



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXVI

June 2022 Newsletter

Issue 10

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September Deadline:

August 15, 2022

Stay informed

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org



DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS IN JUNE.
LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER.



Luncheon at Blue Agave – June 4th



Book club decisions for next year will be made.



Archive collecting for 2021-22 starts now.



Cultural outing to UH – June 11th



Great Decisions groups finish their discussions.

AND, MUCH MORE...

Vote in Primary Runoff

May 16 - 20 – Early Voting

May 24 – Voting Day

May 24 – Mail-in Ballots Due

Dear West Harris County Members,



What a way to wrap up the state's 50th "Golden Opportunity" convening over Zoom for the very first time! West Harris County's very own, Carolyn Morris, was designated Texas Outstanding Member! Her competition was a stellar list of nominees from across the state and Carolyn came out on top. During the past biennium, Carolyn, from now on known as "Zoom Queen," set up and monitored countless passwords keeping the membership connected during this difficult Covid pandemic.

While thrilled with Carolyn's award, I was disappointed that none of WHC's 76 photos featuring our members' activities, carefully curated by Susan Boone and Pamela Ossorio, were shown during the slideshow part of the program. I am waiting to hear back from the state organizers why this happened. We are looking into featuring the pictures during the June Luncheon and/or The Prospective Members' Coffee in late August. Stay tuned.

On a positive note, the convention's organizers arranged for four exceptional speakers. I was thrilled and energized by each one of them. I hope you were, too!

National's database is still giving us some grief. We thought the kinks were remedied, but many of us are still running into roadblocks. Everyone is eventually going to have to reset their password and update their account, but I am suggesting you wait until June 1st. Several members, including myself, found the process time consuming and tedious. If you have time, feel free to start now by going to my.aauw.org to see if you can update your profile and pay your National, state, and local dues online. A blast will go out by the end of May with specific instructions on how to proceed if you decide to wait until June 1st.

I heard the Style Show was a huge success and all who attended had a great time. Thanks to Debbie Campbell, Roslyn Metchis, and Carolyn Morris for all they did to continue this important fundraising tradition after a two-year hiatus due to Covid. See Debbie's report on the event in this newsletter. If you attended the Style Show you know I was a no show. The day before I fell and suffered a fracture mid-spine. I am doing so much better already and slowly resuming social activities. I appreciate your cards and calls to offer help. Also, thanks to Karen Harris for stepping in for me as a model at the last minute.

Finally, as I wrap up my term as President, I want to thank the Board and Appointed Committee Chairs and Representatives who worked tirelessly to roll out another fantastic year for all of us. Our meetings and activities, many times complicated due to dealing with the restrictions and demands of Covid, happened because of their diligence and persistence. Also, I want to welcome WHC's newly elected Board members for 2022-2023: Anne Amador as President, Pat Farnell as President-Elect, Diane Statham as Assistant Vice-President of AAUW Funds, Carolyn Stoffel as Membership Vice-President, and Sheila Jaynes as Recording Secretary. Please plan to attend the June Luncheon at Blue Agave on **June 4th** where they will be officially installed. If you have not already signed up to attend, please complete the Reservation Form in this newsletter ASAP and send the form and your check to Diana Tiberia. I hope to see many of you there!

*Cheers,
Rose Ennis, President*



News from the Program Director

Our spring luncheon is set for **Saturday, June 4**, at Blue Agave Restaurant. Hope to see you all there! Thanks to the organizing committee that made this event happen!

Please note, AAUW-WHC will not be meeting again until September 2022. Our upcoming branch meeting dates are Saturday, September 17, October 15, and November 19. All meetings will be held at Tracy Gee Community Center. Please mark your calendars.



Have a wonderful summer and let's hope we are not visited by hurricanes or global pandemics! Stay safe and continue the good work in "advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy."

Lilian Care

Membership

I hope you have sent your reservation in for the **June 4th** Luncheon at Blue Agave restaurant. We will celebrate scholarship winners and have the installation of next year's officers.



Additionally, it is getting to be that time of year to renew membership. National is still having some issues with database. So, Diana Tiberia or I will take membership renewal checks at the Blue Agave (\$91.00 **total**: \$67.00 for National, \$13.00 for State, \$11.00 for local). Hopefully, National will get issues resolved soon for access to renewal online.

Going forward, please plan to attend the New Membership Coffee on **Saturday, August 27, 2022**. We have set the date and we are in planning stages of where and what time. We hope to make arrangements for it to be held at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. Information will be sent out as it is confirmed.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in becoming a member of West Harris County Branch, please send me their name and CONTACT INFORMATION. I need a good phone number or email to contact them for further details.

