



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVI

November 2021 Newsletter

Issue 3

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## December Deadline:

November 15, 2021

## ARCHAEOLOGY GOES TO SCHOOL

November Membership Meeting  
Saturday, November 20, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
Tracy Gee Community Center (or Zoom)

### Ms. Becky Lao of Archeology Now

Promoting awareness and appreciation  
of world cultures through archaeology.

Did you want to become an archaeologist when you were a kid? Perhaps it was the charm of digging in the dirt or the possibility of discovering a mysterious artifact that zapped you through time. Discover how Archaeology Now is creating a new after-school enrichment program for students in Alief ISD that helps them connect with their past and with each other while reinforcing skills that are useful for them in the classroom. Then, we'll have something for you to make, giving you a chance to see how you can compete with a student!

Becky Lao is the Executive Director of Archeology Now, part of the Archeological Institute of America. Becky lives and works in Houston.

Archaeology Now is the Houston-based affiliate of a nationwide organization—the Archeological Institute of America. The organization was founded in 1967 by Dominique De Menil, Philip Oliver Smith, and Walter Widrig. Today, AN presents an ambitious series of events for the public focused on our many stories through time.

We invite you to join us for a journey of discovery of our human story.

*Lilian Care, Program Vice President*

## Stay informed

Branch website: [aauw-whc.org](http://aauw-whc.org)

National website: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)



Dear West Harris County Members,

Hello November! Fall hues abound and carry us forth this month while plump pumpkins, skinny skeletons, and wicked witches continue to hold tight to outdoor bannisters. They refuse to relinquish their presence on pathways, porches, and doorways! Those same colorful hues carried indoors welcome the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays and remind us of the many riches in our lives: family, friends, food, and the need to help others. We are all thankful for our AAUW-WHC community.



Thank you, Pam Doan, for making our 2021-2022 directory happen! By now, most of you have received the directory which was delivered by our one and only “Mobile Unit of Volunteers” who did a fantastic job! Mailing the directories is expensive so we limit that method when possible.

Our monthly programs, thanks to Lilian Care, have proven to be exceptional. As this virus continues to circulate, decisions on meeting face to face at Tracy Gee Community Center will be on a month-to-month basis. Many of our interest groups have begun gathering in homes, commercial venues, and participating in outdoor activities. Masks and/or vaccinations are required in most cases. Contact the group leader listed in the directory to see what protocols are being followed.

Don't miss the Holiday Party in December! RSVP, select your entree and dessert, and send your check to Diana Tiberia NOW. Because the entree will be plated, not a buffet, we are letting the restaurant know our choices ahead of time. We feel this is the safest way to distribute the food. Details may be found in this newsletter.



Cheers,

**Rose Ennis, President**

## Editors at Work



Thanks to Mary Andersen and Kris Bybee-Finley for all they do month after month, behind the scenes and screens, to bring our monthly newsletters into our mailboxes! Editing, rearranging, suggesting, and designing are what these two are all about and so sit back and enjoy their handiwork. Don't forget to thank them personally the next time you see them!!!

## Let's Color Their World – Locally and Nationally!



\$5,000  
National  
Goal

Oct. 10

Workshop attendees at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

**Help Nationally** by directing your support to our Washington, D.C., headquarters:

*Make your check payable to **AAUW Greatest Needs Fund** then give or mail to "D.C." — **Debbie Campbell 7814 Shady Villa Cove Houston TX 77055-5244**. Or, if West Harris County is your primary/only branch, [click here to donate to Greatest Needs via aauw.org](#).*

*Our Branch Goal for National - \$5,000 by June 30*

**Help Locally** by supporting scholarships for HISD, SBISD, and Alief ISD students:

*Make your check payable to **Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund** then give or mail to **Carolyn Morris 11159 Riverview Way Houston TX 77042-7309**.*

Donations are tax deductible.

## Public Policy

### Status of Women Report for Houston and Harris County

Living in Houston, we are familiar with Rice sociologist Stephen Klineberg's annual "Kinder Institute Houston Area Survey" that for nearly 40 years has tracked the area's demographics and attitudes. Did you know that the University of Houston produces an annual report "Houston/Harris County Gender and Sexuality Data"? Authors are UH faculty led by Elizabeth Gregory, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Research on Women, Gender & Sexuality. Their May 2021 report analyzes data on matters including the gender wage gap, poverty, education, single parenting, fertility rates, political candidates, and LGBT demographics.

