☺

Support Our National Mission



You may write a check, or if West Harris County is your only/primary branch, [use your AAUW Member ID Number to donate to Greatest Needs via aauw.org.](http://aauw.org)

PAY TO THE ORDER OF AAUW Greatest Needs Fund \$

GIVE OR MAIL TO **Debbie Campbell** (mailing label below)*

& Support Our Local Scholarships



Mief
Independent School District

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund \$

GIVE OR MAIL TO **Carolyn Morris** (mailing label below)*



Donations are tax deductible.

*SAVE A STAMP – Mail separate checks in one envelope, and we will get them to the right person.

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ Support AAUW National ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ Support Local Scholarships ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Debbie Campbell
7814 Shady Villa Cove
Houston TX 77055-5244

Carolyn Morris
11159 Riverview Way
Houston TX 77042-7309

Membership

West Harris County Branch has had an exciting start for 2021-2022 year. We can say that WHC weathered the storm of COVID pandemic and Hurricane Nicolas!! Our membership has grown by ten new or returning members. Although our New Member Coffee was via Zoom, we look forward to the opportunity of meeting these new members in person.



Irene Dominguez, Betsy Duncan, Vic Edwards, Janet Kennedy, Kathy Knop, Stephania Prebula, Amy Rose, Deborah Rossi, Rosanne Trost and Elaine White. Their contact information will be included in the soon-to-be-printed WHC Branch Directory, thanks to the hard work of Pam Doan and Mary Andersen.

Please welcome our new members as you meet in activity groups or Membership meetings.

Stay safe.

*Carolyn Stoffel
Membership Vice President*

Public Policy

Be a Two Minute Activist



AAUW makes it easy to stay informed about women's issues. When you sign up for the Two Minute Activist, you will receive emails with the information you need to call or quickly send email messages to your members of Congress. At times, issues being brought up in Texas will also be addressed. The link to sign up is found at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

You will receive an email from AAUW on an issue when it is being considered. The email will provide a letter that allows you to quickly communicate your opinion to your congressional representatives. You can personalize the letter as you like. Your representatives are noted and all you do is click to send the email to them. The more our legislators hear from their constituents, the more likely they are to support or oppose specific bills or, in some cases, improve and expand the proposed legislation. When a group of us collectively ask them to focus on an issue, they listen. It takes all of us to be involved.



Even if you choose not to contact your representative, the releases will keep you informed on topics such as civil rights, STEM, economic security, education, Title IX, and pay equity.

Take time to sign up today.

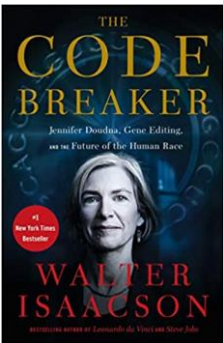


*Georgia Kimmel,
WHCB Public Policy Chair
AAUW Texas Public Policy Committee Member*

September 2021 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

AAUW WISE - Women Interested in STEM Education



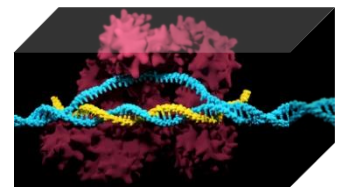
When: Thursday October 14th 10:00 a.m.

Where: Home of Susan Dunten, 1706 Rushbrook Drive

Susan Dunten and Carolyn Morris will lead an engaging discussion about [The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race](#) by Walter Isaacson. We would love your ideas. Please join us for coffee and conversation.

This book is about the life of Jennifer Doudna and the virus-fighting trick used by bacteria, which has been battling viruses for more than a billion years. CRISPR is an immune system that can adapt itself to fight each new wave of viruses. “There’s a joy that springs from fathoming how something works, especially when that something is ourselves.” Jennifer Doudna relished that joy, and so can we. That’s what the book is all about.

This is an amazing and riveting read which covers the evolution of biotechnology in a compelling way. It is a thrilling tale of scientific discovery, gene-editing tech—and unlocking the mysteries of life. In “The Code Breaker” Walter Isaacson reprises several of his previous themes — science, genius, experiment, code, thinking differently — and meets his first female subject. Doctor Doudna won the 2020 Nobel prize for chemistry. She is currently a professor at Cal-Berkeley. **Jennifer Doudna is a genuine heroine for our time.**



Please RSVP to Susan sdunten@aol.com if you would like to join us on Oct. 14th. To be added to the communication list please email Karen North knorth@me.com.

Karen North

Byway Birders



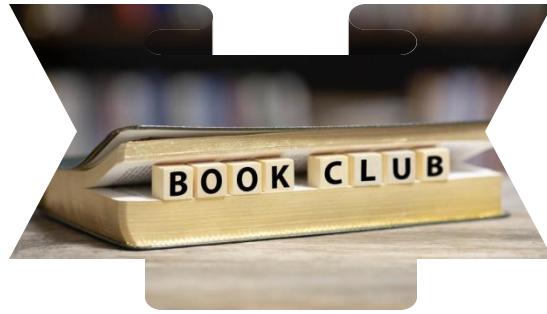
We will be going to Bolivar Peninsula to view shore birds on **Saturday, October 30th at 7:00 a.m.** We will gather at our usual meeting place across from Memorial City Mall on the south side of Barryknoll. There are lots of birds on the Bolivar flats! We will have at least two telescopes along for good looking!