Carolyn Stoffel - VP Membership

Baker-Telfer Scholarship Recipients To Be Announced

The Baker-Telfer Scholarship Selection Committee has been hard at work these past three weeks. The Scholarship Committee is made up of President Jan Kerekgyarto, Vice President Sharon Pope, Treasurer Carolyn Morris, and Tech Guru Shari Mauthner. The Selection Committee included former Baker-Telfer Scholarship President Cathy Urquhart, AAUW /WHC President-Elect Anne Amador, and 22-23 Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship member Sharon Jorgeson. We evaluated the applications of seven senior girls from Houston ISD, twelve from Alief ISD, and fourteen from Spring Branch ISD. Thanks to all for helping us get the word out to eligible young women!

These senior girls came from diverse socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds and have chosen to major in a variety of STEM fields in their prospective universities. They managed to balance top grades, good test scores, a variety of school activities, volunteer work, after school jobs and hobbies-all during a pandemic! We will announce the three talented scholarship award winners at the **June 4th** luncheon at The Blue Agave. We hope AAUW members will be there to support this amazing initiative.



We look forward to next year as the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Committee will continue to help young women pursue their dreams!

Janice Kerekgyarto

Reservation Form

Annual June Luncheon and General Meeting Announcement of Baker-Telfer Scholarship Recipients **Saturday, June 4, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sheila M. Katz

Blue Agave Cantina, 14555 Grisby Road, Houston, Texas 77079

Choice of Entree:

1. Chicken Enchiladas
2. Veggie Enchiladas
3. Grilled Mahi Mahi



All entrees served with: Chips & Salsa, Rice and Beans, Sour Cream, Cheese, Pico, Tortillas, and Guacamole.

Choice of Dessert: 1. Tres Leches 2. Agave Brownie

Alcoholic Beverages not included.

RSVP by **May 22nd** with your check for \$30. and menu choices to:
Diana Tiberia, 22223 Coriander Drive, Katy, TX 77450
Make out checks to: AAUW

Please cut out or make a copy of the following and send it along with your check.
Your check is your reservation. Covid vaccination is required to attend.

✂-----

Circle Your Choices

Entree Choices

1. Chicken Enchiladas
2. Veggie Enchiladas
3. Grilled Mahi Mahi

Dessert Choices

1. Tres Leches
2. Agave Brownie

Number of People: _____ Name/Names _____

West Harris County Finishes Strong!

All of you contributed to the success of our May 1st Talbots Style Show. Whether you helped spread the word within your circles, agreed to model, bought tickets, brought a guest, provided cheesecake and beverages, or otherwise participated in the planning, YOU are the reason we surpassed our local academic year fundraising goal of \$5,000. With ticket sales over \$1,200, we once again advanced our mission of supporting women and girls around the nation.

What's more, we can *all* take pride in AAUW's almost \$6 million in national grants and fellowships awarded for the coming year.

None of this would have been possible without **Talbots General Manager ChieuAnh "Chu" Nguyen**. Responsible for managing several Talbots locations, Chu and her team took our event over the top. While not WHC members themselves (just yet), this women-led business stayed open after hours so that we could experience a private, professionally staffed venue at no cost to us. Attendees also enjoyed 30% off their purchases. Some 55 eager post-pandemic attendees showed their appreciation by taking home their new favorite fashions that night or placing orders for home delivery.

A belated highlight of our Style Show, three lucky WHC members who attended won annual national dues for the 2022-2023 year. Congratulations go to randomly selected winners **Mary Andersen, Sara Dalton, and Susan Dunten!** Membership Vice President Carolyn Stoffel will be in touch to explain next steps.

Planners **Carolyn Morris, Debbie Campbell, and Roslyn Metchis** thank everyone who made this fundraiser happen. Surely other branches will want to replicate our success! [Look for some great photos in this issue.](#)

Debbie Campbell
AAUW Funds VP

Collection of records for the archives at the U of H Library Special Collections Department

As we approach the end of the activity/fiscal year June 30, 2022, it's time to start considering which documents, both digital and paper, to collect for the archives at the University of Houston Main Library Special Collections Department. Although we still have a month before the official end of the year, it's not too early to begin the process of organizing materials.



The list of records to collect remains the same and includes the following: records of board meetings, finances, funds; newsletters; directory and membership information; news from special interest groups, i.e., anything that reflects the varied and widespread activities of our branch. If there are any new activities, awards, or projects added since last year, these would be important additions to the archives.

Vince Lee, Archivist for Special Collections at UH, encourages including a wide variety of materials such as those mentioned above and, also, memorabilia, photos (identified with activity, date, and names of participants photographed), and PowerPoint files and other AV. If you have any questions, please contact, Martha Ewell, Historian, at 713-782-2084.

