



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVI

December 2021 Newsletter

Issue 4

President

Rose Ennis
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roseleeennis@gmail.com

President Elect

Anne Amador

Program Vice President

Lilian Care

Membership Vice President

Carolyn Stoffel

AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents

Debbie Campbell
Roslyn Metchis

Recording Secretary

Cherilyn Jackson

Finance Officer

Diana Tiberia

Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

Newsletter Editor

Kris Bybee-Finley
aauwhcnews@gmail.com

January Deadline:

December 15, 2021

**There is no Branch/Program Meeting
for December.**

**Look for exciting, interesting, and informative
programs in the New Year.**



Lilian Care, Program Vice President

It's not too late to have fun!



AAUW Holiday Party



December 5, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Blue Agave Cantina, 14555 Grisby Road, Houston

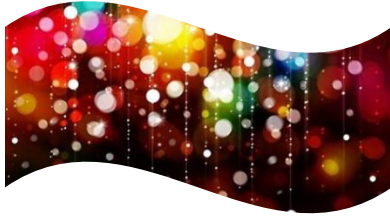
**Look for more details and a reservation form at the end of this
newsletter.**

Stay informed

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

Dear West Harris County Members,



Happy Holidays! I hope you are enjoying the festive lights all around town. I can't promise snow, but the Holiday Party is right around the corner, and I hope you are planning on attending. We are requiring members and guests to be vaxxed for both your safety and the safety of others. The invitation is being reprinted at the end of this newsletter if you have not RSVP'd yet.

2021 is rapidly coming to a close, but our branch activities are finally beginning to open up at an accelerating pace. Our first in-person program at Tracy Gee Community Center, especially apropos during Breast Cancer Month, was inspiring to say the least. Tarshia Boutte's Pink Phuree Dragon Boat Team presentation was so captivating to me, I went down to Clear Lake the following week with our Program Vice-President, Lilian Care, herself a cancer survivor, to see these courageous women cancer survivors in action! It was very impressive!

Many members recall our special request for additional funding last year to help our branch receive 5 Star Recognition. Susan Dunten, our AAUW Fundraising Chair, and her committee, worked tirelessly to make this happen. Susan promised a special Donors' Luncheon for those who responded. It had to be cancelled a few times due to weather issues and the pandemic, but finally occurred at Los Tios a few weeks ago. Thanks to everyone who participated in this effort to increase our Greatest Needs contributions and meet our goal!



Whether you stay at home or travel during the holidays: stay safe, follow CDC advice, and enjoy being with family and friends as hopefully this worldwide virus continues to be suppressed if not eradicated.

*Cheers,
Rose Ennis, President*

Request for Nominees for Branch Officers



The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the 2022-2023 Branch Board. The positions that will be open are President-Elect, Membership Vice President, AAUW Funds Vice President and Recording Secretary. Please consider nominating members who you think would be appropriate for any of these positions. Also, we highly recommend self-nominations. Nominations must be submitted by January 12, 2022.

Elections will take place at the March Annual Branch Meeting. Please contact Sharon Jorgeson, sjorgeson@gmail.com or 281-703-5939, nominating committee chairman or Anne Amador, anamador@earthlonk.net 713-240-8095, current president-elect to make a nomination or for further questions.

Membership

West Harris County Branch has been "gifted" this year with ten new members and several rejoining members. Please welcome these new people whenever you see them on Zoom or in person. Have a wonderful safe and joyful Holiday Season!

*Carolyn Stoffel
Membership Vice-President*

AAUW Funds

Half-Masked Ball “Attendees” Impact National Efforts

Well done *again*, West Harris County! During our October “Half-Masked Ball” non-event, you contributed almost \$1,300 to AAUW’s national efforts to promote economic security, education, and advocacy for women and girls. See below for an easy way to **DOUBLE** your year-end gift!



Now through December 31, AAUW National has offered to **DOUBLE YOUR DONATION** up to \$75,000 for all national donations combined.

To donate, simply use **this link** [AAUW Matching Gift](#) with your 7-digit AAUW member number (so that our branch gets credit for your donation). If you don’t know your AAUW member number, please contact Debbie Campbell or Roslyn Metchis.

Or, you may give or mail a check for AAUW *Greatest Needs Funds* to “D.C.” – Debbie Campbell – and she will make the online donation on your behalf: Debbie Campbell 7814 Shady Villa Cove Houston TX 77055-5244. (Save a stamp and include your check for our local *Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund* in the same envelope.)

Our branch goal for National is \$5,000 by June 30. Donations are tax deductible.



Spring Branch
Independent School District



Support Local Scholarships for HISD, SBISD, and Alief ISD Students

Your generous donations ensure a brighter future for our local students! Make your check payable to *Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund* then give or mail to Carolyn Morris 11159 Riverview Way Houston TX 77042-7309. (Save a stamp and include your check for our national AAUW *Greatest Needs Funds* in the same envelope.) Donations are tax deductible.

Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund Information

The AAUW-West Harris County Branch established the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund in 1994 in memory of the sons of Arlene Baker and Carol Telfer. Scholarships are awarded to women graduates from HISD, SBISD, and Alief ISD who are planning to study a STEM field in college.

Thank you to those of you who donated to the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund in October and November. The support for these scholarships comes from the generosity of our members who donate to commemorate loved ones or special events. The fund for our 2022 recipients is well on its way to covering the \$6,000 needed for the three scholarships.

Jan Kerekgyarto

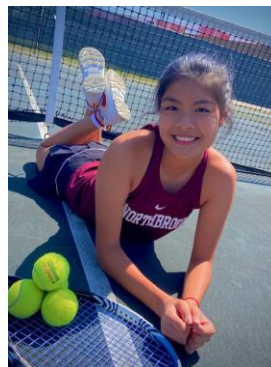
2021 Baker/Telfer Scholarship Award Recipients

We are delighted to announce this year's recipients of the AAUW-West Harris County Branch Baker-Telfer Scholarships for girls pursuing a STEM career. Due to the generous donations of AAUW West Harris County branch, we are able to award each young woman \$2000. The award is sent to the girl's school to offset tuition expenses. The scholarships were created in memory of the sons of Carol Telfer and Arlene Baker. Carol and Arlene were early members of West Harris County branch.



From Alief ISD, please congratulate Nhien Nguyen who graduated in May from the Alief Early College High School and received an Associate Degree in Science from Houston Community College at the same time. Miss Nguyen, who is fluent in both English and Vietnamese, entered the University of Houston as a junior. She is well on her way to a degree in chemistry, with a minor in psychology. Her ultimate goal is to become a neurologist.

Our next scholarship recipient is Ngoc Ngo who graduated from Northbrook High School in Spring Branch ISD. Miss Ngo reads, writes, and speaks Vietnamese fluently. She has placed in Texas UIL Math competitions and was a varsity tennis player at Northbrook. She is enrolled in the pre-med program at the University of Texas at Austin with a major in biology. Her goal is to become a cardiovascular surgeon.



From Houston ISD, we honor Marie Augustin who graduated from Westside High School in May. Miss Augustin's special interests include the visual arts in which she has received multiple awards; 3D modeling; and public speaking. She is attending the University of Texas at Austin with a double major in architecture and architectural engineering. Ultimately, she wants to specialize in designing and building sustainable commercial buildings.

The Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund has received many donations in memory of longtime member Barbara Hopkins. The farthest donations came from Barb's Mt. Carmel, Illinois, high school class and Dawn Katz former longtime members now residing in Grafton, Wisconsin. Many will remember Dawn as a competitive ping pong champ. You will be glad to know she still plays ping pong, bridge, pickleball and bowls. May we all remain as active.

Baker-Telfer is a 501c3 charity. As such, it has separate officers from West Harris County. However, all activity is overseen by the West Harris County Branch. Out-going President, Cathy Urquhart is being replaced by Jan Kerekgyarto. Sharon Pope, former treasurer, has been replaced by Carolyn Morris. Sharon remains a board member. Also remaining as board member, is Shari Mauthner. Leaving the board is Pat Dach. Please join us in thanking Pat for her 16 plus years of managing the scholarship fund. Under her guidance, more than 40 girls have received scholarships.

Baker-Telfer Scholarship Donations can be sent to:
Carolyn Morris
11159 Riverview Way
Houston, TX 77042

Public Policy

Primary Election Coming Soon in 2022!

There are frequent times to vote. Everyone should make sure that ALL who are eligible to vote can do so. Remind your friends, neighbors, and family members to register and to vote.

Vote in person

The next opportunity to vote in person is early voting in the Texas primary elections starting on Valentine's Day, February 14, and ending on February 25, 2022. Regular election day is on March 1, 2022.



Vote By Mail

A reminder: If you wish to vote by mail, applications must be received by February 18! Applications may be submitted starting the first day of a calendar year (January 1). Applications and more information is available at <https://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo?lang=en-US#VoteByMail>.

How to register to vote

For those not currently registered, the voter registration deadline for the Texas March primaries is January 31. Registration application forms for those who live in Harris County are on line at <https://www.harrisvotes.com/VoterRegistration/Registration>. It is best to download, fill in the information and then print, sign and mail to the address on the form. You can pick-up an application at your local U.S. Postal office, library, high school, [Texas Department of Public Safety \(DPS\) site](#), [Texas Health and Human Services Commission](#) and other government offices. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Lauterbach, dorothyannlv@gmail.com.

