



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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May 2023 Newsletter

Issue 10

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June, 2023 Deadline:

May 15, 2023

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH

Talbots Private Style Show

Benefiting women and girls around the nation

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Talbots Town & Country

660 West Sam Houston Parkway North

Enjoy

Light Refreshments - 30% Discount on Purchases

Style Show with AAUW Models - Talbots Gift Basket Raffle

\$25 per person* during April, \$30 per person* during May

*At no extra charge, each paying WHC member may bring one potential new branch member, that is, a guest who has never been a WHC member before. Let's help build our membership!

To purchase tickets, go to aauw.org, click Log In, click Donate, choose the fund you wish to support (for example, Greatest Needs), and complete your donation. Next...

To reserve your seat(s), please email your receipt from your aauw.org donation to aauw.debbie.campbell@gmail.com, including the names of your guests.

Optional - Catch a preview at the free Talbots Trunk Show

Thursday, April 27, at 11 am

RSVP to Talbots General Manager Chu Nguyen
at chieuanh.nguyen@talbots.com

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY JUNE LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
See details on page 6.



Dear West Harris County Members,



With our branch's Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship in mind, I'm currently taking a class on College Financial Aid from Rice University. This is my third course (out of seven) towards a College Admissions Counselling certificate, which I hope might translate into some type of college advising program that our branch can offer to high school students in the future. One surprising fact I've learned in this course is that many local scholarships go unfilled each year for a lack of applicants! Fortunately, we haven't encountered that problem with the TBT

Scholarships, but I'd like to brainstorm ways we can advertise our scholarship more widely in the future. That said, I'm very excited to help review this year's applications soon!

Two dates for you to put on your calendars: **May 7th** is the Style Show fundraiser at Talbots, with fabulous WHC members serving as models; and **June 10th** is the Spring Luncheon at the Lakeside Country Club, where we install our new officers and honor our Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship winners. More information about these events is in the newsletter – I hope to see you at one or both!

One more FYI: You should be receiving renewal emails from National AAUW now, and I hope you will reply quickly and renew for next year! We have a wonderful slate of officers ready to take over the branch leadership next year, and I'm told that members who renew in a timely manner will receive a free one-year subscription to MS. magazine as a bonus! So check your email, and I look forward to our future together at AAUW-WHC!

Anne Amador, President

Membership

Invite someone new to be a part of AAUW-West Harris County Branch (WHC)!

May is a perfect month to introduce someone new to WHC and our varied means of supporting national and local programs. WHC's Style Show at Talbot's is a great way to support National's programs. Buying a ticket for yourself and bringing a potential member for free is a double win! Those who become members can also attend WHC's June Luncheon where three scholarships of \$3000.00 each will be presented to young women graduating from Alief, Houston and Spring Branch ISD's and pursuing college degrees in STEM fields. Bring a friend to the Style Show to help support WHC's worthy fundraising and to have an opportunity to see, and purchase, the latest Spring fashions!



Carolyn Stoffel, Membership Vice-President

Dues

It is that time of year again! Membership renewal dues for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are payable in June. Dues are delinquent if not paid by July 31st.

There is an increase of \$5 and the renewal amount is \$96. This amount includes state and branch dues. Please pay online if you can and **do not pay before June 1st** so that your expiration dates are consistent with the fiscal year.



If you cannot pay online, please mail a check made payable to AAUW for \$96 to me at [22223 Coriander Drive Katy, TX 77450](mailto:22223.Coriander.Drive.Katy.TX.77450).

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Board will be meeting soon to select the three recipients of this year's scholarship. Here is an update from last year's winners.



Michelle Liang

Hello, my name is Michelle Liang, and I was awarded a Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship in the past. I'm thankful that I received this scholarship since it has helped me in many ways. I was able to afford the materials and books required for my first year at the University of Houston solely because of the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer scholarship. I was able to enjoy college life, concentrate on my academics, and make new friends as I embarked on this new journey. The University of Houston is extremely diverse, and it let me see a larger world than I had ever known before. I hope that more people will continue to support the young individuals in STEM fields who will change the world for a better future.