Martha Ewell
Historian

Public Policy

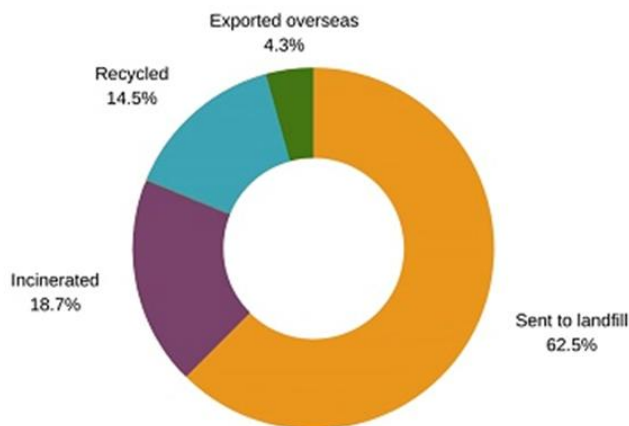
Fashion and the Environment

BBC had a recent report on the Atacama Desert in Chile which is filling up with unwanted clothes at a rate of 40,000 tons every year. Some of your old clothes may be there; the secondhand clothing is from North America, Europe, and Asia.

The answer to who is responsible is complex. As we get rid of our used clothing, many of us take it to a nonprofit where the best is either used by clients or is sold to make money for the charity. Even then 90 percent is sold to textile recyclers who bale most of the unwanted items and sell them by weight to be shipped to less developed countries like Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Chile. There the clothing is sorted. The best is resold in local markets, but about 85% is unusable and ends up as garbage in local landfills. A lot of the waste is dumped illegally and causes environmental issues.

While plastics make up 13 percent of our waste, textile waste makes over 6 percent.

The EPA reports that Americans generate 16 million tons of textile waste a year. On average, 700,000 tons of used clothing gets exported overseas and 2.5 million tons of clothing are recycled. But over 3 million tons are incinerated, and a staggering 10 million tons get sent to landfills.



There are various reasons that we end up with so much causing increased environmental harm.

Clothes are made to be worn only a few times. From 2000 to 2017, the number of pieces of clothing bought by a consumer has increased 78 percent and the amount of time clothes were kept was reduced by 50 percent becoming the fastest growing category of waste by weight in landfills. The average U.S. citizen throws away between 70 and 81 pounds of clothing annually. In the US, this amounts to about 16,000 tons total per day.

Fashion changes with each season. The fashion industry is now considered one of the most polluting in the world. There are many causes including:

- Production of fibers pollutes our air and underground. For example, 6 percent of all pesticide use and 10 percent of insecticide use comes from growing cotton.
- Industrial waste is produced from textile treatment and dyeing.
- Less than 1 percent of clothing is recycled to make new. An area in which the U.S. lags, recycling-wise, is textiles.

- There is no means of disposal of textiles other than putting in normal landfills or burning.
- In the past most of our clothing was made of cotton or other natural fibers that broke down quickly, but today's new fibers contain polyester and may take up to 200 years to disintegrate. Polyester when burned releases harmful, toxic fumes into the air. Even as a poly-blend fabric decomposes, it releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, polluting the environment further.

What can we do?

- Coco Chanel said, "Elegance does not necessarily consist in putting on a new dress."
- Buy less and wear it longer. Buy better, more durable clothing.
- Find ways to repair clothing; upcycle with ideas from Pinterest; sell or swap online; find ways to make your favorite clothes last longer.
- Buy secondhand clothes from local thrift store or second-hand stores.
- Donate to a charity that wants a specific type of gently-worn clothes (like a coat drive or prom dresses).
- Use old clothing for rags around the house. T-shirts make great rags.
- As a last resort, always recycle.
- For new items, look for "recycled content" products to ensure we are creating demand for recycled textiles, which leads to more incentive for companies to close the loop and give new life to used textiles.

Beyond these individual habits, we can advocate for less waste throughout the fashion system.

- The fashion industry can help by bringing back to life discarded items.
- Control overproduction. Much of the waste comes from items never bought or worn.
- Reduce advertising that encourages consumers to buy.
- Encourage the development of uses for discarded textiles. For example, textiles can be processed to be used as insulation.

"AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being is a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment." We all need to do our part and advocate for solutions.

Georgia Kimmel

References:

https://www.ted.com/talks/amit_kalra_3_creative_ways_to_fix_fashion_s_waste_problem

The fast fashion graveyard in Chile's Atacama Desert - BBC News

<https://techacute.com/e-textile-waste-its-toxic-impact-on-the-environment-and-people/>

JUNE 2022 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Book Groups (Get Ready to Choose for Next Year!)

