



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVII

September 2022 Newsletter

Issue 1

President

Anne Amador
713-240-8095
Amador.aauw@earthlink.net

President Elect

Poulette Farnell

Program Vice President

Lilian Care

Membership Vice President

Carolyn Stoffel

AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents

Debbie Campbell
Diane Statham

Recording Secretary

Sheila Jaynes

Finance Officer

Diana Tiberia

Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

Newsletter Editor

Kris Bybee-Finley
aauwhcnews@gmail.com

October Deadline:

September 15, 2022

Stay informed

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

Membership Coffee

Saturday, August 27
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Memorial Dr. Methodist Church
12955 Memorial Drive

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, September 17 AT 9:30 a.m.

Tracy Gee Community Center and Zoom

Debbie Campbell Takes Us On A Journey

What does an ancient writing system have to do with your cell phone, and possibly even your ancestry?!

In Runic Writing, we'll explore letterforms that have been used by speakers of various European languages over the last 2,000 years, even after the arrival and integration of the Roman alphabet (a, b, c, etc.).

Touching on history, geography, religion, linguistics, and writing systems, we'll enhance our own understanding of our very human need to communicate and what our place in history may look like centuries from now.

For branch members who work with children, Runic writing also offers a fun way to help develop phonological awareness and abstract thinking while learning how to write in a "secret code."

Bio - Debbie Campbell's journey with WHC Branch began in 1993, when she volunteered as a "co-presenter" at the very first EYH. As a child, Debbie was fascinated by letterforms, languages, and the impact of writing technology on women's lives. Later, during engineering school at the University of Houston, she discovered her passion for teaching adults. In 2020, a scholarship from the Houston Calligraphy Guild allowed her to develop a longer version of this program, which she first presented to calligraphers in early 2021.

Lilian Care
Program Vice President



f u t h o r k g
w h n i j c h p e o s t
b e m l n g o e d a e y ea



Dear West Harris County Members,

Welcome back, everyone, to a new year of AAUW-WHC! I'm looking forward to serving as your Branch President again, working with our very talented board to bring you a year of activities that are both meaningful and delightful.



I'm so happy to be having our Membership Coffee "in person" again! As COVID is still lurking, our branch will continue our safety protocol of requiring all in-person attendees at indoor WHC events to be vaccinated against COVID. As the infection rates change, the board will re-evaluate this mandate; in the meantime, we hope to continue livestreaming our branch meetings for those of you unable to attend in person.

Several of you have mentioned to me how much you miss EYH, and the camaraderie it created with our whole branch working together to put on the event. Perhaps WHC can start a new tradition of a branch-wide project to benefit the community - something less labor intensive than EYH, but still continuing to embrace our mission of advancing equity for girls and women. Be thinking of suggestions!



I hope to see you at the Membership Coffee!

Anne Amador, President

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship

For 28 years the West Harris County Branch of AAUW has been granting scholarships to promising senior women from Alief ISD, HISD, and SBISD who plan to pursue a STEM field during their college years. This past year, it was my privilege to be a part of the selection process. Narrowing 33 applicants to 3, one from each district, was a challenging yet rewarding task. It was fun to finally meet two of these talented women at the June luncheon! They were every bit as amazing in person as they appeared to be on their applications.



We are grateful for the diligent work of Sharon Pope, our former Vice President of the Scholarship Committee, who has decided to opt out in order to give other branch members an opportunity to serve. Jan Kerekgyarto will continue as President, Carolyn Morris will stay on as Treasurer, and Shari Mauthner will continue to serve as a board member and the Administrator of the Momentum account. Pat Farnell, President-Elect of the AAUW-WHC Branch Board, will also be a committee member. Sharon Jorgeson, who joined us during one of our selection committee meetings, has graciously agreed to become the Vice President of our committee.

