



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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October 2023 Newsletter

Issue 2

## President

Poupette Farnell  
aaufpfarnell@gmail.com

## President Elect

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Lilian Care

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Carolyn Stoffel

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Becky French

## Newsletter Editor

Laura Fiorentino Cahill  
[aaufwhcnews@gmail.com](mailto:aaufwhcnews@gmail.com)  
November Deadline, 2023  
October 15, 2023

## Stay informed!

Branch website: [aauf-whc.org](http://aauf-whc.org)

National website: [aauf.org](http://aauf.org)

## AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT 9:30 A.M.

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER

*Cath Conlon, Founder and CEO,*

*Blackwood Land Institute*

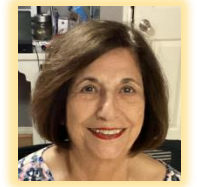
As a little girl, Cath Conlon spent her summers in the valley in South Texas on her grandparent's farm. Cotton was the staple crop there. When Cath wasn't playing in the cotton fields, she was hovering over her grandmother in the kitchen. Her grandmother taught her the dying art of canning and how to make delicious recipes from food in the garden. Cath's grandmother, part Shawnee American, was Lillian Francis Blackwood.

Years later, Cath recounted those summers to a friend in detail the long and enchanting months she spent playing in the fields and how much time she devoted to the kitchen with her grandmother. Her mother, standing nearby, listened casually. Later, Cath's mother expressed amusement, "Cath, you didn't spend the whole summer there or even months, you were there for only one week." A child's mind is amazing, imaginative and curious.

Cath's dream for the place she named Blackwood was that children could invent a whole life of memories from an experience of just one week.

*Lilian Care, VP Programs*





I hope you enjoyed the Membership Coffee, many thanks to Carolyn Stoffel, Debbie Rossi and all the members who helped. Be on the lookout for our monthly Branch Meetings and the fantastic speakers procured by Lilian Care.

The directory is printed and in the process of being distributed. Keep it handy since it contains a wealth of information that you can use throughout the year. Thanks to Mary Andersen, Pam Doan, Carolyn Stoffel, and Diana Tiberia for their hard work and a special thanks to those who placed ads in the directory.

Fall is the time for fundraising through AAUW Funds and our Thompson/Baker/Telfer Scholarship Program. Learn more about these worthwhile programs in this month's newsletter.

In closing I would like to share the following link about book banning with you:

<https://pen.org/report/banned-in-the-usa-state-laws-supercharge-book-suppression-in-schools/>

Happy Fall! And see you at the Autumn Leaf Ball.

*Poupette Farnell, President*

### **Membership:**

Thank you to all who participated in the Membership Coffee in August.

Three members that need a special recognition for our 2023-2024 Directory are: PAM DOAN, MARY ANDERSEN, and DIANA TIBERIA. Both productions are reflective of the hard work that AAUW-West Harris County members are willing to do for the branch.

Thank you,

*Carolyn Stoffel, Membership V-P*



**Coming soon to you! 2023-2024 AAUW-WHC Directory**

AAUW  
West Harris County Branch  
Proposed Budget

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Actual 2022-2023</b>	<b>Proposed 2023-2024</b>
Local Dues	2277	2035
Spring luncheon	2310	2500
Holiday Party	1890	2100
Directory Ads	220	220
Directory Sales	0	30
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6697</b>	<b>6885</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
August Coffee	830	1000
Spring luncheon	2880	3325
Holiday Party	1895	2100
Convention	0	500
Corresponding Sec	0	45
Directory	630	650
Hospitality Supplies	265	280
Liability Insurance	200	200
Memorials	40	75
Operating supplies	240	150
PO Box rental	166	170
Postage	84	100
Rice student affiliate	0	300
Style show	75	75
Website	28	30
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7333</b>	<b>8000</b>

## Public Policy - Vote

Fall election details will be available soon. Get prepared before you go vote. An unofficial list of items on the November ballot includes:

- State Constitutional amendment propositions
- City of Houston
  - \* Mayor
  - \* Comptroller
  - \* At-Large City Council members
  - \* Council members for District A-K
- School District positions in Harris County.