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, June 1, Noon Meeting and lunch at Eagles Trace (The Waterloo in Austin Square building) No book discussion. This meeting is for voting and choosing books for the 2022-2023 year. Coordinator, Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445 ccherylsmile@gmail.com, Co-Coordinator, Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, June 1, 12:30 p.m. Lunch and book selection finalizing meeting for 2022-2023. Fratelli's Restaurant, 1330 Wirt Road. For more information, contact Coordinator, Sharon Pope, 713-376-0940, spope576@gmail.com.

Enjoying History Book Club

Monday, June 13, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Planning meeting for the new season of books. 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

Monday, June 6, 5:00 p.m. at Los Tios Restaurant. This will be our book selection meeting. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com.

Mystery Book Club

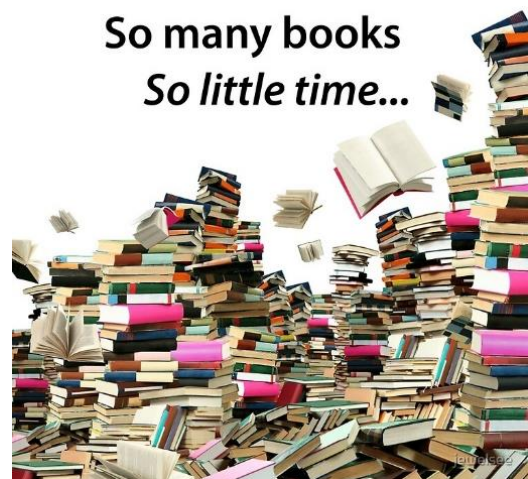
Tuesday, June 21, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Book selection meeting. Coordinator, Melba Armstrong, 281-392-3190, armstrong.melba@comcast.net. Co-Coordinator, Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, popease@aol.com.

Outstanding Literature

Tuesday, June 7, 9:30 a.m. This meeting is to select books for the next academic year. We will meet in person at La Madeleine, 10001 Westheimer Road, 77042. Contact Leigh Rappole at leighrap@aol.com if you have questions.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Books will be chosen at the **May 26 meeting at 2:30 p.m.** The book club will meet **June 23** and **August 25 at 2:30 p.m.** during the summer. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to join the club for just the summer months while your book club takes a break. Email Carolyn Morris at morriscarolyn16@gmail.com for the Zoom invitation.



Hiking Honeys

We have completed all of our hikes for the season. We will return to the beautiful trails around Houston in the Fall. Look for new adventures in the September newsletter. Meanwhile, we have a story to share...

Hiking Honey's Hit Home Run!

Our March hike on was one for the Record Books! Buffalo Bayou Park, right outside of downtown, was dressed up for spring with colorful bluebonnets, azaleas, red bud trees, and wild onion. Carolina Wrens and Cardinal pairs were singing their tunes. The cool spring weather kept us stepping lively. It was looking like we finally had Covid in our rear-view mirrors. And the Astros were home from spring training ready to start the season.

Our fearless pitcher was Jane Wood, who got the ball moving up the trail. By the time we reached first base, we realized we had a team of 15 (the most we can remember). While rounding second, we discovered that **all** our Advisory Board members (Gail Rickey, Sara, Dalton, Jane Wood, Marilyn Watson, and Melba Armstrong) were in attendance (that's never happened). We had a "short stop" under the live oaks at the LISTEN ART panel for a TEAM picture while we were still fresh. At third base, we gathered around another ART WORD to REFLECT on a lovely morning outdoors in nature to listen to the cardinals Cheering us on. When we finally reached Lost Lake, the sprinklers came on and pushed us quickly up the last climb, and over home plate. We had gone 3 miles, another record for the Hiking Honey's.

As we follow the Astros into the playoffs, remember the challenge of rounding the bases in your own neighborhood or park. It's a mental and physical home run!

Now Melba, our long-time leader and sometimes umpire and coach, says she doesn't keep records on such things, but I'm pretty sure we broke some records on March 17th. She's the shy one hiding in the picture behind the "S".

Our April hike saw us in the piney woods of Huntsville State Park, led by Gail Rickey! Another fun outing where we even saw 2 snakes, both nonpoisonous and enjoyed a lovely lake side picnic. We're now planning our trips for next season. Won't you consider being a part of the team??



