



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVI

March 2022 Newsletter

Issue 7

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Lilian Care

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April Deadline:

March 15, 2022

Stay informed

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

Primary Election Date:
March 1, 2022

Early Voting:
February 14-25



West Harris County Branch Meeting

Saturday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Tracy Gee Community Center and Zoom

Guest speaker: Rae Bryant, Houston Suffragists Project.

Rae, together with her colleagues, uncovered a new and fascinating history of the women who took part in the presidential election of 1920. Remember, women had just won the right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed in August of 1920. So the presidential election in November that year was the first time women in the USA could vote.

How did the women of Houston and Harris County vote 102 and years ago? Did they vote?

Rae will present newly unearthed information about the amazing events leading up to the November 1920 election.

The 1920 Elections

Poll tax laws governed voter qualifications in Texas. State election laws did not include women. We will learn about the conflict between the 19th amendment and state laws. Suffragists reacted to the Texas legislature's attempt to impose the poll tax on women and restrict their voting right. They filed a lawsuit that led to a tremendous turn out of women voters on November 2, 1920.

Lilian Care, Program Vice President

Dear West Harris County Members,

The electric grid fortunately held up over the last freeze, and hopefully everybody got through it without losing electricity. Now, as we welcome March, let's hope our luck continues.



Save the Date, April 30, 2022, for our very first virtual state convention. As mentioned last month, the state committee had to completely restructure the program from an in-person two-day event to a virtual one-day program. The final breakdown of the "Golden Opportunity" themed event will be rolled out in next month's newsletter. You will be getting an invitation to register prior to April 30th. The invitation will include a detailed list of speakers, topics, and times. During the convention you will be voting to elect officers for the 2022-2024 state board and on some updates to the bylaws. The board candidates' biographies and possible bylaw changes were detailed in January's AAUW TX Newsletter. We are so proud that Diane Roberts of WHC is running for the Finance Officer position.



Additionally, there will be a slide show highlighting branches throughout Texas, including your own West Harris County, shown at various points throughout the day. We want to flaunt our accomplishments, so it is time for all our activity groups to send any photos taken over the last two years to Susan Boone at: smboone@gmail.com. Susan and Pamela Ossorio are in the process of creating a photo montage displaying our branch's incredible activities to forward to the state committee. The deadline for sending the pictures to Susan is March 10th.

In preparation for the virtual presentation, I am thinking it would be fun to start planning to have some small house parties among vaxxed activity groups and share this "Golden Opportunity" together locally.

*Cheers,
Rose Ennis, President*

Membership



Spring is in the air, we hope! We are hoping that in-person events will be possible too.

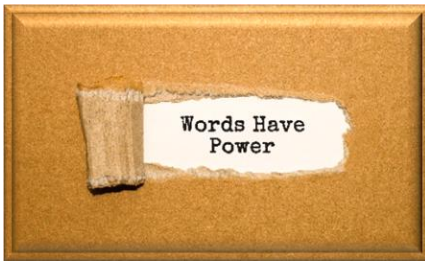
In April the Texas State Convention will be a ZOOM presentation for one day only. However, plans are being made that the May Style Show and June End-of-Year Luncheon will be in-person events.

Please send any prospective member names to me that I may contact and invite them to attend a Membership meeting. We have added a few new members already in 2022 and look forward to more new members.

*Stay safe,
Carolyn Stoffel*

Public Policy

Dangerous Ideas



Books have been challenged, banned, and censored ever since there has been the written word.

A challenged book is one that a person or group has asked to have removed or restricted from a library or curriculum, and a banned book is one that has been removed. A censored book has had undesirable words and scenes removed or changed to less objectionable ones.

Reasons for banning books include depictions of sexuality, puberty, nudity, race, political issues, religion, and violence. Boston famously used to ban books so often that publishers liked it because it increased sales. Indeed, 42 years after its publication, *Maus*, a graphic novel about the Holocaust, the only graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize, rose to numbers two (*The Complete Maus*, which includes a second volume) and eight (*Maus*) on Amazon sales charts February. 6, 2022, since it was banned by a Tennessee school board for profanity and nudity.

Books on race and sexuality are disappearing from Texas schools too. Interestingly, according to Bookriot.com, Texas State Representative Matt Krause sent a letter on October 25, 2021, to the Texas Education Agency asking how many schools in the state have the 850 books listed on a 16-page spreadsheet, as well as how much schools had spent on them.

