

West Harris County Branch
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

President

Poupette Farnell
aauwpfarnell@gmail.com

President Elect

Josephine "Jo" Glidewell

Program Vice President

Lilian Care

Membership Vice President

Carolyn Stoffel

AAUW Funds Vice-Presidents

Diane Statham

Helen Santire

Recording Secretary

Peggy Edwards

Finance Officer

Diana Tiberia

Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

Newsletter Editor

Laura Cahill

aauwwhcnews@gmail.com

October, 2023 Deadline:

September 15, 2023



aauw.org



AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 9:30 A.M.

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER

We hope everyone enjoyed their summer and managed to stay cool in Houston's blistering heat! Hopefully, cooler weather is just around the corner.

September Presentation - The Power of Your Voice

For our September branch meeting, we welcome one of our own, Debbie Campbell. She will speak to us about the power of voice.

In AAUW we use our voice to exchange ideas with others, to learn about the world around us, and to make life better for people we will never even meet. But where does our voice begin? How do we go from an idea or a feeling to expressing ourselves through coherent speech? And what can happen when we lose this most fundamental ability?

This month, WHC member Debbie Campbell will introduce us to the STEM behind human speech and language. Through fun activities, we will meet some of the moving (and not-so-moving) parts that support the spoken word. We'll look at things we do every day that can help or harm our voice.

Whaddya say?



Debbie Campbell is a Life Member of AAUW with a background in electrical engineering and teaching adults (math, electronics, technology, reading, writing, English as a second language, andragogy, etc.). She is currently taking graduate level classes in speech pathology (applied neuroscience) and realizing her long-time goal of working with adults with aphasia (loss of language skills after a medical event).

Dear West Harris County Members,

Welcome back to a new year of AAUW-WHC. We want to thank Anne Amador for her wonderful leadership this past year. I am looking forward to serving as your Branch President, and working with our dedicated and talented board, as well as the AAUW Texas board, to promote and embrace our mission of advancing equity for girls and women. Our goal this year is to make sure every member enjoys being part of such an incredible organization.

Poupette Farnell, President



Attending the convention is a great way to be a part of AAUW and to find out what other Chapters and Branches are doing. This is an opportunity to interact with the incredible women of our organization. Our branch has a budget for members to attend National, Regional and State conventions. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Poupette Farnell

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *together!*
AAUW Central States Regional Conference
October 19-21, 2023 • St. Louis, Missouri
Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

Featuring

Gloria Blackwell
CEO of AAUW
Keynote Speaker

Lisa Maatz
Public Policy &
Organizational Consultant
Keynote Speaker

Plenary and breakout topics:

- Voting Rights and Issues
- Reproductive Rights and Women's Health
- Equity and Inclusion
- Succession Planning and Leadership
- Women's Economic Security • Pay Equity
- AAUW and The Future!

Full conference details at aauw-mo.aauw.net

ADVOCATING UNDER THE ARCH

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Awards

At our luncheon on June 10, 2023 three students were awarded scholarships by our own Pat Thomsen from the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund. Each student was awarded a \$3000 scholarship.

- ❖ Natalie Nguyen from Kerr High School (Alief ISD) will attend UT – Austin where she will study statistics and data science with the goal of becoming a data analyst.
- ❖ Shelsey Ramirez from Spring Woods High School (Spring Branch ISD) will attend Texas A&M while majoring in biology leading to a career in nursing.
- ❖ Karla Trejo from Sharpstown International High School (Houston ISD) will attend Lehigh University while majoring in psychology with the goal of becoming a behavioral analyst.

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) deductible organization funded through contributions from all our generous members.



Pat Thomsen and Karla Trejo



Pat Thomsen and Shelsey Ramirez

Brenda Moss
The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Board

Membership/Dues

September will be AAUW-West Harris County's (WHC) beginning of the 2023-2024 calendar year. The Summer was spent in getting members to renew membership and inviting new prospective members to become involved in this great branch. Underlying all of this is the support that we do for equality for women in the community and work environment.

Thank you to all the helpers who made calls and sent emails for the renewal process.

Hopefully you attended WHC's August Membership Coffee and had a chance to visit again the wonderful group activity opportunities that are available.



The Membership Coffee is not the only time to invite new people to be a part of the West Harris County branch. The invitation is ongoing! Monthly meetings are also a good time to share our wonderful Programs and get involved. Pass the word! Join AAUW.

Thank You,

Carolyn Stoffel, Membership Vice-President



Empowering Women and Girls since 1881

**Join a Local AAUW Branch
and be a Changemaker!**

170,000 Supporters Strong! Tenacious and Trailblazing!

What does AAUW do?

- Advocates on Capitol Hill for issues that matter to women, such as paycheck fairness and student debt.
- Awards over 6.3 million dollars to women scholars to pursue their studies.
- Provides legal advocacy.
- Offers training in leadership and career advancement.
- Gives you opportunities to act!