All are welcome, whether you are a novice or an experienced birder. Bring the usual: snacks, water, sunscreen, bug spray, money for lunch and a hat.

Please email or call Betty Cartmell to let her know if you plan to come. Home phone: 713-789-4898. Mobile: 281-686-8651. I look forward to seeing all of you for a fun day!

Pat Dach

Book Groups



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, October 6, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

This is How It Always Is by Laurie Frankel
Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445
ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator,
Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499,
amorgan352@sbcglobal.net

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, October 6, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Weight of a Piano by Chris Cander
We will be joined during our discussion by the author of this book. For more information, contact
Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940, spope576@gmail.com) or Co-Coordinator,
Cathy Urquhart (713-939-0523)
catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net).

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, October 11, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Longitude by Dava Sobel. In 1714 England offered a king's ransom for anyone whose method or device could solve the longitude problem. The quest began and this is the story. Please email Nancy Guilloud nanguilloud@aol.com or Nancy Gusler, ntgusler@gmail.com to be put on the contact list.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, October 21 at 2:30 p.m.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
Email Carolyn Morris at morriscs@aol.com for the Zoom invitation.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.

The Barbizon by Pauline Bren
The scheduled meeting place is Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, on Memorial and Kirkwood
Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085,
WCGLIDE@gmail.com. Co-Coordinator, Sharon Jorgeson, 281-703-5939, sjorgeson@gmail.com.

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, October 19, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

All The Devils Are Here by Louise Penny
Leader: Nancy Guilloud
Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190,
armstrong.melba@comcast.net. Co-Coordinator, Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, pease@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

Tuesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

We will vote during September whether to have our meeting ON ZOOM OR IN PERSON at La Madelaine, Carillon, 10001 Westheimer Rd. 77042. We are reading a collection of early short stories, In Our Time, by Ernest Hemingway, including some of his masterpieces. Coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161, leighrap@aol.com. Co-Coordinator, Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net.

Hiking Honeys

The Hiking Honeys will head to Keith Weiss Park for our **Thursday, October 21st** hike. Keith Weiss Park is located at 12300 Aldine Westfield Road, Houston, TX 77093 (Information: 832-395-7000.) This is a beautiful 500-acre park that has become a key to flood control for the Hall's Bayou watershed. The deed that gave the park's land to the City of Houston stipulated that the park should remain natural. After the flooding caused by Hurricane Alison in 2001, the city needed to develop flood controls. The solution was to develop large retention ponds in Keith-Weiss that look as natural as possible. The result is a beautiful park with enhanced ecosystem service. The well-designed trail winds first through a pine forest to emerge above a large retention pond that has been successfully sculpted to look like a natural feature. This section of the trail is exposed to sun as it descends close to the lake, which has a great pier on the southern edge. The trail follows the eastern bank of the lake to a neat boardwalk that crosses the northern end of the lake. The trail then reconnects to the forest trail you were on nearly one mile ago. Many birds live here, including egrets and herons, as well as animals native to ponds. Susan Dunten will lead the hike and maybe our hiking mascot, Abby, will come as well. Plan on taking a picnic lunch to enjoy at the park. More details will be forthcoming to Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Contact Melba Armstrong at Armstrong.melba@comcast.net if you would like more information.



Melba Armstrong

Wine, Women & Wisdom

Wine
GOES IN!
Wisdom
COMES OUT

This group meets to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation on the **third Monday of the month from 4:00 to 6: p.m.** at McCormick & Schmick, City Center location. All AAUW members are welcome. For additional information and status of the next event contact Jane Cooper at xicooper@aol.com, 713-582-4611 or Marie Helmy at OOLIT3@aol.com, 781-787-6396.



Gourmet Groups

Classic Gourmet

Classic Gourmet will not meet in October. On **Saturday, November 13**, we will have a dinner celebrating Diwali. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



Nouveau Gourmet



Nouveau Gourmet will not meet until January 2022. Look for more information in later newsletters. For more information contact Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com

Garden Divas

The Garden Divas will be visiting the Katy Prairie Conservancy, Indian Grass Preserve, 31975 Hebert Rd, Waller, TX 77484, on **Tuesday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m.** Since 1992, the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) has been working to preserve diminishing prairie lands for people and wildlife. KPC is a leader in local land protection and now protects more than 23,000 acres of prairie in Harris, Waller, Matagorda, and Fort Bend counties, most of which makes up the Katy Prairie Preserve just outside Houston. KPC is one of the largest private land trusts in southeast Texas.