Michelle Liang



Summer Petrie

Texas State has had a lot of impact on me for it just being my first year! I get a taste of adulthood and the joys of learning more about the world around us academically and socially. I am majoring in anthropology and minoring in biology and thoroughly enjoying my time here at Texas State. –

Summer Petrie



Laurie Trevino

Being a student at Texas A&M University at Galveston has been such an amazing experience for me. From the moment I arrived on campus, I felt a sense of community with my fellow students and faculty, which has made the transition to college much smoother. Additionally, the organizations and events I have been involved in, such as SPROUT (a gardening club), and baking club, have allowed me to make lifelong connections. I am happy to say that I have made friends that I will keep for the rest of my life, and they have truly made this experience so much better, I play board games with them all the time and they are really fun. Throughout the year, I have also participated in service projects, such as Big Event, as a way to give back to my community. While the classes are difficult, I am able to study with my friends as well as ask teachers questions

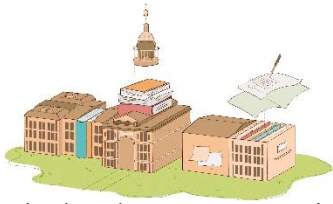
when I need to, which is why I am so thankful for the small class sizes here. And the location is amazing, even though the mosquitoes are bad, it is beautiful to always be on the beach.

Overall, my time at A&M Galveston has been transformative, and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend such a wonderful institution. I am so appreciative of being a recipient of the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship. It has eased the financial burden of college and allowed me to focus on my studies and my college experience. Thank you again for all that you do.

Laurie Trevino

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Board

Legislative Update: Bills on the Move



How is our lobbyist assisting our AAUW Texas Public Policy efforts? Our lobbyist provides the AAUW Texas Legislative Advisory Committee with a bill tract list and recommends action on the bills. The full list has over 200 bills on it based on the five priority issues: Women's Health and Reproductive Choice, Gun safety and Reduction in Gun Violence, Voting Rights and Election Law, Public Education, and Equal Pay.

The legislative session is holding many committee meetings and bills are being scheduled for votes. To become law a bill must pass both the Senate and the House and then be signed by the Governor.

What are some select bills that are on the move that the AAUW Texas Public Policy Advisory Committee is following? Listed here are bills with current stage in the process as of April 15, 2023, and our recommendation for AAUW member action.

Bill	Legislator	Subject	Status on April 15, 2023	Position
HB 12	Rose, Toni(D)	Relating to the duration of services provided under Medicaid to women following a pregnancy.	<i>Passed/reported out by House Health Care Reform Committee for vote in House</i>	SUPPORT
HB 300	Howard, Donna(D)	Relating to an exemption from sales and use taxes for certain family care items.	<i>Passed in House. 3-30-23 Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Finance</i>	SUPPORT
HB 465	Thierry, Shawn(D)	Relating to a pilot program to provide Medicaid coverage of doula services.	<i>Passed/reported out of House Human Services committee for vote in House.</i>	SUPPORT
HB 600	Bonnen, Greg(R)	Relating to contributions to, benefits from, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	<i>Passed/reported out 4-10-23 by committee as substituted House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services to be voted on in the House.</i>	SUPPORT
HB 900	Patterson, Jared(R)	Relating to the regulation of books sold to or included in public school libraries. (Duplicate house bill 1655)	<i>Passed/reported out of House Library Committee to be voted on in the House.</i>	OPPOSE
HB 916	Ordaz, Claudia(D)	Relating to health benefit plan coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs.	<i>Passed/reported out of House Insurance Committee to be voted on in the House.</i>	SUPPORT
HB 1474	Guillen, Ryan(R)	Relating to protections for pregnant and parenting students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.	<i>4-13-23 Passed/reported out favorably from committee as substituted Higher Education to be voted on in the House.</i>	SUPPORT
HB 2780	Leach, Jeff(R)	Relating to the reporting of mental health and intellectual disability information with respect to certain children for purposes of a federal firearm background check.	<i>Left pending in Community Safety Select committee.</i>	SUPPORT
HB 3781	Jetton, Jacey(R)	Relating to special education in public schools, including the special education allotment under the Foundation School Program, an education savings account program for certain children with disabilities.	<i>4/11 Committee action pending House Public Education</i>	OPPOSE
HB 4340	Frank, James(R)	Relating to the establishment of the Education Savings Account Program to allow certain children to use public money to pursue educational alternatives to public schools and an insurance premium tax credit.	<i>Public Education Committee hearing 4-11-23 Committee action pending.</i>	OPPOSE
HJR 2	Bonnen, Greg(R)	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide one-time or ongoing benefit enhancements to eligible	<i>4-10-23 Reported from House committee as substituted House</i>	SUPPORT

		annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	<i>Pensions, Investments & Financial Service to be voted on in the House.</i>	
HJR 182	Harris, Cody(R)	Proposing a constitutional amendment regarding public free schools and prohibiting certain state regulation regarding private educational settings.	<i>Public Education Committee hearing 4-11-23 Committee action pending.</i>	SUPPORT
SB 2	Hughes, Bryan(R)	Relating to conduct constituting the criminal offense of illegal voting; increasing a criminal penalty.	<i>Passed in the Senate 4-10-23 Referred to House Committee on House Elections</i>	OPPOSE
SB 8	Creighton, Brandon(R)	Relating to public education, including parental rights and public school responsibilities regarding instructional materials and the establishment of an education savings account program.	<i>Passed in the Senate. 4/11/23 Received by the House.</i>	OPPOSE
SB 10	Huffman, Joan(R)	Relating to benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.	<i>Voted favorably from Finance and the House Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committees. To be voted on in the Senate.</i>	SUPPORT
SB 13	Paxton, Angela(R)	Relating to a school district's library materials and catalog, the creation of local school library advisory councils, and parental rights regarding public school library catalogs.	<i>Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education and passed by Senate 4-13-23.</i>	OPPOSE
SB 124	Alvarado, Carol(D)	Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women during and following a pregnancy.	<i>Referred to Health and Human Services Committee.</i>	SUPPORT
SB 134	West, Royce(D)	Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women after a pregnancy.	<i>Referred to Health and Human Services Committee.</i>	SUPPORT
SB 412	Paxton, Angela(R)	Relating to protections for pregnant and parenting students enrolled in public institutions of higher education.	<i>Passed Senate. Received in the House. 4-12-23 Referred to House Committee on Higher Education.</i>	SUPPORT
SB 459	Paxton, Angela(R)	Relating to early registration for parenting students at public institutions of higher education.	<i>Passed the Senate. Received in the House. 4-12-23 Referred to House Committee on Higher Education</i>	SUPPORT
SB 728	Huffman, Joan(R)	Relating to the reporting of mental health and intellectual disability information with respect to certain children for purposes of a federal firearm background check.	<i>Passed in the Senate Received in the House. 4-10-23 Referred to House Committee on House Select on Community Safety</i>	SUPPORT

How can I follow these bills? Track these and other bills on the [Texas Legislature Online](#) website (TLO).

How can I make a difference? Members are encouraged to get involved by contacting your legislator's office in person, by calling or by emailing to voice your support or opposition of specific pending legislation.

When does the 88th Legislative Session end? May 29, 2023. Refer to [Deadline Action Calendar](#) or to [Dates of Interest for other dates.](#) The Governor can call special legislative sessions addressing specific issues after the 88th Session ends.

Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair



VOTE!



ELECTION SCHEDULE

May 6, 2023
Joint Elections



Last Day to Register to Vote
April 6



Early Voting by Personal Appearance
April 24 - May 2



Last Day to Apply for a Mail Ballot
April 25



Election Day
May 6

These elections include school boards, mayors, and city councils. You may vote with a valid ID at any polling location in your county of residence. You are encouraged to research candidates and bond issues. School boards and city council's decisions and actions affect our everyday lives and our community.

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY JUNE LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lakeside Country Club
100 Wilcrest Drive, Houston, TX 77042



Lunch will be buffet style and the cost per person will be USD 35.00.



We will be honoring the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Fund Scholarship awardees and installing our newly elected West Harris County Branch officers.

Our speaker will be renowned neurologist Dr. Reeta Achari.

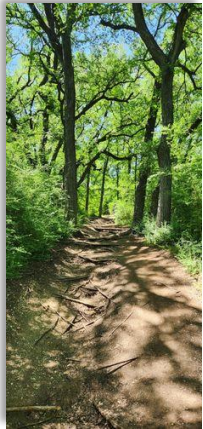
**WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT**

MAY 2023 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

To all Activity Leaders and Members: Please send several photos of your outings to show everyone your interests and passions from the past year for the "End of Year" newsletter. aauwwhcnews@gmail.com

Hiking Honeys



The Hiking Honeys will return to Brazos Bend State Park on **Thursday, May 18**. The trails in the park are varied and are all rated moderate. Melba Armstrong will lead this hike and will select the trail or combined trails on which we will venture out. There is a \$5 entry fee for the park, but if you have a State Park card, the fee is \$3. We will picnic in the park for lunch at one of the picnic areas.