The American Library Association tracks book challenges and says that in 2020 273 books were banned (removed) or challenged, down from the 2017 number of over 416. Many more challenges are never reported.

Know your battles:

Parents and guardians have a right to supervise and restrict their children's reading materials, and such restrictions are made easier by most libraries now having computerized catalogs and check-out.

There are also important considerations of age appropriateness and community standards.

Semi-humorous sliding range of dealing with a book that is requested to be banned:

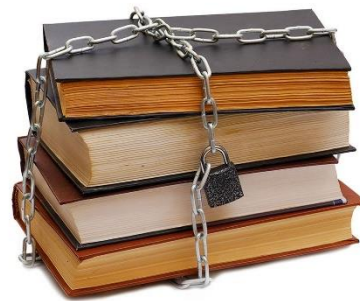
Not for my age child

Not for my child at any age

Not for any child

Not for any adult

Complete destruction all copies of the book in the universe forever



How to deal with objections to books:

Be prepared with reasonable arguments and suggestions.

Meet with parents and suggest alternatives.

Meet with school principals, librarians, and PTAs to discuss issues.

Let the general public know that objections are being made.

Why is it all right to put disturbing material in books?

Many parents object to portrayals of difficulties that their children are going through themselves. It's important to understand that seeing characters in fiction can help readers understand that they are not alone, that others have gone through the same traumas and have dealt with them –divorce, abuse, bullying, rape, grinding poverty, prejudice, and indifference. Books portraying terrible situations can help readers understand and sympathize with the problems of others



One reading advocate, Jim Trelease, was asked why he read a book to his 10-year-old son that made them both weep and replied that his son had always cried for himself, but *Where the Red Fern Grows* made him cry for something other than himself. (Spoiler alert: not one but both dogs die in the end)

Things that libraries and schools can do about book banning:

- Agree to substitute a similar book for a class assigned text.
- Put a restriction on the book by age, grade, or parental consent on a young patron's library record.
- Make the book available only by special request and keep in the back office.
- Agree to remove the book from circulation temporarily.
- Agree to remove the book from the library collection.
- In a library serving a wide age range, books for older readers can be flagged.

It may be hazardous to a librarian or teacher's job to refuse requests for removal, and it is a personal choice of how strongly to object to the removal of any book. Keep in mind that many books that are deemed harmless by most people can be on lists of objectionable books. This includes the Harry Potter books, *Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Captain Underpants*, Philip Pullman books, and dozens if not hundreds of others.

It is a good idea to ask parents, principals, and other objectors to actually read a book they are trying to have removed from library shelves

Diane Roberts



"Houston Women Paying Poll Tax Fees at W.C.C.S. Bazar Booth, Miss Mary Holloway, deputy tax collector is shown issuing a receipt which entitles Miss Pansy P. Holman to vote in the next primary election." *The Houston Post*, 21 Dec. 1919, p. 36, col. 3.
Houston Suffragists Project 2020

Primary Election Day: March 1st

Election of Officers

Each March, AAUW-WHC elects officers for the following year. As we did last year, since Covid is still circulating, we will again conduct an electronic vote through Survey Monkey.

President-elect: Pat Farnell

Membership Vice President: Carolyn Stoffel

AAUW Funds Vice President: Diane Statham

Recording Secretary: Sheila Jaynes

Step 1: Nominations from the floor

Since our Annual Meeting on March 19, 2022 will be both in-person and virtual due to Covid, we have decided we will follow last year's nominating procedure once again. Therefore, if you have someone you want to nominate, please secure their acceptance in advance and send the nominee's name and the office position sought to Rose Ennis, President at either roseleeennis@gmail.com or Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077 by March 18th. I can also be contacted by phone at 281-755-6483. If any additional nominations are received, they will be announced at the March Annual Branch meeting.

Step 2: Voting

The voting will be conducted using an electronic voting method through Survey Monkey following the March Annual Branch Meeting. Each member will be sent an email with a link to the ballot. Watch for Step 2 to cast your ballot.

Thanks to Nominating Committee Chair, Sharon Jorgeson and her committee consisting of the following: Anne Amador, Jane Cooper, Marie Helmy, and Jane Wood, for presenting this slate of nominees.