*Jane
Wood*



Culture Group

TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA CONCERT AT UH MOORE'S SCHOOL

Saturday, June 11, 2022

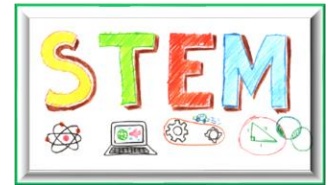


A Harris County bus will leave promptly at **3:30 p.m.** from our usual Memorial City bus lot on Barryknoll south of Memorial City Mall to take us to dinner at Lorenzo's Restaurant at 4412 Washington Ave. 713-880-5111, and then on to UH in time for the concert. Please contribute \$1 to help pay for the bus driver's dinner. **Rose Ennis - 281-755-6483** will assist you at the restaurant and give out tickets to the concert.

Contact **Marie Helmy 281-787-6396** if you wish to go or be on the waiting list. She will check you onto the bus.

WISE: Women Interested in STEM Education

We have completed our programs, outings, and events for this season. Please check the September newsletter for our information about exciting ways to discover what is new in the world. Everyone is welcome to explore with us.



Gourmet Groups



Classic Gourmet and Nouveau Gourmet have finished their delightful dining for the season. Please look for new epicurean experiences in the September newsletter. Everyone is welcome to join us for food and friendship.

Bridge Groups

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



First Thursday (7:00 p.m.) Jane Judson 713-528-6105

Third Thursday (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy 281-679-7299

Garden Divas

The Garden Divas will have their 2022-2023 planning session at Post, Houston on **Tuesday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m.** - 401 Franklin St. While there, we will visit the Skylawn to check out the gardens. We will carpool from the Memorial City Mall Barryknoll parking lot and leave at **9:00 a.m.**



POST Houston, housed in what was once the city's massive Barbara Jordan Post Office, opened its food hall, co-working space, space-age bathrooms, rooftop garden, live music venue and more to the public on Nov. 13, 2021 after years of development.



As a nod to the cultural diversity of Houston, Skylawn was conceived as a collection of garden rooms that celebrate the range of landscape typologies and ecologies endemic to the southeast Texas region. Visitors to the space can experience exuberant horticulture manifest in an arid garden -an acre of soil soon to be a vegetable farm, a woodland, and a tropical water garden. Designed to contrast the rigid frame of the modernist building upon which it sits, the artful forms of the rooftop garden frame spaces with sinuous curves as a counterpoint to the orthogonal roof and pavilions. Visitors to the rooftop are immersed in an evolving series of landscapes that unfold when moving from room to room on POST Houston's 5-acre rooftop park, the largest of its kind in the country.

Parking is available, but there is a \$5/hour fee after the first hour. We will have lunch there. 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!

Susan Boone
smboone@gmail.com

Byway Birders

The Byway Birders planning meeting will be **June 11 at 7 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact coordinator, Pat Dach at patdach@gmail.com for more information.



Vicarious Voyagers: An interest group for travelers

We have completed our programs for the year. Please look for information about new destinations and fun gatherings in the September newsletter.



Great Decisions

The First and Thursday afternoon group will meet on **June 2**, to discuss "Outer Space." If interested in further information and details, please contact group coordinator, Martha Ewell, (tel.) 713-782-2084.

Great Decisions Inside the Loop will have our last meeting of the year on **May 31, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.:** Biden's Agenda. For more information call Pat Thomsen, patthom75@att.net, 713-302-8899 or Linda Marlin, Lmarlin@houston.rr.com, 713-465-9466.

The 2nd and 4th Evening Wednesday night group will meet on **June 8** to discuss "Industrial Policy". That is our last meeting for the year. For further information, contact Willette Norman at 281-497-3626 or willetten@gmail.com.



Dorothy Clooney	June 01	Jill Kaeser	June 20
Michael Farnell	June 02	Melba Armstrong	June 22
Catherine Urquhart	June 04	Dana Cutts	June 23
Irene Dominguez	June 05	Martha Inskeep	June 27
Linda Fosseen	June 06	Brenda Moss	June 28
Sharon Pope	June 09	Martha Startzman	June 28
Marie Cole	June 18	Nancy Gusler	June 29
Pat Farnell	June 18		

Membership Changes

Linda Morgan – delete home phone number; use only cell number: 281-989-6499

FASHION FUN AND FUNDRAISING AT TALBOT'S



Photo caption: (front to back) Pat Farnell, Lilian Care, Jane Wood, Carolyn Stoffel, Pat Dach, and Susan Dunten line up for the fashion runway. Not shown: Models Sara Dalton, Karen Harris, Karen North, and Diane Statham. Almost models :-) were WHC President Rose Ennis, Dorothy Lauterbach, Judith Peterson, and Pat Thomsen. (Photo by Jaye Lauren Chambers)