We are so fortunate to have members who donated to this fund and/or informed educators of its availability so that we had many senior women complete the online application. We hope you will continue to support our efforts as we transition to the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship fund which honors the sons of the founders Arlene Baker and Carol Telfer as well as the generosity of Pat and Leon Thomsen.

Janice Kerekgyarto

Funds: \$6 Million Reasons to **C h a r g e!** Ahead

Over the coming year, many of us in West Harris County Branch will continue our proud tradition of supporting women and girls both locally and nationally. **Locally** Carolyn Morris and Jan Kerekgyato will gladly accept your donations by checks made payable to the **Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund**. This fund supports Houston-area college-bound high school seniors pursuing STEM studies.

Nationally a separate fund managed by AAUW headquarters in Washington, D.C., will provide almost **\$6 million** in national grants and fellowships during this academic year, as well as several other important national efforts funded through member donations. Volunteer WHC board members Debbie Campbell and Diane Statham facilitate the national fund.



Credit Cards Save Time, Increase Accuracy

This year, the WHC board of directors will encourage those of us who wish to support national funds to donate via credit card. Why? Simply by using a credit card, more or less as you would for Amazon purchases, you get an instant receipt showing which national fund you're supporting! You also save yourself and local volunteers Debbie and Diane about 10 extra steps per donation ~ as well as the possibility of human error (and identity theft) at each extra step.

Remember these simple steps to keep WHC on the leaderboard! Earlier this year, National completely revised the aauw.org website. Coming Soon: our new WHC branch directory will include illustrated instructions for using your credit card to donate to aauw.org (National).

In short, to ensure that your donations are associated with West Harris County Branch, before you click the big red DONATE button on aauw.org, log in and check **My Affiliations** (left menu) to make sure West Harris County is your **Primary Branch**. (If necessary, click the three little dots (...) in the blue box and choose SET AS PRIMARY.) Then click the DONATE button and continue with your donation.

Also important, next to **Additional Emails** (under the box that shows your email address), enter aauw.whc.funds@gmail.com. This helps Debbie and Diane track donations and reconcile with National. (Again, not to worry, the front of the new branch directory will include visuals for these steps.)

While WHC does not receive any of the money you donate to National, all Texas branches participate in a healthy competition for the highest amount of donations by dollar amount and per capita. Adding the steps above keeps WHC near the top of these leaderboards!

Finally, as you enjoy gathering for book groups and other branch activities, please mention these improvements. Will Debbie and Diane still accept checks? Yes, we are here to help, but remember... this year alone, we have **\$6 million reasons to C h a r g e!** ahead.

*Debbie Campbell
AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents*

Public Policy

Help with Voter Registration



There are opportunities to assist with voter registration until October 11. The League of Women Voter's and the Harris County Elections office are coordinating many volunteer opportunities. WHC is planning at least one event. It is helpful to be a Volunteer Deputy Registrar. Harris County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training is being held via Zoom. There are daily trainings at various times available through early September. For more information and to register to take the training go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter-Registrar#Important-information>

If you have questions about voter registration opportunities contact Dorothy Lauterbach at dorothyannlv@gmail.com

AAUW WEBSITE: Great Source of Public Policy Information

When was the last time you went to the AAUW website to learn the many ways our organization works toward equality for all? You can review priority issues, learn some of the many ways AAUW empowers women, and how you can take action.



The Take Action pages contain a wealth of information about Public Policy. The current priorities can be easily accessed. AAUW members vote every two years to adopt AAUW Public Policy Priorities. As a member, you get a say in setting future priorities.

Once the priorities are adopted, members and our national staff focus on the issues. Their research and advocacy work allows the staff, with the assistance of members and member committees, to develop quick responses. They develop written materials on issues that we can use when informing our representatives about our views. Sign up to be a Two-Minute Activist to get regular alerts so you can take timely action on urgent issues.