Wanted WHCB Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars

Are you a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar? Our branch Public Policy committee would like to know how many VDVRs are in our midst. Are you registering people to vote and if you do so on your own or with another organization, such as, the League of Women Voters? Are you interested in linking up with other VDVRs to register voters? Contact Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair gwkimmel@juno.com if you are a VDVR.

Georgia Kimmel
Public Policy Chair

**DECISIONS
ARE MADE BY
THOSE WHO
SHOW UP**

DECEMBER 2021 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, December 1, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445
ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator,
Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499,
amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout
For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon
Pope 713-376-0940, spope576@gmail.com or Co-
Coordinator, Cathy Urquhart 832-454-5017,
catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net.

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, December 13, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The Age of Eisenhower by William Hitchcock. Any
questions? Please email Nancy Guilloud
nanguilloud@aol.com or Nancy Gusler,
ntgusler@gmail.com to be put on the contact list.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, December 6, 5:00 p.m.

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
The scheduled meeting place is Los Tios Mexican
Restaurant, on Memorial and Kirkwood
Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085,
WCGlide@gmail.com.

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, December 21, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Word Is Murder by Anthony Horowitz
Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190,
armstrong.melba@comcast.net. Co-Coordinator, Pat
Pease, 713-824-1681, popeace@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

Tuesday, December 14, 9:30 a.m. The Prime of Miss
Jean Brody by Muriel Spark. Please contact
coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161,
leighrap@aol.com.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, December 16, 2:30 p.m.

Djinn Patrol of the Purple Line by Deepa Anappara
Discussion Leader: Marie Helmy
Email Carolyn Morris at
morriscarolyn16@gmail.com for the Zoom
invitation.

Look forward to this great book:

Thursday, January 20, 2:30 p.m.

The Nightwatchman by Louise Erdrich
Discussion Leader: Willette Norman
Email Carolyn Morris at
morriscarolyn16@gmail.com for the Zoom
invitation.



Byway Birders

On **Saturday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.** Byway Birders will visit Brazos Bend State Park located at about 21901 FM 762 Rd, Needville, TX 77461. Edie O'Brien is the contact person for this trip and can be reached at edie.obrien@yahoo.com or 281-467-9047. Plan to meet at the 40 Acre Lake parking lot at 9:00 am. This parking lot is the first left turn after you leave the entry gate area. We will first check out the lake from the viewing platform behind the restrooms. Late arrivals should look for us there. Plan on picnicking in the park for lunch.

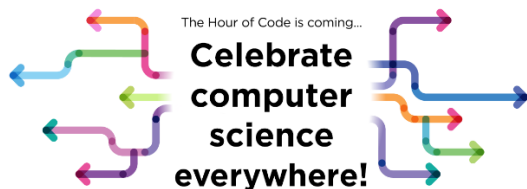


Please work out your own travel arrangements. You may reply all if you wish to carpool. Please note that Texas State Parks have an entry fee of \$7 per person. It is free to a holder of a \$70 annual park pass and their guests. A Texas Parklands Passport is available to Texas residents over 65 and provides a 50% discount off the entry fee. As the parks may be crowded on a weekend day, please reserve a day pass.

Information from the Texas Parks and Wildlife regarding park entry:

To guarantee entrance, [reserve passes online](#), or by calling the [customer service center](#), before you visit. Call the park or the Customer Service Center [\(512\) 389-8900](tel:5123898900) for more information.

WISE: Women Interested in STEM Education



The theme for this year's Hour of Code: #CSEverywhere

From December 6-12, 2021, students around the world will participate in Hour of Code and discover the connections to CS in their lives. Our goal is to make students aware that computer science is used in every industry and field of study to help solve problems, advance research, create art, keep our infrastructure safe and healthy, agriculture and more. Computer Science Education Week is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field. Learn more at www.csedweek.org and hourofcode.com.

Our WISE group will celebrate on **Thursday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.** in Karen North's garden. We will do Code.org's Real Life Algorithm: Planting a Seed. Then have a try at coding a digital flower which you can send to a family member or friend. Please let Karen know if you would like to join the fun. An update with more details will be sent December 6 as we start CS Ed Week. If you would like to be added to the communication list email knorth@me.com.

Karen North

Cultural Interest Group

Old Town Spring Holiday Shopping Spree

On **Tuesday, December 7 at 9:15a.m.** we will meet at in the parking lot across from Memorial City Mall on Barryknoll to hop on a precinct bus headed to Old Town Spring for an old fashion holiday shopping spree. Following a morning of exploring, we will lunch at the newly rebuilt and traditional favorite railroad café, Wunsche Bros. Based on interest and finds, we will make our way back to the bus for the trip to Memorial City with full stomachs and full shopping bags.