What do AAUW TEXAS BRANCHES do?

- Present engaging programs on topics such as women's healthcare, open and fair elections, book banning, and pay equity.
- Provide a daylong opportunity for diverse adolescent girls to work with college-aged mentors on topics of self esteem and preparing for a bright future.
- Support "Girls, Inc." by providing laptops and dorm essentials for one or more high school graduate(s) going to college.
- Hold workshops that mentor girls and encourage them in STEM fields.
- Conduct fundraisers which enable branches to provide scholarships.
- Share camaraderie, interests, and fun in social groups!

aauw.org
aauw-tx.aauw.net
facebook.com/aauw.texas

Who is in AAUW?

We are changemakers in our community and country.

- Graduates with a college or AA degree or higher.
- Interesting, diverse, and passionate women and men.
- People who are working, not working, about to retire, retired, or still in college.

Sound like you?

Why join AAUW?

Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

- Help break down barriers for women.
- Interact with like-minded people.
- Impact your community with programs that make a difference.
- Network and learn from people with varied backgrounds and skills.
- Share common interests in social groups.
- Make career connections.
- Exercise your mind.

JOIN US!

Local Branch

Contact Email

Local bookstore joins lawsuit to fight book-rating law

Houston bookseller, Blue Willow Bookshop, filed a lawsuit with Austin's BookPeople and national organizations over House Bill 900, which requires booksellers to rate books sold to schools.

On July 25, the American Booksellers Association; two ABA member bookstores, BookPeople in Austin, and Blue Willow Bookshop* in west Houston; and several national organizations filed suit as a coalition in the US District Court for the Western District of Texas challenging a new Texas law (HB 900 previously) that would require independent bookstores, national chain bookstores, and other vendors to review and rate books and other library materials if those books are sold to school libraries. The challenge asks the Court for preliminary and permanent injunctions halting the implementation of the law, which has been signed by the Governor of Texas and is slated to go into effect on September 1, 2023.



Valerie Koehler, AAUW WHC member
And owner of Blue Willow Bookshop

The Texas law (HB 900 during the legislative process) requires bookstores to use “contemporary community standards” to draw the line between titles that are

- “sexually relevant,” i.e., titles that contain even fleeting depictions of sex
- “sexually explicit” (books with this rating cannot be sold to schools)

but does not include any guidelines or specifications describing what those “community standards” might be. This means that book vendors must enforce standards for a wide range of communities on their own. This is an impossible task and it robs parents and teachers of the right to set their own standards in their own communities.

Bookstores must provide a list of every book they have ever sold to a school district, and annually thereafter, that contains sexually relevant or sexually explicit materials to the Texas Education Agency, which posts those lists on the website.

The plaintiffs charge the law is vague and poorly written, impossible to comply with, and unconstitutional. It is bad for bookstores, bad for readers, and bad for democracy.

*Blue Willow Bookshop is owned by Valerie Koehler, a long-time member of AAUW West Harris County (a second-generation member). Stenciled on the bookbag on Valerie's chair in the photo are the words “Dangerous Women Read Banned Books.”

Margaret Carlson

Guest Columnist



Funds – Autumn Leaf Ball

Fall is almost 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 using your credit card, preferred as fast, convenient, and safe.

Use the following steps as detailed at westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/funds/:

To summarize those steps –

1. Go to 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. 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



Summer to Fall

SEPTEMBER 2023 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys

The Hiking Honeys will be heading to Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary for our **Thursday, September 21st** hike. Edith Moore Sanctuary is located at 440 Wilchester Blvd., Houston, TX 77079. This will be a 1-mile



loop trail located off Memorial Drive near N Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8). The trail is primarily used for walking, nature trips, and bird watching. More details will be forthcoming to Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Contact Mary Ann McMordie at mamcmordie@gmail.com for more information.

Byway Birders

Our first fall birding trip will be to Bear Creek Park on **November 4th**. Please check the October newsletter for further information.



Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

Please join us **Saturday, September. 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** for our first dinner of this year. We will meet at the Rattan Pan-Asian Bistro on Eldridge. If you have questions, contact the coordinators:

Barbara Cook 713-7057832 or Kris Bybee-Finley at 304-610-8708.



Culture Group

Let's end the long summer heat wave!!

Raise a Pint at the Spoetzl Brewery Tour in Shiner, Texas!

To kick off our season on **September 29, 2023**, (and celebrate the beginning of the end of this long hot summer), let's go to Shiner, TX, dubbed the Cleanest Little Town in Texas, where we will tour the Spoetzl Brewery – home of **Shiner Beer**. After a tasting at tour's end, we'll enjoy lunch at the brewery's BBQ restaurant. Following lunch, we will visit a local museum showcasing the life of early German-Czech settlers who arrived in the area after the Civil War. Our last stop will be the largest and



most beautiful of the painted churches, St. Cyril and St. Methodius Catholic Church. Even if you have been on a painted church tour, you probably have not been in this one. And it is still active.