AAUW state and branch organizations use the priorities in advocacy efforts locally. In Texas during the 2023 legislative session, we will inform the legislators of our support for or opposition to bills using the priorities as a guide. The Texas AAUW Public Policy Priority list will be narrowed to those women's issues being addressed in proposed bills.

Use the following links to find AAUW Quick Fact information. Updated in 2022 were information on voting rights, equal rights, paid leave, and student debt. There are many "Quick-Facts" papers on other topics in the news, such as, Private School Vouchers and Reproductive Rights.

Take time to learn what our organization does to advance women. Visit our AAUW website.

Voting Rights <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Voting-Rights-Jan-2022-update.pdf>

Equal Rights <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Equal-Rights-Amendment-Quick-Facts-Jan-2022.pdf>

Paid Leave <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Paid-Leave-Quick-Facts-Jan-2022-update.pdf>

Student Debt <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Student-Debt-Quick-Facts-Jan-2022.pdf>

Private School Vouchers <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/quick-facts-Vouchers-nsa.pdf>

Reproduction Rights https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/11/Repro-Rights_QuickFacts_10.21-update.pdf

2021-23 Public policy priorities <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

Georgia Kimmel



Membership

Thank you to all the fabulous ladies that helped in the planning and implementation of our first Membership Coffee, in person, in three years!!! We are looking forward to a wonderful active year of various interest group experiences. AAUW-West Harris County branch is always open for new members who support gender equity for women and girls. We are meeting at Memorial Drive Methodist Church on **Saturday, August 27 at 10:00-11:30 a.m.**, 12955 Memorial Drive.

Please send me names and contact information for prospective members anytime. See you in September at the first meeting of our new year at Tracy Gee Community Center.

Again, thank you.

*Carolyn Stoffel –
VP Membership*

SEPTEMBER 2022 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys



On **September 19**, the Hiking Honeys will travel to The Woodlands for a trek in the George Mitchell Nature Preserve. Melba Armstrong will lead the two-mile Flintridge Loop hike that begins at Flintridge Drive and loops back through the forest. The trail takes the high road through the floodplain and alongside Bedias Lake. The preserve is a part of the Spring Creek Greenway which connects and protects up to 12,000 acres of forest on both sides of Spring Creek. The trailhead is located at 5171 Flintridge Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

On **Monday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m.**, we will carpool from the parking lot on Barryknoll across from the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City.

Please RSVP to Melba (armstrong.melba@comcast.net) if you plan to hike with us.

Gourmet Dining - Classic and Nouveau Combined

Please join us for the first Gourmet dinner of the 2022-23 year - California Dreamin' with Classic Gourmet

Avocados, asparagus, and artichokes! Oh, my! Enjoy the abundance of the Golden State's great variety of delectable foods with recipes from favorite and famed eateries. Join us for a delightful meal and socializing on **Saturday, September 10th at 6:00 p.m.** Hosts: Kris Bybee-Finley and Howard Finley, 15914 Fleetwood Oaks Dr., 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com - Please RSVP ASAP.



Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, September 7, 1:00 p.m. The Paris House by Alex George at La Madeleine 1001 Westheimer Road for lunch and discussion. Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445 ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, September 7, 1:00 p.m. Red Sky at Morning by Richard Bradford. The group will meet at home of Sue Phipps, 6336 Woodway Dr., Unit 1905. For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940, spope576@gmail.com)

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, September 12, 1:30 p.m. We will meet by Zoom this month. Pat Dach will lead us in The Three Cornered War by Megan Kate Nelson. Please email Nancy Guilloud nanguilloud@aol.com or Nancy Gusler, ntgusler@gmail.com to be put on the contact list or if you have any questions.

Evening Contemporary Literature

This group is not meeting in September. The next meeting will be on **Monday, October 3, 5:00 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant. The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles will be discussed. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com.