### Houston Wage Gap Exceeds That of Other Major U.S. Cities

The gender wage gap is the percentage discrepancy between what full-time working women and full-time working men are paid. When this gap was "discovered" in 1973, women made only 57 cents for every dollar that men made. In the nearly half-century subsequently, the national gap has been shrinking. In 2021, U.S. women earn about 82% (or 18% less) of what men earn. However, in Harris County the wage gap for 2019 was 80% (or 20% less than what men earned). Harris County's 20% gap was notably greater than in comparable urban U.S. counties: 12% in Los Angeles and Cook County (Chicago) and 8% in New York City.



### The Oil and Gas Industry Effect

Derived from the study is that the wide gender wage gap in Harris County is due in part to Houston's oil-and-gas-heavy work environment including a higher proportion of non-Hispanic (NH) White men in highly paid jobs than in other major cities. The three industries central to oil and gas in the U.S. (Oil & Gas Extraction, Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing and Pipeline Transportation) are largely sex- and race-segregated, with women and minority individuals highly underrepresented. Women make up only 22% of employees in the oil and gas sector and their representation in one field may create similar biases in ancillary industries (legal, finance, etc.), effectively an "old-boys network." Failing to share those relatively high salaries across groups in the Houston area appears to be one of the contributors to the phenomenon that NH White men in Harris County made more than that group did nationally or in other major urban areas, and other groups made less.



The gender wage distortion at the high end of the pay scale created by the oil-and-gas environment is echoed by a parallel distortion at the low end, where Houston's Hispanic and NH Black women earned less than the already low median wages earned nationally. The intersection of gender and racial wage gaps for women of color results in a "double gap."



## Other Topics Addressed in the Report

The study discusses the “Ripple Effects of Low Women’s Wages” including domestic violence, effect on single mothers, and lack of infrastructure to support working parents. Unusually low wages and low status for women and unusually high wages and status for men may also create the predatory environment in which women workers see no better economic option than to supply the demand for paid sex, contributing to Houston being known as a sex trafficking hub. Greater wage equity should improve women’s status and lower both demand and supply for paid sex.



## In Conclusion

This report provides data and analysis to spur dialogue and shape more equitable policy, especially regarding issues of current and future workforce, health care, civic participation, economic and social status, and community. Click [here](#) for the entire report. 



**Bottom line:** Women in Harris County with less money to spend also have arguably less influence within the Houston community than they otherwise would to challenge the gender status quo.

Note: Permission was granted by the author to quote from this study.

*Margaret Carlson*

## Vote on November 2, 2021



Constitutional Amendment Special Election Texas is on Tuesday, November 2. The election has eight constitutional amendments on the ballot. At least two-thirds of the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate approved these proposals during the past legislative session and now must be approved by a majority of voters before they become part of the state constitution as law. This is your opportunity to vote your support or opposition to these amendments!

For insight into the amendments go to the Texas League of Women Voters site which offers the pros and cons of each amendment. Also find information at <https://www.vote411.org/ballot> for the voter guide constitutional amendments.

**Early voting takes place October 18 – 29.**

*Dorothy Lauterbach and Georgia Kimmel  
Public Policy*

## Looking for Volunteers



Public Policy is eager to hear from WHCB members. Please consider writing an article for our newsletter. You can choose a topic that is of interest to you. There are many current State and Federal topics from which to choose. You can use the AAUW website for a source of women’s issue topics. To volunteer and for suggestions or more information, contact Georgia Kimmel [gwkimmel@juno.com](mailto:gwkimmel@juno.com)

# JANUARY 2021 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

## Book Groups

### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, November 3, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom  
This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger  
Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445  
[ccherylsmile@gmail.com](mailto:ccherylsmile@gmail.com), Co-Coordinator,  
Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499,  
[amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net)

### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, November 3, 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom  
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah  
For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940, [spope576@gmail.com](mailto:spope576@gmail.com)) or Co-Coordinator, Cathy Urquhart (713-939-0523, [catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net)).

### Enjoying History Book Club

**Monday, November 8, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom.  
A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell.  
Virginia Hall, the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and despite her prosthetic leg, helped to revolutionize secret warfare. The Gestapo said she was the most dangerous of all Allied spies and wanted her destroyed. Any questions? Please email Nancy Guilloud [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com) or Nancy Gusler, [ntgusler@gmail.com](mailto:ntgusler@gmail.com) to be put on the contact list.