Diane will need \$1 from each participant to pay for the bus driver. Reserve your seat TODAY! Once you RSVP to Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com, you will be e-mailed a business map of Old Town Spring. Please use it to plot your day. A store directory is also available to google on the internet to help you develop your strategy. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a shopping bag, and plan for uneven surfaces. After a long COVID season, the shop owners are very excited to see you come through their doors! Get your list updated and check it TWICE!



SAVE THE DATE: Join us Tuesday, **January 11, 2022.** AAUW-West Harris County will be visiting the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) for a docent led tour of the special exhibit *Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs*. Our tour will also include the newly renovated HMNS permanent Egypt Hall. HMNS is the premier showing of this special exhibit which will visit only five cities worldwide. Don't miss your chance to see it at the discounted tour price of \$25.00. Contact Mary Andersen, mande77077@hotmail.com or 713-503-8784 to reserve your spot.



Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers



Vicarious Voyagers does not meet in December. The next gathering will be on Thursday, January 27. Please contact Diana Guarniere, Coordinator at guarniered@gmail.com or 281-493-2997 for more information.

Third Monday AAUW Bridge

Monday, **December 20, 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**
Babin's Seafood House, 21851 Katy Freeway, Katy, TX 77450
Please contact Melba Armstrong at 281-392-3190 or armstrong.melba@comcast.net
if you are interested in joining this group as a regular or as a substitute player.



Gourmet Groups



The **Classic Gourmet** group does not meet in December. Please join us **January 8, 2022**, for our next gathering. The dinner will feature Italian food prepared from the “Joy of Cooking” 2019 edition. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.

Nouveau Gourmet

This group does not meet in December. The next dinner will be in January. For further information please contact Coordinator, Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com.

Hiking Honeys

Following our precedent of 2020, the Hiking Honeys will not hike in December this year due to the proximity of Christmas. Our next hike will be on **January 20, 2022**, at Kickerillo Mischer Preserve.



Melba Armstrong

Great Decisions

The three Great Decision Groups will begin meetings in **February 2022** and continue twice each month until the end of May. The first topics of discussion will be “Changing Demographics” and “Outer Space,” and “Climate Change.” Further details will appear in the January newsletter. If you are interested in joining:

The First and Third Thursday afternoon group meets from **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Please contact Coordinator Martha Ewell, Tel: 713-782-2084 or marthaewell@att.net for more information.

The First and Third Tuesday afternoon group meets from **2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Please contact Coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-466-7995 or patthom2@sbcglobal.net for additional information.

The Second and Fourth Wednesday Evening group meets from **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Please contact Coordinator Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com.



Garden Divas

Houston Botanic Garden - **December 7 at 9:00 a.m.**

The Divas will re-visit the Houston Botanic Garden. We had the opportunity to visit the garden while it was under construction donning hard hats and safety vests; now two years later, we can enjoy this new Houston gem.



Thirty years ago, a small contingent of ambitious Houstonians witnessed firsthand the positive impact botanic gardens were having in different communities around the globe. Their determination and dedication eventually resulted in the Houston Botanic Garden, a crown jewel in the city's revitalization of its green spaces.

Located near Hobby Airport, the 132-acre Houston Botanic Garden offers easy access for the greater Houston region and the opportunity to develop the garden around the Sims Bayou. Before the construction of the Garden, the area saw very little investment in green spaces or cultural amenities.

General admission (\$13.50 – *free to members*) includes access to the [Art in the Garden Exhibit](#), celebrating the 1-year anniversary of the Garden's opening! The Global Collection Garden, Culinary Garden, Family Discovery Garden, Wetlands Garden, Coastal Prairie, Woodland Glade, Community Garden are also included with the admission. The Garden features 2.5 miles of walking and hiking trails, a lagoon, and a nature play area for children all included in the general admission.

We will carpool from Memorial City from the lot South of Barryknoll and leave at 9:00. The address is One Botanic Lane (8210 Park Place Blvd. 77017) if you prefer to meet us at the garden. We will enjoy a picnic in the park (weather permitting) and practice safe distancing. I am hoping for a beautiful fall day!

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com



December Birthdays

Jane Wood	Dec 6	Janice Kerekgyarto	Dec 14
Imelda Beauchamp	Dec 7	Kathryn Motard	Dec 14
Patricia Dach	Dec 9	Peggy Strong	Dec 20
Margaret Gruss	Dec 10	Diane Statham	Dec 22
Frances Podell	Dec 10	Margaret Carlson	Dec 23
Cynthia Hickok	Dec 11	Pat Pease	Dec 26
Anna Belle Anderson	Dec 12	Loretta Coussirat	Dec 27
Bridgette Mongeon	Dec 13	Mary Peterson	Dec 27
Jami Jones	Dec 14	Margaret McNealy	Dec 28



Directory Updates

Cathy Urquhart: delete home number; cell number added 832-454-5017

Donors' Luncheon at Los Tios