*Rose Ennis,
AAUW-WHC Branch President*

Dear American Association of University Women,

My name is Ngoc Quynh Ngo, the receiver of the Baker-Telfer Scholarship 2021. I am writing this email so as to express my appreciation for your help upon my entrance to the college education career at The University of Texas at Austin!

I was able to complete my very first college semester without any worry about funding and financial aid due to your help with the scholarship mentioned above. Without the trouble of worrying about that, I had more time to give the best effort in my classes and was able to finish the Fall 2021 semester with a 4.0 GPA! Despite ups and downs and several all-nighters, I really enjoyed the new experience and appreciated that I was luckier than many others as I was able to find myself a support system through joining organizations such as AMSA (American Medical Student Association) - which I hope to be a great resource to help me on the way of finishing my bachelor's degree in biology, and VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) - where I hope to find the familiarity of culture. As of right now, I am on a pre-med track with the hope of achieving a Bachelor Science in Biology Degree by May 2025. I am planning on minoring in *Race, Indigeneity, and Migration* as well, since I am very interested in such a field and will study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa in May of 2022 for 1 month as a part of discovering more about Diversity and Culture. I am also taking an EMT (emergency medical technician) course beside my UT classes and am expected to be working in that field along with being a Chemistry Course assistant in Spring 2022.

Attached is a picture of my friends and I at a football game here at UT Austin (with me being in the middle).

Once again, thank you for your consideration for the Baker- Telfer Scholarship and I hope to stay in touch in the future!

Best regards,
Ngoc Quynh Ngo



Byway Birders

Texas City Dike



On **Saturday, March 5 at 9:00 a.m.** Byway Birders will visit the Texas City Dike. We will meet just inside the entrance to the Dike. The entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle. We will eat lunch in Texas City. Mary Dodson is the contact person for this trip and can be reached at 713-516-4266 or mpdodson@sbcglobal.net.

To get to the Dike, take 45 south, exit 1764, turn right on Bay St. North, right on TX City Dike Road. Please work out your own travel arrangements or contact Mary Dodson if interested in carpooling.

If there is interest and time we will continue birding in a different area after lunch.



Hiking Honeys

On **Thursday, March 17**, the Hiking Honeys will converge on Buffalo Bayou Trails for a hike led by Jane Wood. These trails are always a favorite in no small measure because of Jane's extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area. We will carpool from the Barryknoll parking lot opposite the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City at **9 a.m.** You may opt to meet us at the parking lot of The Dunlavy at Buffalo Bayou at **9:30 a.m.**



Following our hike, we will lunch at The Dunlavy. Hopefully, we will have fine weather for both the walk and lunch on the deck of the restaurant.

Please let Jane Wood, jane.wood9@icloud.com, or Melba Armstrong, armstrong.melba@comcast.net, know if you will join us and specify which location we can expect to meet you.

Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers

Thursday, March 31, 9:15 a.m. carpool, 10:00 a.m. program

Egypt and Cairo

This month we have a change in hostess and topic from what was presented in the directory. Some of us were able to go on the wonderful HMNS culture tour of the Ramses' exhibit arranged by Mary Andersen. It would only be fitting for the Voyagers to take a trip up the Nile vicariously. Rick Steeves has a wonderful segment on Egypt and Cairo that would augment any prior or future visit to HMNS or Egypt and will be a great finale to our V.V. year.

Hazel Kjos will be our hostess for March 31. She recently moved to Sugarland and wants to show us her new digs as well as voyage up the Nile with us. We can meet to carpool at Diana's home on Kimberley at 9:15 am.