### Evening Contemporary Literature

**Monday, November 1, 5:00 p.m.**  
Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders  
The scheduled meeting place is Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, on Memorial and Kirkwood  
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 16, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom  
Finlay Donovan Is Killing It by Elle Cosimano  
Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190,  
[armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net). Co-Coordinator, Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, [popeace@aol.com](mailto:popeace@aol.com).

### Outstanding Literature

**Tuesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.** We hope to meet at our previous usual location, La Madeleine, Carillon, 10001 Westheimer. However, this is NOT CERTAIN! We will take a vote in late October to make our final decision. We will discuss the international classic, Love in the Time of Cholera, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Love the title~parallel times now?! Leigh Rappole will be the discussion leader. If you want information about our final decision on the location of the meeting, please contact coordinator, Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com).

### Zoom Eclectic Book Group

**Thursday, November 18, 2:30 p.m.**  
Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger  
Email Carolyn Morris at [morriscs@aol.com](mailto:morriscs@aol.com) for the Zoom invitation.



## Byway Birders

Byway Birders have no events planned for November. In December we will visit Brazos Bend State Park. More information about that trip will be in the December Newsletter.



## WISE: Women Interested in STEM Education



Look Who She Mentions!

We had a wonderful discussion on *Code Breaker* hosted by Susan Dunten. Collaboration was a key idea. We are not meeting formally this month, but plan to continue our conversations. To be part of this please let Karen North know, so she can add you to our mailing list. Next month we will be celebrating an Hour of Code, but you can start now by watching [Top 10 Tips to Keep Your Brain Young](#). To be added to the communication list please email Karen North [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com).



## Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers

This group's next meeting will be in January, 2022. Please see future newsletters for information.

## Bridge Groups - Various

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 (11:00 a.m.) Melba Armstrong 281-392-3190

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday group has resumed play.

**Monday, November 16, 11:00 AM until 4:00 p.m.**

Babin's Seafood House, 21851 Katy Freeway, Katy, TX 77450  
Please contact Melba Armstrong if you are interested in joining this group.



## Gourmet Groups

### Classic and Nouveau Gourmet

In November we will combine the two gourmet groups to have a Royal Diwali Gourmet Dinner at Pat and Leon Thompson's Condo.

**November 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP by October 25, 2021 - Barbara Cook

[chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Thomsen. [Patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Patthom2@sbcglobal.net)

Pat and I will arrange the food and soft drinks. We ask you BYOB (beer wine etc.)

48-hour cancellation required.



## Cultural Tour - Mixing Galveston's History and Art



Ready for a change of scenery and some salt air? You are invited to spend **Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.** with the Cultural Tour group as we visit our seaside neighbor, Galveston. Mixing history with art, we will first tour the Bryan Museum. This venue houses a reputable collection of Texas memorabilia in Galveston's historic Orphans Home. We will proceed on to lunch on the seawall at Gaido's more casual restaurant, Nick's.

Afterwards, we will visit wood carvings made from trees damaged by Hurricane Ike. We will also take a peek at some of the delightful "Turtles About Town," a colorful array of ceramic sea turtles highlighting efforts to save these unique creatures. Does it sound like a fun day? You bet! Call Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570 or email: [barbarabutler1959@att.net](mailto:barbarabutler1959@att.net) to reserve your spot. Cost of the trip is \$14.00 for adults (\$12 for seniors (65+) for museum entrance fee, \$1 for the bus driver plus whatever you spend for lunch. Correct cash or check to Barbara is appreciated when you board.



Plan to meet at the Memorial City Mall Parking lot where our Precinct Bus will be waiting on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theaters. The bus will leave promptly at 9am.

Our December outing will be to historic Old Town Spring, a delightful setting for holiday lights, decorations, and gifts. Whether you are window shopping or out for some serious gifts for you and yours, we are planning a fun day. Save the date. It's **Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. For more information or to reserve your seat on the bus, please contact Diane Statham at [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) or 281.497.6259. More information will be provided in the December newsletter.



## Wine, Women & Wisdom



Wine, Women & Wisdom will not be meeting in November or December. This activity is in search for a new coordinator if it is to continue. Please contact Marie Helmy at 281-787 6396 if you are interested and/or want to discuss what is involved in leading the group. It would be disappointing if this group dissolved as folks have enjoyed meeting at McCormick & Schmick for beverages and enlightened conversation.

## Hiking Honeys

The Hiking Honeys will hike one of the trails in Jesse H Jones Park on **Thursday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.** The Park is located at 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338.