We will carpool from the Barryknoll Street lot across from Memorial City Mall leaving at **9:00 a.m.** For those wishing to drive directly to the park, the address is 21901 FM 762, Needville, 77461 (979-553-5101.) Millie Hast at 713-663-7003 or milliehast@gmail.com is an option for those who live within Loop-610 to arrange carpooling. If you prefer to drive yourself to the park, plan to arrive there at **10:00 a.m.**

Please contact Melba Armstrong at 832-778-9467 or Armstrong.melba@comcast.net if you plan to attend. Let her know which transportation option you will use.

Byway Birders - Bear Creek Park, **May 20th**

The group will meet in the park at **9:00 a.m.** at 3535 War Memorial Drive at the parking lot near the tennis courts. The wildlife habitat located in the park consists of a duck and goose pond, an aviary, and exhibits of various birds of prey, peacocks, and emus. There are several nature trails within the park. After birding, the group will have lunch at a nearby restaurant.



Diana Tiberia will be leading this trip. Please let Diana know if you plan on joining the group. You may email her at dltiberia@att.net or call 832-866-8411.

Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

Please join us **Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm** for a dinner of featuring "Favorite Chinese Take Out Dishes." Our host will be Ed Alami. Bring dinner and your ideas and themes for next year. If you have questions, please contact the coordinators: Barbara Cook at 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley at 304-610-8708.



Book Groups

Book Club Leaders: Please take a celebratory "End of Year" photo of your book club meetings. Screen shots of Zoom meetings are welcome as well. We want to celebrate your literary accomplishments. aauwwhcnews@gmail.com or text your photos to Kris at 304-610-8708.

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. Lunch, 1:30 p.m.

Discussion begins Under the Wide and Starry Sky by Nancy Horn at La Madeleine (back room) 1001 Westheimer Road. Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445 ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. The Rent Collector by Camron Wright. The group will meet at the MDUMC West Campus, 13186 Memorial Drive, Room 462, in the TJ Maxx shopping center. For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940).

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. We will discuss The Narrow Corridor by D. Acemoglu and J. Robinson. Sheila Jaynes will be our leader. We will meet at Tracy Gee Community Center in the Library 3599 Westcenter Dr. Houston 77042. Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, May 1, 5:00 p.m. at Los Tios Restaurant. Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Grace Katz. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com.



Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.

The Maid by Nita Prose, Leader: Pat Pease
Where: Tracy Gee Community Center - Library
Contacts: Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net and Pat Pease popease@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

The group will meet on **Tuesday, May 9, at 9:30 a.m.** We will have an excellent breakfast and a discussion of The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson, lead by Marietta Hostak. Our meetings happen at La Madeleine, Carillon, The Wine Cave, 10001 Westheimer Road. Welcome to all new members and previous members!

You know our motto, "We love our books, and we love our laughs!" Coordinator Leigh Rappole, lseighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161. Call or email Leigh if you don't have Joan's pamphlet of the Donne poems.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, April 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Discussion Leader – Martha Ewell

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.



Culture Group

We invite you to embark on a 90-minute evening pontoon boat tour **Friday, May 19th** from downtown Houston on Buffalo Bayou Partnership's Waugh Bridge Bat Colony Pontoon Boat Tours. Once you take to the water, you'll experience an amazing and unique view of both Downtown Houston and Waugh Bridge as more than 250,000 Mexican Free-Tailed bats take to the sky.

Led by a knowledgeable guide, you will learn about Houston's magnificent flying mammals as seen from the water. You'll learn how a bat sleeps, how much a bat can eat in one hour, and how it contributes to the ecosystem.



We will be riding on a Precinct 4 bus for this trip. Please NOTE different BUS Location for this outing only. The bus will meet us at the Walmart Supercenter parking lot 10750 Westview Dr. and leave promptly at **6:15 p.m.** We plan to return before 10:00 p.m. If you prefer to meet us at the boat, the address is 1019 Commerce Street (at Main Street near Allen's Landing). Go down the cascading stairs (on your left of the 3-story brown brick building). The boat will be docked at the wharf. Launch is at **7:25pm**. Parking is available on Commerce Street and nearby side streets and garages and is free after 6pm. Space is limited to the first 21 paid participants, so reserve your seat now on this first ever outing. Send your check for \$27 payable to Susan Boone, preferred phone number, and an emergency contact to 2919 Kevin LN, Houston, TX 77043 or use Venmo.