To prepare to vote, the following suggestions are recommended by the League of Women Voters and Harris County:

1. Check your registration status at <https://www.vote411.org>
2. To vote by mail you must apply each year for an annual mail ballot application, [www.harrisvotes.com/voter/vote-by-mail](http://www.harrisvotes.com/voter/vote-by-mail). While you can submit this annual application anytime during the calendar year, it must be received at least 11 days before the first election in which you seek to request a ballot by mail.
3. There will be 14 Constitutional Amendment Propositions on the ballot. The Constitutional Amendment Propositions are bills passed during the recent Texas legislative session. They may not be easily understood. You can read the explanations of the propositions at <https://www.sos.Texas.gov/elections/forms/2023-explanatory-statement-14-final.pdf>. Another excellent resource is the League of Women Voters' Guide, which will be available the first week in October online at <https://lwvhouston.org/>. Print versions will be available at local libraries well before early voting begins on October 23. The guide is nonpartisan and offers pros and cons of each amendment proposition in plain language. Candidate information, which is obtained from each person running for office, is also provided. Some candidates decline to participate in the League's guide by not submitting information.
4. Sample ballots are posted and available approximately 45 days before November 7 at <http://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/What's-on-my-Ballot>. If you live in another county, check with your county election office.

*Dorothy Lauterbach*

## Funds – Autumn Leaf Ball

Fall is in the air. Who would want to dress up and put on makeup to attend a Gala when you can quietly enjoy the patio or back yard for the first time in months. It has been a brutally hot summer. Time to enjoy the outdoors. You are cordially invited to NOT attend the West Harris County AAUW Autumn Leaf Ball.

In fact, if you choose to sit outdoors you may want to read some inspiring books and articles about women who could and did. We suggest Texas Women First: Leading Ladies of Lonestar History by Sherrie S. McLeroy or “30 Texas Women”, an article by Jennifer White that appeared in the February 2003 edition of *Texas Monthly*.

Be inspired to help advance AAUW’s mission to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance to realize their potential. And contribute to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (or others) to help further our national mission by going to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and using your credit card, preferred as fast, convenient, and safe.

Use the following steps as detailed at [westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/funds/](http://westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/funds/):

To summarize those steps –

1. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and log in.
2. In the left menu click on My Affiliations, confirm West Harris County as 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](mailto:aauw.whc.funds@gmail.com). This copies WHC board members Diane Statham and Helen Santire on your receipt email (but does not share your credit card info).

For help with the instructions on the WHC website link above, or to donate to AAUW National Funds by check, contact either Diane or Helen.

*2023-2024 AAUW Funds Vice Presidents, Diane Statham & Helen Santire*



# OCTOBER 2023 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

## Hiking Honeys



The Hiking Honeys will visit Sheldon Lake State Park for our hike on **Thursday, October 19th**. Sheldon Lake State Park is a 2,800-acre outdoor education and recreation facility, which represents a coastal prairie landscape. Located in northeast Harris County (approximately 19 miles north of downtown Houston). Melba Armstrong will lead an easy one- and-a-half mile

hike along flare trails of interconnecting loops around the 27 naturalized ponds at the park. We will carpool from the Barryknoll parking lot opposite Cinemark Theater in Memorial City Mall at 9:00 a.m. For those wishing to drive directly to the park, the address is 14140 Garrett Drive. 281-456-2800 is the phone number. Plan to arrive there at **9:45 a.m.** and meet at the trailhead across Park Road 138. More details regarding where in the park to meet and lunch arrangements will follow by email. Please contact Melba Armstrong at [armstrong.melba@comcast.net](mailto:armstrong.melba@comcast.net), or Mary Ann McMordie at [mamcmordie@gmail.com](mailto:mamcmordie@gmail.com). If you plan to attend, please indicate the location where you will meet us.

## Byway Birders

Byway Birders have no plans for October. We will be birding in Bear Creek on **November 4**. For more information or to get on the group's mailing list, please contact Pat Dach at 281-701-5846 or [patdach@gmail.com](mailto:patdach@gmail.com).

## Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined



The Gourmet group does not meet in October. Please join us in November for our next dinner. Further details will be given in the November newsletter.

For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 and Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708.



## Culture Group

### *The Texas Revolution – Wednesday, October 11th*

Join us on the Cultural Group's trip back in time to Goliad, the site of the bloodiest massacre of the Texas Revolution. We will explore the battleground outside Goliad where Col. Fannin's army clashed with Santa Anna's troops after the Alamo. From there, we will follow the path of the 400 surrendered Texans to Presidio La Bahia, where our Texas State Historic Site Manager will relate the fate of the captured Texans. The beautifully CCC restored fort, still active chapel and courtyard all give you a sense of what the Alamo really looked like. Time permitting, our bus will circle the beautiful 1894 Goliad County Courthouse square, peeking out the windows and whetting your appetites from a return visit with your family and friends! But our first stop of the day will be lunch at the historic Pump House Restaurant situated along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Victoria. Weather permitting, we will be seated on lovely patios overlooking the river. Otherwise, inside seating is delightful too. Lunch is at your own expense. An 18 percent gratuity will be added. To reserve a spot on the bus and prepay for admission to the museum, send a check for \$4.50 payable to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077. The Precinct 3 bus will leave from Memorial City Mall at the Barryknoll parking lot at **9:00 a.m.** We expect to return at 6:00 p.m. Please have \$1 to give Rose when you get on the bus for the bus driver's lunch.



### *Save the Date: Wednesday, November 15th – Newman's Castle*

There's a Castle in Texas? Of course there is! You are invited on a Whimsical Cultural adventure to Newman's Bakery and Castle in Bellville, Texas. Styled after the British designs of Camelot and King Arthur, Newman's creation features a moat, drawbridge, chapel, turrets, great room, bell tower, courtyard and so much more. A sandwich lunch is provided with Newman Bakery treats for dessert right on site. There is uneven ground and stairs to climb if so inclined. Be sure to wear comfortable and casual shoes and attire. We'll be going rain or shine. Following the castle, we will head back into town for a tour of the beautiful Austin County Jail Museum built in 1896. You might also find yourself lured into the boutiques on the courthouse square for some early Christmas shopping.



To reserve your spot, send a check for a mere \$25 made out to Pamela Ossorio to 4113 Cason, Houston, TX 77005 or use Zelle with email address [p\\_ossorio@yahoo.com](mailto:p_ossorio@yahoo.com). And that includes lunch!

## Vicarious Voyagers

Greetings Happy Travelers!

We had our organizational meeting and here is the information you are all waiting for: Our first full meeting will be held on the 4th Thursday of the month from **10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** at Kris Bybee-Finley's home starting the **26th of October**. A trip around South America will be the topic. Kris Bybee-Finley's address is 15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive, Houston 77079. Her e-mail is [Brazitku@gmail.com](mailto:Brazitku@gmail.com) and her phone number is 304-610-8708. Please let her know if you plan to attend and don't forget to bring something for a potluck lunch. There will not be a meeting for November as it falls on Thanksgiving. We need volunteers for future presentations. Please contact Hazel Kjos ASAP with your topic and what month you prefer, and I will send out the calendar when it is full. [filbertkjos@gmail.com](mailto:filbertkjos@gmail.com), 281-589-6621



## Bridge



Fun and friendship await you in the two active AAUW bridge groups. If you are interested in getting on the sub list or would like more information, contact one or both coordinators listed below:

- \* **3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.)** Peg McNealy, 281-679-7299
- \* **2nd Friday Duplicate Bridge (11:00 a.m.)** Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445

## Great Decisions

We currently have two Great Decisions groups, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Both meet via Zoom. Meetings are held from **February through May**. All members are invited. Look for more information in future newsletters. To be placed on the contact list for the afternoon group, contact Pat Thomson at [patthom2sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2sbcglobal.net), (713-302-8899) or Linda Marlin at [lmartinl@comcast.net](mailto:lmartinl@comcast.net) (832-533-1265). For the evening group, please contact Willette Norman at [Willetten@gmail.com](mailto:Willetten@gmail.com) (281-497-3626).