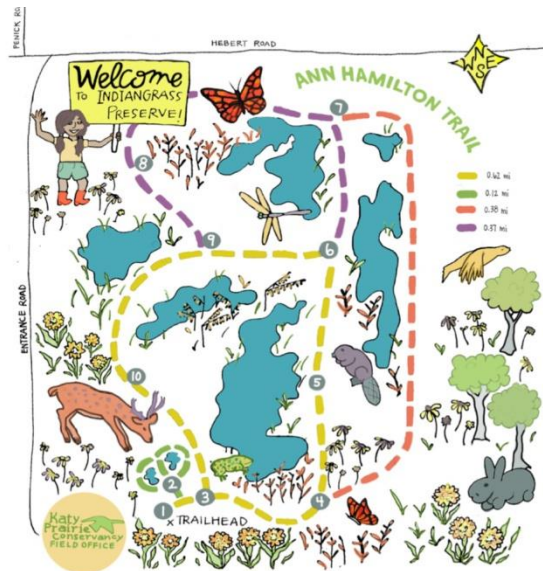
The Katy Prairie is threatened and once lost, it will never be replaced. KPC is working to protect what remains while there is still time. You can learn more about land conservation, prairie restoration, upcoming events, and sign up for the newsletter at katyprairie.org.

We will be walking the Ann Hamilton Trail at the Indian Grass Preserve. An audio tour for the Ann Hamilton Trail is available at <https://soundcloud.com/hearkpc>.

We will carpool from Memorial City from the lot South of Baryknoll and leave at **9:00 a.m.** See address above if you prefer to meet us at the Prairie at 10. Contact Susan Boone - samboone@gmail.com if you are interested in going. There are no 'facilities' at this site; we will stop for a break prior to the visit. There are picnic facilities, so we can enjoy a picnic lunch and practice safe distancing. I am hoping for a beautiful fall day!

Please contact Susan Boone, samboone@gmail.com, to let her know you are interested in this trip.

Susan Boone



Bridge Groups – Various



The bridge groups are not planning on meeting at this time. When this changes, you will be advised by your coordinator.

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

Great Decisions



There are three groups that meet to discuss global issues selected by the Foreign Policy Association. Meetings are held from February through May. More information will be given in future newsletters.

Vicarious Voyagers: An Interest group for travelers

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

Co-Coordinator: Carolyn Morris, morriscs@aol.com

Thursday Morning, October 28, 2021 – 10 a.m.

Scotland revisited. This month we will return to travel vicariously in person to Scotland to explore the Islands of Iona, Skye and Orkney, the highland areas of Glencoe, Inverness, Loch Ness and the Culloden battlefield (think Outlander) and then on to vibrantly gritty Glasgow.

Bring something to share for a potluck brunch.

All those who are vaccinated are always welcome.



Please RSVP your attendance to our hostess for this month:

Diana Guarniere

13814 Kimberley Lane, Houston 77079

guarniered@gmail.com

281.493-2997

The Cultural Interest Group kicks off with a tour of an Iconic Neighborhood



We kick off our fall events on Friday, October 22 with a walking tour of Broadacres. Near Rice University, Broadacres was among the Houston residential neighborhoods developed in the early 20th century. Its breathtaking oak allées and landscaping showcase the stately houses lining North and South boulevards.

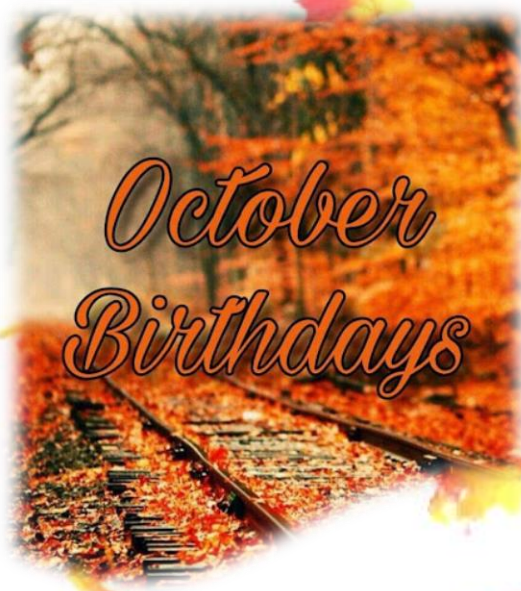
Our 90-minute tour, led by the popular Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston, explores the architecture of these gracious homes and the stories of the oil, cotton, lumber, banking, and railroad leaders who built them.

Following lunch at Clebournes cafeteria, we will make a stop at the latest exhibit at the Menil Museum.

If you are interested in signing up for this event, please contact Elizabeth Martin at elizamart349@gmail.com or 713.542.0598.

Happy Birthday!

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
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
Deborah Rossi Oct 26
Diane Roberts Oct 27
Mary Dodson Oct 28
Martina Simpson Oct 30
Betsy Calabro Oct 31



SAVE THE DATE

AAUW Holiday Party

December 5, 2021 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Blue Agave Cantina

1455 Grisby Rd.

Houston, Texas 77079

Dorothy Lauterbach - 512-217-7899