



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVI

January 2022 Newsletter

Issue 5

## President

Rose Ennis  
281-755-6483  
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  
aauwwhcnnews@gmail.com

## February Deadline:

January 15, 2022

## Stay informed

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

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

Tuesday, January 11

Wear blue to remember all  
those enslaved or trafficked  
throughout the world.

## Shuart Women's Archive & Research Collection

WHC Branch Program Meeting

Saturday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Tracy Gee Community Center



## Dr. Elizabeth Gregory

University of Houston Professor of English  
and Director of Women's Gender and  
Sexuality Studies

[The Carey C. Shuart Women's Archive and Research Collection](#) at the University of Houston's MD Anderson Library has two main objectives: **collection** and **research**. The archive collects the papers of individual women who've made history in Houston and of Houston area women's organizations, a milieu in which women have operated for over a century. Organizations include cultural-development and social-action groups, philanthropic and professional associations, sports and garden clubs, and others. Their records document how women have come together to achieve their goals, the range of their concerns, and the impact they have had on the world around them. The Carey C. Shuart Women's Archive and Research Collection also creates and preserves Texas women's oral histories. And, yes, this is where all of our AAUW archives rest.

*"Among the treasures housed and cared for in the University of Houston MD Anderson Library's Special Collections is a unique assembly of historical papers that tell the tale of women's history in Houston and in Texas."*

*"The archive puts the focus of what women do and have done to make clear that women have been active contributors to the life and culture of Houston all along."*

*Lilian Care, Program Vice President*

Dear West Harris County Members,

It could not have been a better day to wrap up 2021 then at AAUW-WHC's Holiday Party! The beautifully decorated covered patio of the Blue Agave Restaurant was accompanied with perfect weather! Thanks to Dorothy Lauterbach, Diana Tiberia and Anne Amador for making it such a success. Additionally, thanks to Ward Arendt for capturing the event. His photos can be found in this newsletter.



For auld lang syne, my jo,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

As the well-known New Year's song suggests, let's start 2022 by spreading kindness and friendship as we continue to advocate for girls and women everywhere. Your generous support to both AAUW Funds and the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund during the fall campaign was significant and definitely showed your commitment to AAUW's mission. Your generous support was appreciated.

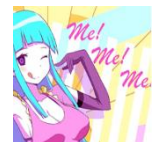
It is very unsettling for all of us to have to start the new year confronting yet another variant of Covid that may be more transmissible than the others. Therefore, we will follow CDC protocols and local mandates and require vaccinations and mask wearing (when appropriate) at all indoor events until further notice.

Our monthly programs will continue both via Zoom and face-to-face. Keep this newsletter close at hand so you don't miss any upcoming events. Feel free to contact the listed coordinator of a group if you have any questions. In the meantime, from my home to yours, Happy New Year to all of you!

*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.



All nominations need to be in by January 11, 2022. The nominees will be listed in the March newsletter. Voting will take place at the March branch meeting.



The members of the nominating committee are Sharon Jorgeson, Anne Amador, Jane Wood, Jane Cooper and Marie Helmy. Please contact Sharon Jorgeson, [sjorgeson@gmail.com](mailto:sjorgeson@gmail.com) or 281-703-5939, nominating committee chairman or Anne Amador, [anamador@earthlonk.net](mailto:anamador@earthlonk.net) 713-240-8095, current president-elect to make a nomination or for further questions.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is modern slavery. When we think of slavery, we often envision the Deep South or biblical narratives. The Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as the “use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.”

The Department of Homeland Security further notes “language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help,” even in highly public settings, very much like the Stockholm syndrome.

There are common indicators that can help us identify victims of human trafficking and save lives. The Department of Homeland Security has a Blue Campaign indicator card, a small plastic card that lists the following common signs of trafficking and how to report the crime. The card can be downloaded or ordered at [www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/materials/indicator-card](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/materials/indicator-card).

- A person appears disconnected from family and the community
- A child who does not attend school
- A sudden, dramatic change in behavior
- A juvenile engaged in prostitution
- A person disoriented or confused or showing signs of abuse
- A person with many bruises yet to heal
- A person who is fearful, timid, or submissive
- A person showing signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care
- A person seems to go to or defer to someone who seems to control them
- A person who appears to be coached when they speak
- A person living in unsuitable conditions
- A person lacking personal possessions and a stable living situation
- A person who lacks freedom of movement or is subject to unreasonable security measures



Not every trafficked person is subject to these indicators and those subject to them may not be trafficked persons.