## Book Groups

### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

**Wednesday, October 4th, 1:30 p.m.** CHANGE IN BOOK: Out of Texas by Joseph Caldwell Townsend and Anne Hart Preus. Discussion leader: Gail Katz. Where: Eagles Trace.  
Coordinators: Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445  
[ccherylsmile@gmail.com](mailto:ccherylsmile@gmail.com),  
Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499,  
[amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net).

### Contemporary Readers

**Wednesday, October 4th, 1:00 p.m.** Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams. Our 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, [spope576@gmail.com](mailto:spope576@gmail.com) or Co-coordinator, Cathy Urquhart, 832-454-5017, [curquehart80@gmail.com](mailto:curquehart80@gmail.com).

### Enjoying History Book Club -

Our meeting will be on **Monday, October 9th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing Imperfect Union by Steve Inskeep, led by Pat Pease. Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com).

### Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **October 2 at 5:00 p.m.** when we will discuss The Latecomer by Jean Hanff Korelitz, led by Linda Marlin. Meeting will be held at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood. Coordinator Jo Glidewell, [wcgslide@gmail.com](mailto:wcgslide@gmail.com), 936-327-2085



### Mystery Book Club

**Tuesday, October 17 at 1:30** Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers by Jesse Sutanto, leader will be Helen Maher.  
Where: Tracy Gee Community Center Library  
Contacts: Pat Pease [popeace@aol.com](mailto:popeace@aol.com) and Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, [brazitku@gmail.com](mailto:brazitku@gmail.com)



### Outstanding Literature

The Outstanding Literature Book Group has **CHANGED THE BOOK FOR OCTOBER**. We will be reading The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict. The meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 10 at 9:30 a.m.** 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 is Leigh Rappole, 281-596-0161, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com), Co-Coordinator Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570, [barbarabutler1959@att.net](mailto:barbarabutler1959@att.net).

### Zoom Eclectic Book Group

**Thursday, October 19, at 2:30 p.m.**  
The Spy Who Was Left Behind by Michael Pullara. Leader: Pat Thomsen. All meetings occur on ZOOM. Members are welcome to join us for one or all of the books. Please email Carolyn Morris (Coordinator) at [morriscarolyn16@gmail.com](mailto:morriscarolyn16@gmail.com) for the Zoom invitation. Co-coordinator: Pat Thompson, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) 713-302-8899

## Garden Divas

Have you ever wondered how to entice butterflies, birds and pollinators to your backyard?



Well, Kelsey Lowe from the Houston Arboretum will tell us during the October Divas outing. She is the adult program manager of the Houston Arboretum and is also a naturalist. We will meet **Tuesday, October 3** at Mary Hilton's home, 12730 Trail Hollow Drive, Houston, Texas 77024 at **10:00 a.m.** Mary and Debbie Rossi took the certification program to create a natural habitat from Kelsey and she is a wealth of

knowledge and lots of fun. We are looking forward to this special treat. Afterward, we will have lunch at the Union Kitchen, 12538 Memorial Drive. We will carpool from the Memorial City parking lot off Barryknoll at **9:30 a.m.** to avoid parking issues on Mary's cul-de-sac. Please let Susan Boone, [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com), know if you are interested.

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



## **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Arlene Baker Oct 1	Diana Tiberia Oct 16
Valerie Koehler Oct 1	Victor Edwards Oct 17
Joan Belk Oct 4	Susanna Ehrmann Oct 17
Nancy Bowden Oct 5	Sharon Rodgers Oct 18
Josephine Glidewell Oct 5	Suzanne Mercado Oct 20
Barbara Cook Oct 7	Kathryn Sandlin Oct 20
Karen North Oct 8	Jane Cooper Oct 25
Jacqueline Shelton Oct 10	Deborah Rossi Oct 26
Peggy Edwards Oct 13	Mary Dodson Oct 28
Michelle Adams Oct 16	Betsy Calabro Oct 31