



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVII

June 2023 Newsletter

Issue 10

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September, 2023 Deadline:

August 15, 2023

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org



AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH

Annual June Luncheon and General Meeting

Thompsons-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Recipients

Saturday, June 10 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

KP's Kitchen, 8412 Interstate 10 Frontage Road

(Please note: new venue)

Celebrate The Future With Us!

Guest Speaker: Dr. Reeta Achari, Neurologist

Dr. Achari wasn't born in Texas, but she got here as soon as she could, thank her lucky stars. She received her BA in Biochemistry from Rice University and then earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History with a focus in filmmaking. The decision to choose medical school over film school was based on which profession allowed her to help people the most. Her practice is a scientific, evidence-based holistic approach to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with neurological issues. Dr. Achari is Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at McGovern Medical School.



Reservation form is on the next page.

Deadline for reservations: June 3rd

Reservation Form

Annual June Luncheon and General Meeting
Meet Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Recipients
Saturday, June 10, 2023. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Reeta Achari, Neurologist

KP's Kitchen, 8412 Interstate 10 Frontage Road, #350,
Spring Valley Village, TX 77024

1st Course: Shared Appetizer: /Brussels, French Toast & Spinach Dip

2nd Course /Choose One:

1. Pasta Rigatoni Alfredo
2. Roasted Chicken with Orzo & Spinach
3. Bistro Salmon with market vegetables

3rd Course/ Choose One:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Key Lime Tart | 2. Nanny's Cheese Cake |
| 3. Butter Cake. | 4. Apple-Pecan Crumble |

Tea/Coffee/Water Included

Alcoholic Beverages not included, but available.

RSVP by June 3rd with your check for \$35. and menu choices to:

Diana Tiberia, 22223 Coriander Drive, Katy, TX 77450

Make out checks to : AAUW-WHC

Cut or copy below reservation. One for each person attending.

Name: _____

Circle Your Choices

Entree Choices

1. Pasta Rigatoni Alfredo
2. Roasted Chicken with Orzo & Spinach
3. Bistro Salmon w/market vegetables

Dessert Choices

1. Key Lime Tart
2. Nanny's Cheese Cake
3. Butter Cake
4. Apple-Pecan Crumble

Dear West Harris County Members,

As my Branch President tenure is ending, I know AAUW-WHC will continue to grow even better and stronger under the leadership of incoming president Poupette Farnell. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your President, and I sincerely thank our wonderful and dedicated Board for making my job so much easier! I hope you'll be able to join me in welcoming our incoming officers and thanking the outgoing ones at our Spring Luncheon on June 10th at KP's Kitchen. In addition to the officer installation, the luncheon will introduce this year's Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship winners and feature a presentation by our guest speaker, Dr. Reeta Achari, all while serving us a delicious lunch! It's a win-win-win-win! See you there!



I've now finished my fourth class in the series of seven for the College Access Counselling Certificate at Rice University, with the idea that it might one day lead to a support program that our branch could provide to high school students. Your College Counselling fun fact for the month: last year \$3.6 billion in available Pell Grants went unawarded due to eligible students not filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)! Just think how much good our branch could do by showing high school students how and where to apply for grant and scholarship money! I'm starting to form some college counseling program ideas for us – come talk with me if you're interested!

Anne Amador, President

Membership/Dues

The AAUW/West Harris County membership for 2022-2023 will be coming to an end in June. RENEW, RENEW, RENEW! Go online to aauw.org and renew if possible or send check to Diana Tiberia (22223 Coriander Drive, Katy, TX 77450) after June 15th. The National dues are: \$72.00, State: \$13.00 and WHC: \$11.00 for a total of \$ 96.00 this year. **Dues MUST BE PAID by July 30** to be included in the West Harris County Directory. If you are a new member since July 2022, your dues expire on the anniversary of the month in which you joined. Any questions, please call me at 281-558-5666.



Please start talking to prospective members about joining. Our August New Member Coffee on **August 19** will be a great time to join or renew. Our June Luncheon for announcing the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Winners is June 10th at KP's Kitchen. Reservations are by check of \$35.00 with the menu form sent to Diana Tiberia. Hope to see you there!

Thank you.

Carolyn Stoffel, Membership Vice-President



New Members Coffee – Save the Date: August 19th



We will be gathering to welcome new members, potential members, former members, and current members at our Coffee in August. Mark your calendars for August 19th.

