



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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December 2022 Newsletter

Issue 4

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January, 2023 Deadline:

December 15, 2022

Stay informed

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

See you at the Party!

December 4th at Carrabba's



These are our meeting dates for 2023. The dates are all on Saturdays. We will meet at Tracy Gee Community Center. Please mark your calendars!

- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20 – This depends on fashion show scheduling
- September 23
- October 21
- November 18

Details regarding our upcoming speakers will be in the next newsletter! Wishing everyone happy holidays and best wishes to all for 2023!

*Lillian Care
Program Director*

Save the Date! January 21

In January, 2023, our speaker will Helen Mann, retired Vice Consul for Press and Public Affairs at the British Consulate in Houston. Helen served in her post for 30 years before retiring in 2004. She continues to live in Houston as Houston is ‘home’ now.

Helen will talk to us about her “Thirty Years of Royal Visits” where she was instrumental in making arrangements for visits to Texas by the British Royal Family. She will share some behind the scenes stories and maybe even tell us about a mishap or two!



Dear West Harris County Members,



My mailbox is now filled with catalogues instead of political advertisements, which means the election season is officially over and the holiday season has begun! Even though the candidates' ads have stopped for now, the issues that drove us to the polls are still with us, as our Public Policy chair, Georgia Kimmel, and her colleagues remind us in each AAUW-WHC newsletter. So, while we all enjoy the celebrations and festivities of the season, let's not forget to continue to stay informed and active!



I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our Holiday Party on December 4th at Carrabba's, which will be our last "official" chance to be together this year. Be sure to mark Saturday, January 21st on your new 2023 calendars for our next branch meeting at the Tracy Gee Center!

Happy Holidays to you, with all good wishes for a peaceful, healthful, and equitable new year!

Anne Amador, President

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship – What's New with Our Scholarships

Great News! Last year three girls received \$2,000 scholarships. This year we will give three \$3,000.00 college STEM scholarships to deserving girls from our area school districts. This raises the money donated by our branch from \$6,000 to \$9,000.



So far, 13% of our members have donated to the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund. The scholarship board set a 2022-23 goal of 25% of the WHC membership taking ownership in the scholarships by donating to the fund. In this fund drive, members have contributed \$3,000 to cover the cost of one scholarship. \$3,000 from the donation made by Pat and Leon Thomsen will cover the second scholarship. Can you help cover the cost of the third scholarship so we do not have to dip into savings?

Looking back at our Expanding Your Horizons in Mathematics and Science conferences for Middle School girls, nearly everyone in our branch contributed their time and support to the endeavor. Times have changed. There are more STEM/STEAM events available to girls in middle school and high school. Our focus has changed. We have wonderful scholarships started in 1994 by the West Harris County Branch in memory of Arlene Baker's and Carol Telfer's sons.

Our branch needs an outreach program in which all can participate. We have the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarships that will fill this bill. Can you help meet the goal of 25% membership participation in the fund?

An early 2023 luncheon is being planned to celebrate our scholarship and the AAUW National Fund drives. Thanks go to former Funds Vice President, Susan Dunten, and last year's luncheon underwriters: Rose Ennis, Susan Boone, and Karen North for starting the tradition of celebrating our scholarship and AAUW Funds outreach efforts.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the luncheon!

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Board



West Harris County Branch AAUW cordially invites you to *NOT* attend

Home Alone Fall Ball

October through December 2022

Don't worry about a costume. Don't contend with Houston's anxiety-producing traffic. Sit back, relax, and munch on an apple in front of the TV as you watch a scary movie. No bobbing for that apple. And leave the makeup and outfit to suit the imagination to the professionals. No need to travel. No-cost entertainment.

Now use those savings to support AAUW's mission to make life more livable for women and girls.

Supporting Our National Mission by credit card (preferred) remains fast, convenient, and safe. To help WHC stay on state leaderboards while supporting our national mission, simply **follow the steps at westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/funds/:**



TL;DR ① go to aauw.org and log in, ② in the left menu click on **My Affiliations**, confirm that **West Harris County** is your **Primary Branch**, ③ click the big red **DONATE** button, and ④ continue with your donation.

⑤ **Important** Next to **Additional Emails**, please enter **aauw.whc.funds@gmail.com**. This copies WHC board members Debbie Campbell and Diane Statham on your receipt email (but does not share your credit card info).