Mystery Book Club

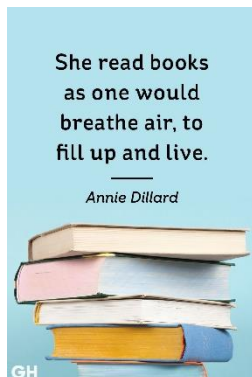
Tuesday, September 20, 1:30 p.m.
A Necessary Evil by Abir Mukherjee
Leader and hostess: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Ct., Katy, TX 77494
Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net

Outstanding Literature

Tuesday, September 13, 9:30 a.m. House of The Spirits by Isabel Allende. We will meet at La Madeleine, The Wine Cave, 10001 Westheimer Road. Coordinator Leigh Rappole 281-596-0161 leighrap@aol.com, Co-Coordinator Barbara Butler, 713-304-0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net

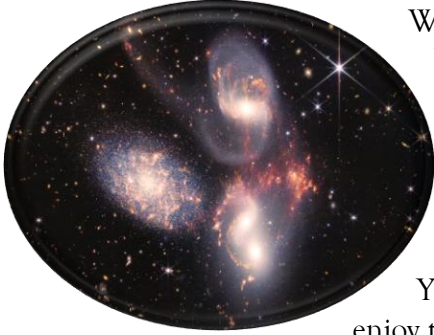
Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, September 22 at 2:30 p.m.
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
Discussion Leader – Marie Helmy
The Zoom Eclectic Book Group meets by Zoom. We welcome all members and guests. You may come for just one book or the entire year. For a Zoom invitation, please email Carolyn Morris at morriscarolyn16@gmail.com
Join us for the lively conversation and friendly faces.



WISE - Women Interested in STEM Education

Our first WISE activity this year will be a coffee at Rose Ennis' house on **Monday September 12th at 10:00 a.m.** We will discuss the book [Astrophysics for People in a Hurry](#) by Neil deGrasse Tyson. Please join us even if you have not read the book.



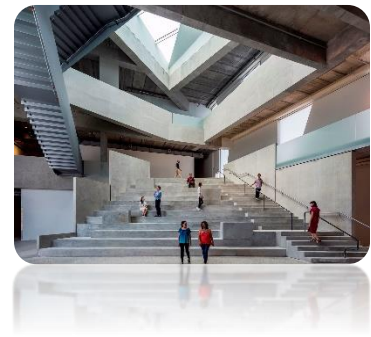
What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson. Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day.

You do not need an iota of prior knowledge in Physics or Astronomy to enjoy this book cover to cover. All you need is the curiosity that you once had as a kid when you were gazing at starry nights. And imagine how the James Webb telescope will help answer questions about how planets, stars, galaxies, and ultimately the universe itself, are formed.

WISE is a group where you can invite others to pair with you on events or activities. Just email the group and see who wants to join you. We share current research, outreach and advocacy related to science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science. Email knorth@me.com if you are interested in joining. Please email Rose Ennis roseleeennis@gmail.com if you would like to come to the coffee.

Culture Group

The Cultural Group Tour season opens with a first time visit to the Glassell School of Art on **Thursday, September 29th**. Mark your calendars! Located in a spectacular new building in the Museum District, we will meet with Dean Patrick Palmer who will show us around and share the school's mission and vision. June Huber, a student at the art school, will also be with us to share her personal story and art journey and her art.



Heading outside, we will have ample time to explore the rooftop garden, Anish Kapoor's monumental "Cloud Column" (our version of Chicago's Bean) and the Lillie and Hugh Roy Sculpture Garden. We'll enjoy a casual lunch next door at the Museum of Fine Art's Café Leonelli at your own expense before heading back to the bus for the ride home.

If you want to join us for this artsy outing, please meet our Precinct Bus at Memorial City, 12161 Barryknoll Lane. The bus will leave promptly at **9:30 a.m.** Contact Rose Ennis to reserve a seat roseleeennis@gmail.com or -281-755-6483. This art adventure comes with a \$1 cost for the driver's lunch, so a great outing on a budget.