Here are some common myths and misconceptions about human trafficking:

- If you think it is not home-grown, you are wrong. Human trafficking is international, affecting the United States, and any community
- If you think it affects only the foreigner and the poor, you are wrong. Victims can be of any race, gender, age, nationality, or socio-economic level.
- If you think it is only about commercial sex, you are wrong. It can also be forced labor, in any type of enterprise, including restaurants, hotels, agriculture, manufacturing, domestic service.
- Under federal law anyone under the age of 18 who is induced to perform sexual acts, whether or not forced, is a human trafficking victim.

- Human trafficking and human smuggling are not the same. Human trafficking involves force or coercion and may not necessarily involve moving people across borders.
- If you think the victim of trafficking will seek help, you are probably wrong. Trafficking is often a hidden crime. Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help; they may be forced or coerced through threats or violence; they may fear retribution from traffickers, including danger to their families; and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identification documents.

There should be and are solutions to human trafficking. In Houston, prostitution in the Bissonnet Strip has been addressed to some extent by making solicitation of prostitution by johns illegal. Other solutions may be affected through individual initiative.

Ways you can join the fight against human trafficking:

- 1) Look for non-profits dedicated to eradicating human trafficking. Fundraisers have been set up to combat Human Trafficking to provide money to and awareness of the cause. You can contribute time and effort to these organizations or to events that raise awareness of these abuses.
- 2) Become aware of the warning signs of human trafficking. And, whether here or abroad, learn how these violations can be reported.
- 3) Become an advocate for change. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, for example, a cornerstone of anti-trafficking legislation in America, expired in 2011. Anti-trafficking nonprofits all over the country banded together to advocate for its re-authorization, which was granted in 2013.
- 4) Boycott products and companies that permit and promote human trafficking. The Department of Labor produces a list of goods produced by forced or child labor.
- 5) Donate clothes and other goods to shelters for victims of human trafficking. Encourage businesses to give jobs to survivors, helping them get back on their feet and get a fresh start.
- 6) Be aware that the demand for cheap labor promotes human trafficking. Websites such as Craigslist and Backpage often are used to source victims and should be better monitored for such abuses.

Sources: Material compiled and edited from

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking>  
<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/myths-and-misconceptions>  
<https://borgenproject.org/top-10-solutions-to-human-trafficking/>

*Diane Statham*

## January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

**National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is January 11<sup>th</sup>**

This is an observance day that's designed to bring attention to the reality of human trafficking both in the U.S and globally. To raise awareness of the issue you are encouraged to wear blue.

*Georgia Kimmel*  
*Public Policy*



International sign for someone in danger. Look for it.



## Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund

In last month's AAUW Newsletter, we shared the three deserving candidates who were awarded \$2000 each towards their college tuition by the Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund. This year's BTS committee is composed of President Jan Kerekgyarto, Vice President Sharon Pope, Treasurer Carolyn Morris, and Board Member Shari Mauthner. We welcome the help of AAUW members in three ways:

- (1) Getting the word out to college-bound high school senior girls who plan to major in a STEM field
- (2) Alerting contacts who work with these young women and/or passing that information to our committee
- (3) Commemorating a special event or loved one by donating to this fund. Checks may be sent to Carolyn Morris, 11159 Riverview Way, Houston, TX 77042

Our tech guru, Shari Mauthner, will be opening the local AAUW website to applicants in February.

*Jan Kerekgyarto*



## Holiday Dinner at the Blue Agave



# JANUARY 2022 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

## Book Groups

### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, January 5, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom  
Dispatches from Pluto by Richard Grant  
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, January 5, 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom  
Dominicana by Angie Cruz. For more information,  
contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713-376-  
0940, [spope576@gmail.com](mailto:spope576@gmail.com). Co-Coordinator, Cathy  
Urquhart 713-939-0523,  
[catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherineurquhart@sbcglobal.net).

### Enjoying History Book Club

**Monday, January 10, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom.  
The Matriarch by Susan Page. 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, January 3, 5:00 p.m.**  
The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
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).



### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, January 18, 1:30 p.m.** via Zoom  
Riptide by Catherine Coulter  
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, January 11, 9:30 a.m.** Circe by Madeline  
Miller. The group will meet at La Madeleine, 10001  
Westheimer. Please contact coordinator, Leigh  
Rappole, 281-596-0161, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com).

### Zoom Eclectic Book Group

**Thursday, January 20, 2:30 p.m.**  
The Nightwatchman by Louise Erdich  
Discussion Leader: Willette Norman  
Email Carolyn Morris at [morriscs@aol.com](mailto:morriscs@aol.com) for the  
Zoom invitation.

This book group was organized in the late summer.  
Our complete booklist was not ready for the  
directory. Please join us for any or all of the books.