Jones Park is a Harris County nature preserve featuring a variety of plant and wildlife species, white sand beaches along Spring Creek, swamps and sloughs with century-old cypress trees, and a pristine floodplain located in a hardwood and pine forest. The trails range from 1.8 to 2.25 miles long and are rated easy or moderate. Sara Dalton will lead us on our trek.



We will carpool to the park from the parking lot on the south side of Barryknoll across from the theater in Memorial City Shopping Center. Departure time will be **9:00 a.m.** More information including lunch plans will be provided via email later. Please contact either Sara Dalton at [dalton.sara@comcast.net](mailto:dalton.sara@comcast.net) or Melba Armstrong at [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net) if you would like to join us.

*Melba Armstrong*

## Great Decisions



The three Great Decision Groups will meet starting in February, 2022. All members are invited to participate. Please see December Newsletter for contact information, dates and topics.

## Garden Divas

The Garden Divas will visit the **John Fairey Garden** (formerly Peckerwood Garden) **On Tuesday, November 9, 9:00 a.m. (Note that this is the SECOND Tuesday of November due to a schedule conflict at the garden).** The Divas visited this garden in 2013, but so much has changed with the



garden since then and it will be very interesting to see how it has developed in recent years.

The garden has been widely acclaimed for the originality of its design, the breadth of its collections, and its education and conservation programs. The garden features an extraordinary variety of plants that are well-suited to the climate of central Texas and the Texas gulf coast, including agaves, magnolias, oaks, and many other species collected by John and his colleagues during their numerous plant expeditions in Mexico. The garden features more than 3,000 plants (1000 unique taxa) gathered from Mexico, Asia, and the United States.

The garden is owned and managed by The John Fairey Garden Conservation Foundation. The mission of The John Fairey Garden Conservation Foundation is to preserve, share, and advance the horticultural and artistic legacy of John Fairey. The garden is a preservation garden of The Garden Conservancy, ensuring the garden will remain as John Fairey intended, in perpetuity. An excellent overview is shown in this video: [Looking Back and Going Forward](#).

The John Fairey Garden is located at 20559 F.M. 359 Road, Hempstead, Texas. We will carpool from Memorial City from the lot South of Barryknoll and leave at **9:00 a.m.** See address above if you prefer to meet us at the Garden.

Contact Susan Boone – [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com); 713-854-7537 if you are interested in going. Please plan on bringing a picnic lunch. There will be tables to enjoy our lunch after our tour.

The fee for a private tour (if we can get at least 10 people) is \$20. Our tour is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. If you become a member, then the cost is only \$10. [Membership information can be found on the website](#). There is also a nursery that we can visit and have access to some of the outstanding plants that we will be seeing.

*Susan Boone*  
*[smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com)*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

***Cherilyn Jackson***      ***Nov 1***

***Marie Helmy***      ***Nov 2***

***Betty Cartmell***      ***Nov 4***

***Karen Dittert***      ***Nov 4***

***Mary Edwards***      ***Nov 5***

***Barbara McDonald***      ***Nov 6***

***Lilian Care***      ***Nov 15***

***Karla Dunn***      ***Nov 15***

***Martha Hebert***      ***Nov 15***

***Priscilla Singer***      ***Nov 16***

***Leigh Rappole***      ***Nov 17***

***Traci Jensen***      ***Nov 18***

***Kathy Knop***      ***Nov 20***

***Nancy Ennis***      ***Nov 22***

***Michele Taylor***      ***Nov 26***

***Janet Kennedy***      ***Nov 28***

***Charlotte Kibler***      ***Nov 28***



## Directory Updates

### Additions

Kathryn Motard  
4035 Grennoch  
Houston, TX 77025  
C: 713.503.7885  
kdmotard@sbcglobal.net

Peggy Strong  
12918 Briarwest Circle  
Houston, TX 77077  
Home: 281-556-5130  
peggystrong556@yahoo.com

### Changes

Dorothy Clooney's correct phone number  
832-716-0008

Frances Haxby  
3628 S. Sweetgum Ave.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
Same cell number

Cheri Jackson  
Use cell phone number only.

Patricia Loeffler  
Should be 5115 Flower Ridge Court,  
not 5115 Flower Ridge Road

Rosanne Trost,  
1750 Sky Lark Lane, #914,  
Houston, TX 77056  
Home: 713-485-4020  
Cell: 713-805-0866