Click for Step-by-Step Instructions

For help with the instructions on the [WHC website](https://westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net) linked above, or to donate to AAUW National Funds by check, contact Debbie or Diane.

Supporting Local Scholarships for Houston area high school senior girls pursuing college studies in a STEM field is also easy. Just make your check payable to **Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund** and mail to WHC board member **Carolyn Morris** at 11159 Riverview Way Houston TX 77042-7309.

Or, save time and effort by donating immediately through **Zelle** to thomsenbakertelferscholarship@gmail.com.

To read more about our local STEM scholarships, visit the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer page on the WHC website at westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/about/scholarships/.

Donations are tax deductible, but please note that donations to National (managed by AAUW in Washington, D.C., and facilitated locally) are completely separate from donations to our Thomsen-Baker-Telfer scholarship Fund (managed locally).



Public Policy

ABORTION ACCESS: A Reproductive Health Care Issue

The Houston Chronicle reported on October 4 that doctors are struggling with determining when a situation is legally eligible for an abortion. About 8% of pregnancies have complications that may require such decisions. The Texas Medical Association has requested that the state medical board step in to provide clarification. In addition to complex medical considerations, doctors must factor in the likelihood of legal ramifications that may lead to their arrest and imprisonment in addition to the loss of their medical licenses.

The New York Times reports that a nationwide ban on abortion can worsen already poor maternal health outcomes. The United States is now ranked at the bottom for maternal health outcomes compared to all developed nations.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, by providing comprehensive medical care, they must ensure that all patients can access the full spectrum of maternal, sexual, and reproductive health care options, including abortion. People should be entitled to unimpeded access to all medical care to support their health, safety, and well-being.

These details support this perspective:

- **There is a broad medical consensus that abortion is an essential part of reproductive health care.**
- **Abortion is a common medical intervention that improves the lives, health, and well-being of those who need it. Roughly one-quarter of women in the United States access abortion care in their lifetime.**
- **Restricting access to abortion forces some pregnant women to continue their pregnancies to delivery, leaving them to face the many health risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth. This includes the emergence of new complications associated with pregnancy and worsening of existing conditions.**
- **Barriers limiting abortion access most profoundly affect communities that already face health care and social inequities. For example, black women face a maternal mortality rate that is three times higher than that of white women**
- **Abortion care is among the safest medical interventions, but the associated rate of complications increases as the pregnancy progresses. Laws requiring waiting periods, multiple visits, and other barriers to accessing abortion in a timely manner increase risk and threaten patient safety. Lack of abortion access has a significant impact on mental health. Evidence suggests that people are more likely to experience psychological problems, including depression and anxiety, when denied an abortion.**
- **Like all medical matters, decisions regarding abortion should be made only by patients in consultation with their physicians and health care professionals. This issue is fundamentally about personal privacy.**
- **Abortion bans and other restrictions violate long-established and widely accepted medical ethical principles of beneficence, nonmaleficence, and respect for patient autonomy.**
- **The vast majority of abortions are safely performed in outpatient nonhospital settings. The risk of maternal death associated with childbirth is approximately 14 times higher than the risk associated with abortion.**
- **Only about 2% of women who undergo abortion experience a complication associated with the abortion, and most complications are minor and easily treatable with follow-up procedures or antibiotics.**

- Abortion is safer than many common medical procedures. The risk of complication or mortality from abortion is less than the same risk from common procedures like wisdom tooth removal, cancer-screening colonoscopy, and plastic surgery.

In an article dated December 13, 2021—Ana Langer, professor of the practice of public health and coordinator of the Women and Health Initiative at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, wrote about the negative aspects of limiting abortion access.

- When the Supreme Court overturned, Roe, abortion would remain legal in some states and could immediately be illegal or restricted in others. Refer to the Interactive Map: US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe found at <https://states.guttmacher.org/policies/> for the most current information on abortion access by state.
- Millions of people are being forced to travel to receive legal abortion care, something that may be impossible for many due to a range of financial and logistical reasons.
- Restricting women’s access to safe and legal abortion services does result in fewer abortions. Instead, restrictions compel women to risk their lives and health by seeking out unsafe abortion care, i.e., “back alley” abortions.
- According to the World Health Organization, worldwide 23,000 women die from unsafe abortions each year and tens of thousands more experience significant health complications globally. A recent study estimated that banning abortion in the U.S. would lead to a 21% increase in the number of pregnancy-related deaths overall and a 33% increase among Black women, simply because staying pregnant is more dangerous than having a legal abortion. Increased deaths due to unsafe abortions or attempted abortions would be in addition to these estimates.
- Numerous international and regional human rights treaties and national-level constitutions around the world protect the right to safe and legal abortion as a fundamental human right. Human rights bodies have repeatedly condemned restrictive abortion laws as being incompatible with human rights norms.