Feb. 24: The Personal Librarian by Benedict/Murray  
and led by Nancy Bowden

March 24: Caste by Isabel Wilkerson and led by  
Janice McNeal and Martha Ewell

April 28: Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict and led  
by Margaret Carlson

May 22: The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict and  
led by Carolyn Morris

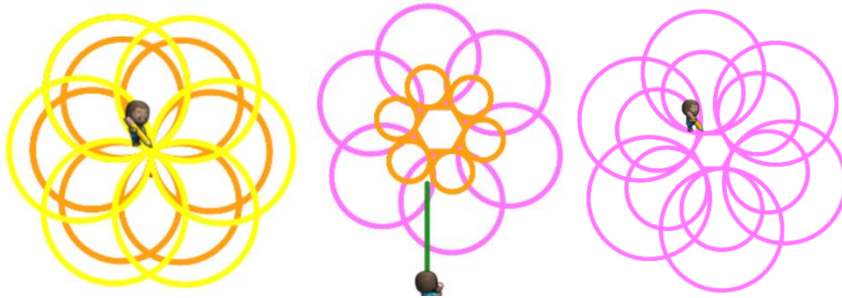
## Byway Birders



On **Saturday, January 8, 2022**, Byway Birders will go to San Bernard NWR. We should see a variety of wintering birds as well as ducks, geese and sandhill cranes. Bring binoculars, hats, snacks, a picnic lunch, drinks, and bug spray. Information about time and where to meet will be given later. You will need to work out your own travel arrangements. Please let Miriam Vyles know if are going and if you want to carpool or if you plan on meeting at San Barnard NWR. Contact her at [mvyles123@gmail.com](mailto:mvyles123@gmail.com) or 713-501-7945.

## WISE: Women Interested in STEM Education

Happy New Year! We had so much fun at the CSEdWeek celebration we are going to do it again for those who missed it. See [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeyIfdV\\_Hto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeyIfdV_Hto) for a preview of the fun. We also coded digital flowers and texted our designs.



Please email Karen North [knorth@me.com](mailto:knorth@me.com) if you would like to do an Hour of Code lesson and talk about equitable access for young women.

***Karen North***

## Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers



**Thursday, January 27, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Greek Islands: Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, and Cruising Tips**

Let's ring in the new year with thoughts of romantic islands and dreamy get-aways.

(Think Mamma Mia!)

**Bring something to share for a potluck brunch. All those who are vaccinated are always welcome.**

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, [guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com)

Co-Coordinator: Carolyn Morris, [morriscs@aol.com](mailto:morriscs@aol.com)

**Please RSVP** your attendance to our hostess for this month:

Diana Guarniere, 281-493-2997

13814 Kimberley Lane, Houston 77079

[guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com)



## Culture Group to Explore New World Class Egyptian Exhibit



Join the Cultural Interest Group on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, as we travel back 3,200 years to Ancient Egypt. We will be visiting the *Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs* special exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS).

This all-new museum experience, presented by World Heritage Exhibitions and Cityneon, provides guests with a window into the life of Ramses II, more commonly known as Ramses the Great. You will come face-to-face with 181 priceless artifacts, many representing the exceptional pharaoh himself. These include animal mummies, magnificent jewelry, spectacular royal masks, exquisite amulets, and ornate golden treasures of the tomb, showcasing the superb workmanship of Egyptian artists. Our visit will also include HMNS's newly renovated permanent Egypt Hall. The hall is spectacular with new artifacts and beautifully recreated tomb rooms.

Docents will be present in both the special exhibit and the museum's permanent Egypt Hall to give extra information and answer questions.

After our visit to Egypt, we will bus to Cleburne's Cafeteria for lunch and a chance to discuss all we have seen.

Discounted tickets for this exhibit must be purchased ahead. To reserve your spot, send your check for \$25 payable to Mary Andersen, 5426 Wigton Drive, Houston TX 77096 ASAP, no later than January 5. AAUW-WHC is asking that all participants be fully vaccinated. At this time, HMNS patrons are encouraged to wear masks, but it is not required.

You will begin your journey at the Memorial City Mall Parking lot on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theaters where our Precinct Bus will be waiting. The bus will leave promptly at **9a.m.** Please bring \$1 for the bus driver's lunch. If you have any questions, call, or email Mary at [713-503-8784](tel:713-503-8784) / [mande7707@hotmail.com](mailto:mande7707@hotmail.com).

## Bridge Groups

### Third Monday AAUW Bridge

Monday, **January 17, 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](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net) if you are interested in joining this group as a regular or as a substitute player.



Please contact the coordinators of these bridge groups if you are interested in joining their group.

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



## Gourmet Groups

Please join us on **Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.** for our next dinner in the year's series "The Joy of Cooking and Eating with Friends". Both Classic Gourmet and Nouveau Gourmet dining groups will meet together at the home of Barbara Cook for Italian cuisine.

We will follow CDC recommendations regarding COVID. Please contact Coordinators Barbara Cook at 713-705-7832 or [chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net) or Diane Statham at 281-497-6259, [distatham@msn.com](mailto:distatham@msn.com) if you are interested.