Coordinator: Diana Guarniere, guarniered@gmail.com

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

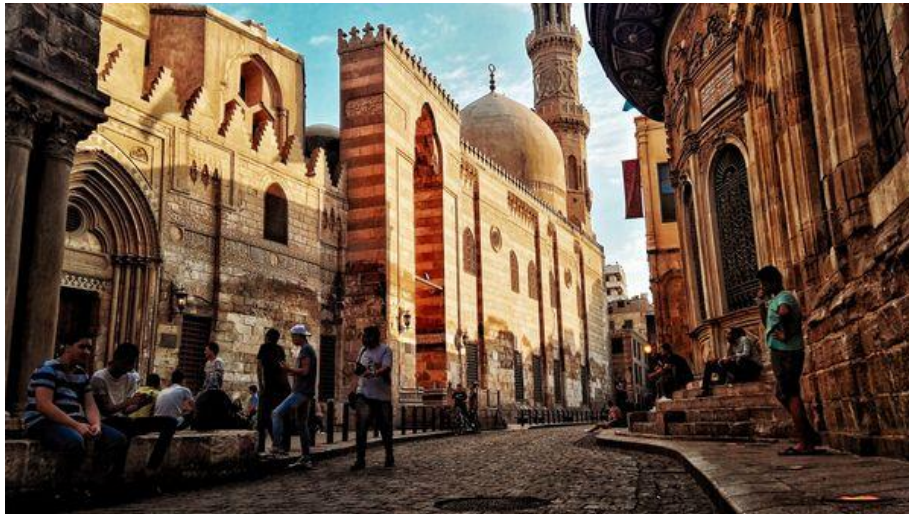
Bring something to share for a potluck brunch. What is Egyptian food?

All those who are vaccinated are always welcome.

Please RSVP your attendance to both our hostess and to Diana to carpool for this month:

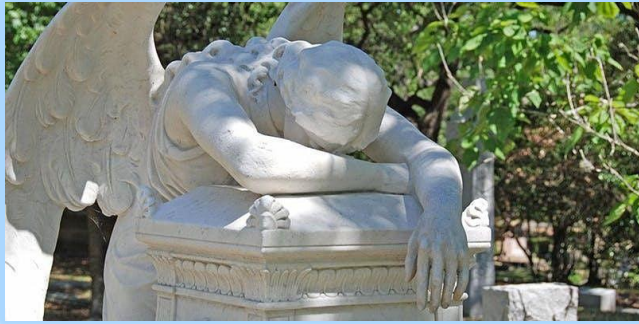
Hazel Kjos - Hostess
6326 Logan Creek Lane
Sugar Land, TX 77479
filbertkjos@gmail.com
713.499.9668

Diana Guarniere - Carpool
13814 Kimberley Lane
Houston, TX 77079



Culture Group

Tuesday, March 8: “Women of Glenwood”



Our next Cultural trip will be with Jim Parsons of Preservation Houston. Sometimes referred to as the outdoor “Museum of Beauty,” the Glenwood cemetery includes headstones of notable women important to Houston’s history. Jim will share their stories as we stroll the grounds of statues and monuments under a canopy of live oaks.

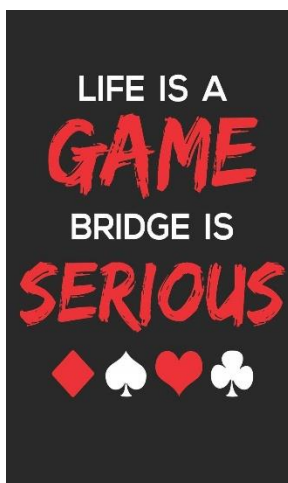
For those with mobility issues, please note that this is a walking tour that will last 1 to 1 ½ hours. Following the tour, we will have lunch at the newly reopened Dunlavy overlooking Buffalo Bayou where we will order from the menu and pay with separate checks.

Meet at the Memorial City parking lot, south side of Barryknoll. We will leave promptly at **9:30 a.m.** and expect to return no later than 2:30 p.m. To secure your non-refundable reservation, send a check for \$16 to:

Sue Phipps
12518 Old Oaks Drive
Houston, TX 77024
For questions, please contact Sue at 713-204-3982

WISE: Women Interested in STEM Education

There will be no meeting the month of March.



Bridge Groups

Please contact the coordinators of these bridge groups if you are interested in joining their group as a regular or substitute.

First Thursday (7:00 p.m.) Jane Judson 713-528-6105
Third Thursday (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy 281-679-7299

Gourmet Groups



Classic Gourmet: Please join us **Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** for our next dinner in this year's series "The Joy of Cooking and Eating with Friends". Our March dinner will feature Middle Eastern Cuisine. Our host will be Ed Alami. We will follow CDC recommendations regarding COVID. If you have questions, please contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook at 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley at 304-610-8708.

Nouveau Gourmet: On **Saturday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.** Laura Cahill will host a Nouveau Gourmet dinner at her home at 2806 Manila.