A supportive legal framework for abortion care is critical. However, for universal access to become a reality, policies that cover the cost of abortion care and its integration into the health care system, in addition to societal measures that destigmatize the procedure, are needed.

Diane Statham



OCTOBER 2022 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys



The Hiking Honeys will not hike in December. Our next hike will be on **January 6** at Hermann Park.

Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined



The Gourmet group does not meet in December. Please join us in **January** for a dinner at Laura Cahill's home featuring New Orleans seafood. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



Bridge

We currently have one bridge group. The group meets on **Third Thursday at 10:30 am**. Contact Coordinator Peg McNealy at 281-679-7299 or peg525@gmail.com to join the group as a substitute.

If you are interested in joining a new group and playing bridge on a regular basis, contact Sharon Jorgeson, 281-703-5939 or sjorgeson@gmail.com. Days and time to be determined later by those joining the group.



Byway Birders



Byway Birders will visit John Paul Landing Park and Bear Creek Park on **December 3 at 9:00 a.m.** There is an environmental center in the park and they have feeders. We should get good looks at the birds that winter in our part of Texas. We will lunch at a Mexican Restaurant or picnic depending on the weather, then more birding at

Bear Creek Park on Clay Rd. We will meet at the parking lot at 9950 Katy Hockley Rd. Please let Pat Dach know if you are joining the group. Patdach@gmail.com or 281-701-5846.



Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, December 7, 1:00 p.m. Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger 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, December 7th, 11:30 a.m. The Maid by Alka Joshi. Our group will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Brio's Italian Grille City Centre, 12808 Queensbury Lane, followed by book discussion. For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940, spope576@gmail.com) or Co-Coordinator, Cathy Urquhart, 832-454-5017.

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, December 12 at 1:30 p.m. We will discuss The Chancellor – Angela Merkel by Kati Marton. Cindy Hickok will be our leader and hostess. We will meet at Cindy's home on 523 Briar Path, 77079. Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, December 5th, 5:00 p.m. at Los Tios Restaurant. Thunder Dog by Michael Hingson and Susy Flory will be discussed. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com.

Mystery Book Club

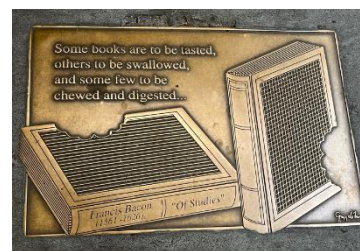
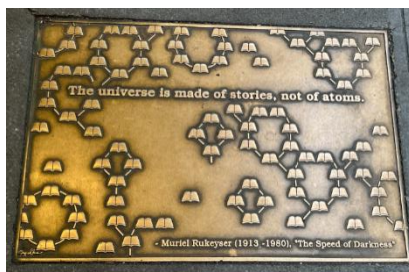
Tuesday, December 20, 1:30 p.m. Earthly Remains by Donna Leon
Leader: Pat Dach
Hostess: ZOOM
Contacts: Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net and Pat Pease popeace@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

The group will meet on **Tuesday, December 11, at 9:30 a.m.** at La Madeleine, 10001 Westheimer Rd. 77042 to enjoy breakfast and discuss Anne Bronte's second novel, Agnes Gray. Please note that this is a change from our printed schedule. Coordinator Leigh Rappole, lseighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m.
The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared By Jonas Jonasson
Discussion Leader – Carolyn Morris
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. Please email Carolyn Morris at morriscarolyn16@gmail.com for the Zoom invitation. Join us for the lively conversation and friendly faces.



Along Library Way on East 41st Street between Park Avenue and Fifth Avenue, the sidewalk is called Library Walk, a celebration of the world's great literature. In 1996, the New York Public Library, the Grand Central Partnership and the New Yorker Magazine convened a panel of esteemed lovers of the written word and came up with a collection of literary quotations. Photos by Kris Bybee-Finley during her NYC week in November, 2022.