Classic  
+  
Nouveau



### Gourmet Diwali Dinner

Back row - Robert Cahill, Otto Kjos, Eric Jorgeson, Millie Hast, Leon Thomsen

2<sup>nd</sup> row - Sharon Jorgeson, Laura Cahill

Front row - Barbara Cook, Hazel Kjos, Pat Thomsen, Diane Roberts, Pat Farnell, Michael Farnell

## Hiking Honeys

On November 18 a group of nine Hiking Honeys traveled to Humble, Texas to Jesse Jones Park. Our hike covered portions of the Palmetto, Old Logging, High Bank and Cypress Boardwalk trails, approximately 2 miles long. The most picturesque portion of the trek was the Cypress Boardwalk trail which winds among century-old cypress trees and cypress knees. The weather was perfect, and Jane Wood, our Master Naturalist hiker, fascinated us with her knowledge of the area.

We will resume hiking on **Thursday, January 20**, when Marilyn Watson will lead us on the trails of Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve, 20215 Chasewood Park Dr, Houston, TX 77070. The Preserve is an 80-acre property featuring Marshall Lake, paved trails, and fishing piers.

We will carpool from the lot on the south side of Barryknoll across from the movie theater in Memorial City and plan on leaving at **9 a.m.** More information including lunch plans will be provided via email later. Please contact either Marilyn Watson at [marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net) or Melba Armstrong at [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net) if you would like to join us.



*Front Row: Jane Wood, Sara Dalton, Debbie Rossi  
Second Row: Melba Armstrong, Gail Rickey, Janice McNeil,  
Kathryn Motard, Barbara Cook*

*Sara Dalton*

## 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 two topics of discussion will be “Changing Demographics” and “Outer Space”. All three groups will meet on ZOOM.



afternoon group meets from **2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons**. Please contact Coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-302-8899 or [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) for additional information.

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

If you are interested in joining The First and Third Thursday afternoon group which meets from **2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons**. Please contact Coordinator Martha Ewell, Tel: 713-782-2084 or [marthaewell@att.net](mailto:marthaewell@att.net) for more information.

The first and third Tuesday



## Garden Divas



The Garden Divas will venture to the Cactus King, 7900 I-45 North, Houston, 77037, on **Tuesday, January 4**. (This date was incorrect on email schedule and bookmark!) The Cactus King offers the largest collection of cacti and succulents for sale on the planet! It is imperative to the owner, Mr. Lyn Rathburn, that the community at large have the same access to these magical plants as special collectors, museums, botanical gardens, zoos, and landscapers. We love our plants and want to spread the joy they bring us with the rest of the world. We hope to have a chance to visit with him and learn about the many species of cacti and succulents that are available.

The Cactus King was featured in a short film! If you haven't had a chance to visit their store in person then take a few minutes and watch this short film for a small glimpse of what they have to offer! [Cactus King of Houston!](#)

We will carpool from Memorial City Mall and leave at **9:30 a.m.** Please let Susan Boone, [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com), know if you are interested in this adventure! We will eat at Swamp City after our visit.

*Susan Boone*  
*smboone@gmail.com*

## Directory Updates

Pat Thomsen –  
Use cell number only: 713-302-8899

**Returning Member:**  
Ann Sanders  
5914 Solar Point Lane  
Houston TX 77041  
713-466-8713  
[annsan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annsan@sbcglobal.net)





# JANUARY 2022!

Joyce Pritchard	Jan 1
Pat Thomsen	Jan 1
Julia Ray	Jan 2
Barbara Butler	Jan 6
Meredith Griffis	Jan 6
Nancy Guilloud	Jan 11
Patricia Loeffler	Jan 11
A. G. Schissler (Enny)	Jan 14
Patricia Brice	Jan 15
Frances Mayberry	Jan 16
Rosanne Trost	Jan 18
Suzanne Dalati	Jan 22

Ligita Longo	Jan 22
Roslyn Metchis	Jan 30
Marjorie Pierce	Jan 31



## December Birthday Celebration Continues

The AAUW December ladies gathered once again to celebrate their respective birthdays at Rudi Lechner's Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> with a lovely luncheon. Our motto is "All I want for Christmas is for someone to remember my December birthday." We were honored to have John Hopkins join us. John, husband to Barbara, started this tradition over 30 years ago with three AAUW December birthday girls in her home. You too could get your birthday month geared up to socialize. The list appears at the end of each newsletter.

*Jane Wood*



Pictured Below, Left to Right

Standing: Jane Wood, Loretta Coussirat, Imelda Beauchamp, Diane Statham, John Hopkins, Margaret Carlson

Seated: Mary Peterson, Peg McNealy, Pat Pease

Not Pictured: Pat Dach