For information about participating in this event, contact Diane Statham at 281-497-6259 or distatham@msn.com.



Great Decisions

The three Great Decisions Groups will continue to meet twice each month until the end of May. The March topics are Climate Change and Russia. All three groups will meet on ZOOM.

The **First and Third Thursday** afternoon group will meet **March 3, 2022, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** to discuss "Russia and the U.S.," and on **March 17, 2022**, to discuss "Myanmar and ASEAN." If interested in further information and details, please contact group coordinator, Martha Ewell, (tel.) 713-782-2084.

The **2nd and 4th Evening Group** meets from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings**. The March meetings will be **March 9** and **March 23**. Please contact Coordinator Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com for further information.

The **Inside the Loop Group** will meet on **Tuesday March 8, at 3:00 p.m.** The topic is Climate Change. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 22, at 3:00 p.m.** The topic is Russia

All are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84748391332?pwd=bFVjN3VyV1RqZkRqTDBkWDRWLOp6dz09>



Garden Divas

Spring into action and freshen up your home garden with incredible plant selections from Friends of Mercer Botanic Gardens' annual [March Mart Plant Sale](#). (22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble, TX 77338)



The Garden Divas will meet at Memorial City Mall's parking spot off Barryknoll at **9:00 a.m., Friday, March 25.** **NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT OUR REGULAR FIRST TUESDAY!** You should bring water, wear comfortable shoes, a hat and consider car-pooling with someone that has a wagon. We will have the opportunity to shop a variety of hard-to-find plants during one of the Texas Gulf

Coast region's largest and most anticipated horticultural events. Contact Susan Boone - smboone@gmail.com if you are interested in going to the March Mart.

✿ March Mart will feature the best selection of Texas native milkweed available anywhere, including species such as antelope horns, swamp milkweed, zizotes milkweed, green milkweed, whorled milkweed, and more. Some exciting new varieties offered at this year's sale includes winterberry, 'Berry Poppins' and 'Mr. Poppins'; viburnum, 'Yin' and 'Yang'; and Texas native soft-hair marbleseed, *Onosmodium bejariense*. Spruce up your patio and indoor plant collections with new selections of patio shade plants and houseplants. There will be specimens from all growing groups for just the right plants for your garden, including annuals and perennials, ginger and tropicals, roses, shade plants, edibles, trees and shrubs, and Texas natives.

✿ March Mart is an annual, two-day plant sale fundraiser sponsored by Friends of Mercer Botanic Gardens, benefiting Mercer Botanic Gardens, that features nearly 1,200 varieties of high-quality plants rarely found at local retail nurseries.

✿ After our spending spree, we will discuss our new plants over lunch at the Black Bear in the Greenspoint area (15720 North Fwy Houston, TX 77090).

[Budding Out Plant Sale and Festival](#) - For those that had expressed interest in The John Fairey Garden on Saturday, March 19th, for their annual Budding Out Plant Sale and Festival, a premier plant sale that offers rare and hard to find plants from The John Fairey Garden nursery and other select plant vendors from the region, I am planning on attending. If you are interested in carpooling, please make arrangements. This is not an organized 'Diva' event, but I know that many of you had expressed interest. Rare plants suitable for the most discerning plant collector or distinctive plants for the beginning gardener will be offered. In addition to plants, art, ceramics, jewelry, food, music, and other entertainment for the whole family will be available.

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com



March 2022



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|--------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Ann Green | Mar 3 | Karen Welborn | Mar 15 |
| Toby Singhanian | Mar 3 | Betsy Winn | Mar 15 |
| Mary Andersen | Mar 4 | Marianne Cooley | Mar 16 |
| Karen Harris | Mar 6 | Kathryn Palmisano | Mar 16 |
| Janice McNeil | Mar 7 | Diane Treich | Mar 16 |
| Cynthia Wier | Mar 7 | Susan Thompson | Mar 17 |
| Linda Busch | Mar 8 | Ann Sanders | Mar 24 |
| Margo Johnson | Mar 10 | Gingerlyn Richard | Mar 26 |
| Dorothy Lauterbach | Mar 10 | Rebecca French | Mar 27 |
| Sue Phipps | Mar 14 | Mary Lou Reilly | Mar 30 |

New Email Address:

Michelle Taylor
michellegetttertaylor@gmail.com