Music Festival SAVE THE DATE – **Saturday, June 24th**



AAUW is going back to the Texas Music Festival at Moore's School of Music this summer as the last of the cultural activities for the season. The festival is always a wonderful event at University of Houston. We will meet our Precinct 3 bus at the reserved parking area at the Memorial City Mall at **4:30 p.m.** Dinner will be at Lorenzo's Restaurant at 4412 Washington Ave. If you are not riding the bus, let me know if you wish to join us there. After dinner, we will ride to the festival on the campus. Your check for \$10 will be your reservation for the concert, probably returning around **10:30 p.m.** Please mail your check to Linda Morgan, 11934 Riverview Dr., Houston, TX 77077.

WISE - Women Interested in STEM Education



Our WISE group will be reflecting on this year's programs and generating new ideas for 2023-2024 over the next few months. Feel free to submit ideas for books, speakers, and tours related to STEM that we might consider.

The first fall event will be announced in the August newsletter. Stay tuned and enjoy the summer ahead!

Karen North, Carolyn Morris, and Rose Ennis

Great Decisions

First and Third Thursday Afternoon Group

The Great Decisions First and Third Thursday afternoon group will meet **May 4, 2023**, from **2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** to discuss "Iran at a Crossroads," and on **May 18, 2023**, to discuss "Climate Migration." If interested in further information and details, please contact group coordinator, Martha Ewell, (tel.) 713-782-2084.



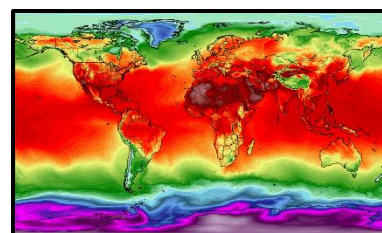
Inside the Loop Group



Great Decisions Inside the Loop meets every other Tuesday via ZOOM. On **May 2** the topic is "Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st century?" On **May 16** the topic is "Iran at a Crossroads". For more information contact Pat Thomsen at 713-302-8899 or Linda Marlin at 713-465-9466.

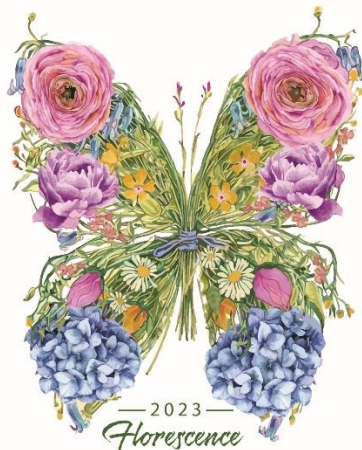
The Wednesday Evening Group

The Wednesday Evening Group Meets from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays via ZOOM. On **May 10th** the topic is "Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st century?" On **May 24th** the topic is "Iran at a Crossroads". Please contact coordinator Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com



Garden Divas – Check the date for this one

The Garden Divas' May plans happen in April! Rather than a group event, plan on a buddy day to the museum of Fine Arts on **April 26 or April 27**. Florescence is being presented by The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



Florescence is one of the largest competitive national flower shows sanctioned by The Garden Club of America in the United States. Florescence is presented by The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). Proceeds directly support Florescence's nonprofit sponsors: The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and the MFAH. Both garden clubs rely on Florescence proceeds to support their projects in gardens, parks, and green spaces throughout our community.

Wednesday, April 26 – Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Susan and Faye S. Sarofim Campus

The Audrey Jones Beck Building

5601 Main Street

Houston, Texas 77005

713-639-7300

mfah.org/visit/hours-and-admissions

To learn about more events during the Flower Show, flohouston.org

General Admission

Adult: \$19.00

Senior (65+): \$16

**The Museum is free for admissions on Thursday, with the exception of ticketed exhibitions. Florescence is not considered a ticketed exhibition and is free to view.*

Parking & Transportation Information

Visit: mfah.org/visit/parking

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 6 – Planning Session for 2023-2024

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

Bridge



Summertime 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.



Sharon Jorgeson May 12

Marylois Miller May 14

Marilyn Arendt May 16

Donna Harshman May 16

Irene Infante May 18

Mary Hilton May 19

Shari Mauthner May 22

Marilyn Watson May 23

Cheryl Smith May 25

Pamela Doan May 26

Edith Dunlop May 27

Susan Wilson May 28

YOUR AAUW-WHC BOARD MEMBERS AT WORK