Culture Group

Start Your Holidays with A Classic



“God Bless Us, Everyone!” Hear Tiny Tim utter these famous words in person on **December 3rd** when we attend the Alley Theatre’s award-winning production of Charles Dicken’s *A Christmas Carol*. This is an Alley favorite, so secure your ticket early by sending a check for \$23.00 to Barbara Butler, 13719 Carriage Walk Lane, Houston TX 77077 before November 23rd. We will be leaving from our usual spot at Memorial City Mall on the **Precinct 3 bus at 1:15 p.m.** for the 2:30 matinee performance. Don’t be a Scrooge and get left out. Let this be a wonderful start to your holiday season. Contact Barbara Butler at barbarabutler1959@att.net if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE - Start the New Year with Something New!

We begin the new year with AAUW's Cultural venture to MFAH's Nancy and Rich Kinder Building on **Wednesday, January 25th**. We will have lunch at Cafe Leonelli on the MFAH campus and then have docent guided tours through the museum's newest exhibit galleries.



The Kinder is a stunning architectural treasure exhibiting MFAH's international collection of modern and contemporary art. Cost of the trip is \$19. Lunch is on your own.

Leaders of this Cultural Activity are AAUW members, Gail Rickey and Cynthia Wier, both of whom are MFAH docents. To reserve a spot for this destination, please send your check for \$19 to Gail Rickey at 13114 Holston Hills Drive, Houston, 77069, payable to Gail. Details to follow in the January newsletter.

WISE - Women Interested in STEM Education

Let's celebrate CS Education Week Dec 5-11

Our WISE idea is to SIT and SURF from the comforts of your home and visit the website below to explore and enjoy Computer Science Education Week. It is interesting to see the work being done by Computer Science Heroes around the country such as Naba, and how they are touching the lives of so many with their research.

<https://www.csedweek.org/>

<https://www.csedweek.org/cs-heroes-2022>



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. 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. Women [only earn 18%](#) of computer science bachelor’s degrees in the United States. Despite the high job demand, computer science remains a male-dominated field.

Contact Rose Ennis or Karen North to join our WISE group.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions has three groups that meet February through May. 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 patthom2@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. Please contact one of the coordinators to be placed on their contact list and to order the reading materials USED IN THE discussions.

Garden Divas



Variegated Peruvian lily - Alstroemeria psittacina

The Garden Divas will travel to Rosenberg Texas to visit the **Caldwell Nursery** - 2436 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Unfortunately, they are closed on Tuesdays. We have the visit scheduled for **Wednesday, December 7**. The nursery is a family-owned plant nursery located just 20 minutes from Houston out the Southwest Freeway. The nursery covers 6 acres with several large greenhouses housing tender and shade loving plants. They carry a huge selection of tropicals, trees, cacti, succulents, bamboo for Texas, bulbs, palms, ferns, herbs, native plants, orchids, roses, vegetables, variegated plants, books, calendars, chimes, seeds, garden art, garden supplies, garden tools, and wire baskets. Kenny Gutowsky has generously offered to show us around the six acres (with the resident cats!). The gift shop is well stocked with unique gifts and garden accessories. The number of unusual plants was very impressive.

Afterwards, we will eat in town at the **Ol' Railroad Cafe** - 1901 Avenue G Rosenberg, TX 77471. It is located inside the Vogelsang Antique Emporium in historic downtown Rosenberg. We can glean information about the building and history of the town as well as checking out the many quaint antique and novelty stores around the area.

Please let Susan Boone (smboone@gmail.com) know whether you are interested in attending this visit to Caldwell Nursery. Also, please note the date is **Wednesday, December 7**. We will carpool from the Memorial City parking lot just south of Barryknoll at **9:15 a.m.**

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com

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



New Members and Directory Additions

Margaret “Maggie” Chapman
 12810 Ashford Hills Drive, Houston TX 77077
 H: 281-493-4985
 C: 832-443-4364
mrsfrankchapman@gmail.com

Jennifer Gillespie-Malone
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 C: 713-899-5330
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Linda C. Griffen
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 H: (713) 681-1344
 Cl: 713-907-6181
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**San Felipe de Austin
 Culture Tour Group Photo**