Be sure to send names of potential members to Carolyn Stoffel so that they receive personal invitations.



*Would you like to have your name published in a new book?
Would you like for your friends to look at your collegiate history and think,
“Wow! What a prestigious string of letters follows the name of my dear friend!
I am constantly in awe of her!”*

Well, this thrill can be yours with the 2023-24 edition of the award-winning, bestselling AAUW WHC Branch Directory! It's time to start compiling this coveted publication.

Have you moved? Are you going to move soon?



Have you changed your cell phone number or your email?
Dropped your land line?



If you have any changes or updates to last year's directory, please send them to:
Pam Doan (directory editor) pmfuller@swbell.net
and Mary Anderson (database manager) mande7707@hotmail.com

You, too, can be included by name in this blockbuster local hit!
Don't miss out!
Do it now!
(Actual results may vary. Void where prohibited.)

Funds - \$6 Million Reasons to Celebrate!



Last fall, we kicked off our national fundraising efforts with the message "***\$6 Million Reasons to Charge! Ahead,***" a reference to the \$6 million in grants and fellowships that AAUW provides to women around the world.

This month West Harris County fundraising finished the year with an awesome performance sure to stir the envy of other branches around the state and beyond. While other branches sometimes resort to labor-intensive fundraisers (as many of us can remember doing in past years), our fun-filled **May 7 Talbots Style Show generated almost \$1,800** for AAUW in Washington, D.C., with relatively minimal effort. Combined with our equally successful **Home Alone Fall Ball** non-event last October through December, we have surpassed the annual fundraising goal we set back in August!

Forty WHC members attended our spring style show and introduced **10 guests** to our dynamic branch. As an incentive to increase branch membership next year, there was no cost for potential new branch members to attend this event. **Almost 90% of supporters** reserved their seats by logging in to aauw.org and making a donation by credit card. This allowed donors to choose their preferred national fund and quickly get a receipt for their tax-deductible donation. Compared to 0% online participation in previous years, this was yet another proud accomplishment for WHC.

Cheryl Smith, Debbie Rossi, Diane Statham, Marie Helmy, Marietta Hostak, Mary Hilton, Miriam Vyles, Peg McNealy, Poupette Farnell, Rose Ennis, and Sharon Jorgeson rocked the runway as this year's style show models, representing only a small fraction of West Harris County's vibrant activity group community.

WHC members **Brenda Moss, Carolyn Morris, Debbie Campbell, Diane Statham, Mary Hilton, Sharon Jorgeson, Susan Boone**, and the **WHC Board** worked behind the scenes, making arrangements with Talbots, recruiting models, updating the guest list, and underwriting refreshments.

Once again, **Talbots General Manager Chu Nguyen and her team** provided a beautiful venue, expert support in styling the latest fashions, and emcees for the event, as well as 30% off our purchases, a generous gift bag to raffle off, and help with refreshments. **Mary Andersen** won the Talbots gift bag, which included several personal care items and a \$50 Talbots gift card! Many event-goers purchased their favorite fashion on the spot or returned later, when there was more time to try on pieces that caught their eye.

National uses our donations to support efforts that further our mission: economic security for women, fair pay, Title IX compliance, leadership development, and education and training are just a few examples.

Please take a moment to read about our nationally funded scholarships at www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/. And when it's time to update your wardrobe, don't hesitate to visit **Talbots and Talbots Woman** in Town & Country.

Fellowships & Grants

Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world.



Please see more photos at the end of this newsletter.

Next up, at the June luncheon **Diane Statham** and **Helen Santire** will become next year's AAUW Funds vice presidents. Equally important, the **Thomsen-Baker-Telfer team** will introduce the winners of our local high school student scholarships. Let's cheer them on in June and support them in the year ahead!

With gratitude,

2022-2023 AAUW Funds Vice Presidents Debbie Campbell & Diane Statham

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship

In the May newsletter, AAUW WHC members had the opportunity to read an update from the 2022 Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship winners. What an outstanding trio of college students! Aren't you eager to meet the awardees for 2023?



The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Selection Committee consists of Jan Kerekgyarto, Sharon Jorgeson, Shari Mauthner, Pamela Ossorio, and Anne Amador. May is our busiest time of year. We reviewed 11 applications from Alief ISD, 11 from SBISD, and 20 from HISD. Each application runs about 20 pages long. Thanks to this hardworking group! It's difficult to choose one high school senior woman from each district when everyone has such excellent qualifications.