Garden Divas

The Divas **September 6** outing will be at Moonflower Farms. Hydroponics and sustainable city farming are the future. Our current food systems are vastly inefficient and create food waste, rampant pesticide use, transport emissions, and agriculture runoff. Moonflower Farms believes in growing food in the city, for the city. They provide communities year-round access to safe, high-quality produce with as little environmental impact as possible.



Moonflower Farms was started in 2016, and was the first indoor vertical farm in Houston Texas. By 2019, they moved into a state of the art 20,000 square foot hydroponic greenhouse. They are currently expanding rapidly in the Houston market with a goal of leading cities to transition into sustainable city farming.

The tour has a charge of \$12 per person but provides each person with a MicroGreen GroKit and a 2-hour presentation of their hydroponic farm. This includes an overview of hydroponics, work they are doing with NASA and MD Anderson, and tour of the farm, honeybees, and overview of their rainwater collection system.

We will meet at the Memorial City Mall parking lot on **Tuesday, September 6 at 9:00 a.m.** to carpool. Lunch plans are at Marina Seafood Kitchen, 11229 Fuqua Street. Please email Susan Boone – smboone@gmail.com if you are interested in this trip.

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com

Byway Birders

By Way Birders will travel to Smith Point on **Saturday, September 24th.** The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) has a 30-foot tower there during this peak fall migration period where we hope to see thousands of raptors migrating through to Mexico, Central America, and South America. From there we will drive to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to eat a picnic lunch and continue birding.

We will meet and carpool from the Barryknoll parking lot across the street from the Cinemark theater at 8:15 AM. Bring a lunch, binoculars, hats, snacks, drinks, and bug spray.



Please contact Lou Fowler, mlfowler22@att.net or 713 206 1046 to RSVP or if you have questions. If you plan to meet us there please let Lou know.

Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers



After much thought, Diana Guarniere has decided to discontinue the Vicarious Voyagers interest group. For fourteen years, Rick Steves has been the inspiration and launching point for each gathering of the group. As of now, no new travel seasons have been released. This indicated to Diana that it is time for a change and open up opportunities for others to emerge to form and lead other types of travel groups for the branch. Thank you, Diana, for your many years of leadership of this very popular group. Is there anyone who would consider leading a new travel group?

Great Decisions

Great Decisions has three groups that meet **February through May**. The Spring 2023 Topics will be announced in September or October. Check future newsletters for further information. The Thursday Afternoon Great Decisions Group meets the first and third Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Coordinator, Martha Ewell, tel. 713-782-2084. The Tuesday Afternoon Group meets the first and third Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information please contact Coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-466-7995 or pthom2@bcglobal.net. The Wednesday Evening Group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays, 7: p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For further information please contact Coordinator, Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com



Wine, Women & Wisdom activity group is in need of a new coordinator. This group meets to enjoy beverages and enlightened conversation. In the past, the group has met at McCormick & Schmick, City Center from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. but any changes would be acceptable in order to keep the activity going. Please contact Sharon Jorgeson at jorgesonaauw.com if you are interested in coordinating this fun and popular group.



Bridge

We now have only one branch bridge group. If you would like to start a group with some of your AAUW friends please let me know so your group can be included in the newsletter.

jorgesonaauw@gmail.com.

Third Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Contact Coordinator Peg McNealy 281-679-7299 or peg525@gmail.com to join the group as a substitute.

Bernice Hotman	Sept 02
Misako Ajouz	Sept 04
Helen Maher	Sept 04
Laura Cahill	Sept 10
Susan Boone	Sept 11
Dorothy Harrison	Sep 12
Martha Ewell	Sep 14
Susan Hertz	Sep 15
Stephanie Prebula	Sept 15
Noreen Smith	Sept 19
Georgia Kimmel	Sept 22
Jerry Morgan	Sept 22
JeannenWolbert	Sept 25
Helen Santire	Sept 28