Our three scholarship recipients will be announced on Saturday, June 10th at KP's Kitchen from 11:30-1:30. We are indebted to every AAUW member who has contributed to the scholarship fund. Come celebrate our Thomsen-Baker-Telfer supporters as well as the exemplary scholarship award winners at the Spring Luncheon.

*Janice Kerekgyarto
The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Board*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

During the 88th Texas Legislative session, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) has been in the news. DEI refers to the organizational framework that seeks to promote “the fair treatment and full participation of all people particularly groups who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination.” The Texas Senate passed SB 17, “prohibiting differential preference in institutions of higher education on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin to an applicant for employment, an employee, or a participant in any function of the institution. It also prohibits the institution, except when required by federal law, to establish or maintain a diversity, equity, and inclusion office.” SB 17 was voted out of the House’s Higher Education Committee allowing the bill to be voted in the House before the session ends on May 29th.

Various organizations including businesses, industry, and educational institutions have DEI policies. These organizations consider DEI when it comes to recruiting, hiring, advancement, and strategic decision making.

Kate McGee, Higher Education Reporter for *The Texas Tribune*, wrote: “Diversity, equity and inclusion offices have become a mainstay on college and university campuses across the country as schools try to boost faculty diversity and help students from all backgrounds succeed. Those who support their existence on college campuses argue the SB 17 legislation will make schools less welcoming places to work and study, turn back efforts to correct past discrimination and stall progress to make universities better reflect state demographics. Yet critics accuse DEI programs of pushing left-wing ideology onto students and faculty and of prioritizing social justice over merit and achievement.”



Each of us has our own interests, hobbies, and talents as well as different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. When we participate in diverse groups, we have opportunities to learn about and appreciate differences which can lead to an appreciation of other’s opinions and foster understanding. A well-balanced community will accept different opinions and have reduced fears towards differences. Diverse groups can foster creativity, innovation, empathy, and social cohesion

resulting in settings where individuals are supported, accepted, and have an opportunity to succeed.

In the 1800’s women were underrepresented and subjected to discrimination. AAUW has worked for equity for women since its inception. Today it continues that mission. According to the 2023-25 AAUW Public Policy Priorities introduction:

“The Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW’s mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The work of AAUW builds upon responsible public participation, and the following priorities provide a basis for AAUW members’ actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these priorities. We work to increase the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, income, gender, and sexual identity, in policy and other decision-making positions. Our positions are shaped by our commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity. We strive for our work to be inclusive and intersectional, collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to achieve equity for all.”

To learn basic definitions and facts about diversity, equity and inclusion refer to the AAUW “key terms concepts” section of the website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/key-terms-concepts/> and our Public Policies Priorities section at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>.

JUNE 2023 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys



The Hiking Honeys are taking a summer hiatus and will return in September 2023. Check the September newsletter for information. Hiking Honey Coordinators: Melba Armstrong armstrong.melba@comcast.net Sara Dalton dalton.sara@comcast.net.

Byway Birders

The birding group has no plans for June and will resume activities in September. Look in the September newsletter for upcoming birding outings.



Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined



The gourmet group does not meet during the summer. Our next dinner will be in September. Look in the September newsletter for information.

Culture Group

Culture Interest Group wraps up the season with the University of Houston Music Festival



Ladies, prepare yourself for more beautiful music from the Texas Music Festival at Moores School of Music on **Saturday, June 24**. The special program will be Berlioz: Le Corsaire Overture and Copeland: Symphony No. 3, with Andrew Grams conducting. The 2023 Cynthia Woods Mitchell/Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition Winner will also be announced.

This completes our 2023-23 season of cultural trips so we hope you will join us. We meet our Precinct 3 bus at the reserved parking area on Barryknoll at the Memorial City Mall at **4:30 p.m.** Dinner will be at Lorenzo's Restaurant at 4412 Washington Ave. at **5:00 p.m.** If you are not riding the bus, let me know if you wish to join us there. Your check for \$10 will be your reservation for this evening concert. We will be returning around 10:30 p.m. Please mail your check to Linda Morgan, 11934 Riverview Dr., Houston, TX. 77077, payable to Linda.

Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, June 7, 1:00 p.m. Lunch, 1:30 p.m.

Discussion begins for voting and selection of books for 2023-2024. La Madeleine (back room) 10001 Westheimer Road. Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445 ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Readers

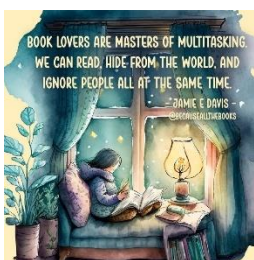
Wednesday, June 7, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. We will have lunch and our planning meeting for 2023-2024 at Fratelli's Restaurant, 1330 Wirt Road. Our plans for the rest of summer are to discuss Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, and The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope (713-376-0940).

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, June 12 at 1:30 p.m. we will meet to discuss and select the books for our new year. The meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Guilloud. Home address: 11110 Tupper Lake Drive, Houston, 77042 832-372-3773 Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Monday, June 5, 5:00 p.m. We will meet at Los Tios Restaurant. For our book selection meeting. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGSLIDE@gmail.com.



Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, June 20, 12:00 noon *Potluck salad lunch!*

Book Selection for 2023-2024. Where: Melba Armstrong, 22423 Tullis Trail Court, Katy 77494 Contacts: Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net and Pat Pease popease@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

The group will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 9:30 a.m. We will have an excellent breakfast and then we will follow our process to select books for September, 2023 to May, 2024. Our meetings happen at La Madeleine, Carillon, The Wine Cave, 10001 Westheimer Road.

To start the book selection process, everyone will make a small list of book suggestions for next year and email them to me by May 23. I will compile them into one list and on June 6 we will vote on our favorite books and then we will select a month and date when each of us can lead the discussions.

"We love our books, and we love our laughs!"

Coordinator Leigh Rappole, leighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, June 22 at 2:30 p.m.

2023-24 Book Selection Meeting

Join us by Zoom to choose the selections for next year. We have a great list started. Please continue to send book titles to Carolyn Morris. The complete list will be sent out a week or so before June 22 so you have time to investigate the books.

We welcome both book club members and others who might be interested in joining the group to attend the meeting.

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 [morisecarolyn16@gmail.com](mailto:morriscarolyn16@gmail.com) for the Zoom invitation.

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

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.

Great Decisions



First and Third Thursday Afternoon Group

The Great Decisions First and Third Thursday afternoon group has completed their discussions for the year. New discussions will begin in February 2024. Group Coordinator is Martha Ewell, (tel.) 713-782-2084.

Inside the Loop Group

Great Decisions Inside the Loop meets every other Tuesday via ZOOM. On June 6th the topic is Climate Change, environmental degradation, and migration. 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 June 7 the topic is Climate Change, environmental degradation, and migration. Please contact coordinator Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com.

Garden Divas

The Garden Divas will have their 2023-2024 planning session Tuesday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. Kris Bybee-Finley has graciously offered her home for our meeting. We are going to have a 'Garden Fresh' potluck and are looking forward to all of your wonderful recipes! (Unfortunately, the original plan to go to Nice Winery was cost prohibitive!)



Before lunch, we will meet to get suggestions for next year's venues. Please let me know if you are able to make the planning event, smboone@gmail.com. Get your thinking hats on to decide on next year's adventures!

Kris' address is 15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive, Houston, 77079, 304-610-8708

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com



Dorothy Clooney	June 1	Joan McMaster	June 19
Michael Farnell	June 2	Jill Kaeser	June 20
Catherine Urquhart	June 4	Melba Armstrong	June 22
Linda Fosseen	June 6	Dana Cutts	June 23
Linda Griffen	June 6	Lisa Arthur	June 24
Linda Mikeska	June 7	Martha Inskeep	June 27
Ann Williams	June 8	Brenda Moss	June 28
Sharon Pope	June 9	Martha Startzman	June 28
Marie Cole	June 18	Nancy Gusler	June 29
Poupette Farnell	June 18		

Please welcome our newest member

**Cindy L. Erdin, 11805 Meadowglen Lane, Apt. 2128, Houston, TX 77082;
email address: roz2charis@att.net.**



Talbots Style Show And Fundraiser



AAUW-WHC Monthly Meeting



WISE Women



Gourmet Groups Dining Out for a Change



Garden Divas Go Out of Their Way



Cultural Group – Bat Boat Tour