The cost of the brewery tour is \$25 which includes a goody tote bag. Your check is your reservation, made payable to Diana Tiberia - 22223 Coriander Dr, Katy, TX 77450. Deadline for reservations is September 15, 2023. Lunch will be on your own dime.

We will meet our precinct bus across from Memorial City Mall at 12161 Barryknoll Lane, at the usual parking spot. Departure will be at **8:45 a.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023**. Arrival back in Houston will be 5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: **October 11, 2023**

The Texas Revolution Remembered at GOLIAD



Join us on a trip back in time to the Fannin Battleground and Presidio La Bahia, site of the Goliad massacre, the bloodiest site of the Texas Revolution. We will explore where Col Fannin clashed with Santa Anna's troops after the Alamo with the new Texas State Historic Site Manager as our guide. Enjoy lunch at the landmark Pump House Restaurant on the Guadalupe River in Victoria. If interested, send a check for \$4.50 to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, 77077. The Precinct 3 bus will leave from Memorial City at the Barryknoll Parking Lot at **9:00 a.m.** Lunch will be on your own from a great menu. Look to the October newsletter for further tantalizing details.

Vicarious Voyagers

Our Vicarious Voyagers group can rise like the Phoenix! Do you have 30 or 40 photos of one of your holiday trips you can put on a jump drive and share with the group? If so, come to Hazel Kjos' home on **Thursday, September 7th at 10:30 a.m.** We will have an organizational meeting to sort out the details... what day of the week, what week of the month, a fixed or rotating meeting location, etc. Bring a salad dish and after we sort out the details we can all enjoy a Pot-Luck Lunch. Fun, friendship and interesting vacation ideas await you. For more information contact Hazel Kjos at 713-499-9668.



Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, September 6, 1:30 p.m. p.m. Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, Discussion leader: Linda Fosseen. Where: Eagles Trace
Coordinators: Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445
ccherylsmile@gmail.com,
Linda Morgan, 281-989-6499,
amorgan352@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Readers

Wednesday, September 6th, 1:00 p.m. West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. 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 or Co-coordinator, Cathy Urquhart, 832-454-5017, curquehart80@gmail.com.

Enjoying History Book Club - Welcome Back!

Our first meeting will be on **Monday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing The White Ship by

Charles Spencer. Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

This book group will not meet in September. Please join us on **Monday, October 2nd 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 Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood. Coordinator, Jo Glidewell, 936-327-2085, WCGLIDE@gmail.com.



Mystery Book Club

Tuesday, September 19, at 1:30 Ville Triste by Lucretia Grindle, leader will be Pat Pease. Where: Tracy Gee Community Center Library

Contacts: Pat Pease popease@aol.com and Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com.

Outstanding Literature

This group will meet on **Tuesday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m.** We will have an excellent breakfast and a discussion of The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot. Discussion leader is me, Leigh Rappole. The book is long, so start enjoying this heartfelt novel early! 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, leighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161. Co-coordinator is Barbara Butler, 713-304-0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, September 21, at 2:30 p.m.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Leader: Martha Ewell. 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 for the Zoom invitation. Co-coordinator: Pat Thompson, patthom2@sbcglobal.net 713-302-8899.

Bridge



Fun and friendship await 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,
2nd Friday Duplicate Bridge (11:00 a.m.) Cheryl
402.651.2445



you in the two



281.679.7299
Smith,

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 Thomsen, patthom2sbcglobal.net (713.302.8899) or Linda Marlin, marlinl@comcast.com (713-469-0856).

For the evening group, please contact Willette Norman at 281.497.3626.

Garden Divas

The Garden Diva's first visit this year will be to Nelson Water Gardens & Nursery on **Tuesday, September 5**. It is a retail garden center in the Houston area that specializes in water



gardening. Visit Nelson's and you'll find ponds, koi, goldfish, waterlilies and other aquatic plants.



We will leave from the Memorial City parking lot south of the mall off Barryknoll Dr. at **9:30 a.m.** Michael Farnell has volunteered to lead this trip. Please contact him at farnell.michael@gmail.com or 832-573-3275 and let him know whether you plan to meet at the mall parking lot or at Nelson's. We will meet there at 10:00 a.m. The address is 1502 Katy Fort Bend Rd., Katy, TX 77493.

After our visit to the water gardens, we will eat at Texas Tradition, 5321 Highway Blvd, Katy, Texas 77494. It is a small, family owned and operated restaurant in old Katy. The menu consists of traditional comfort food; mac & cheese, hand-pressed half pound burgers from fresh beef, country gravy with a touch of bacon grease for flavor. That's the good stuff! The tea is sweet, and it pairs nicely with a basket of fried pickles or a scoop of peach cobbler.

Susan Boone
sboone@gmail.com

Outreach Program

"Happy Birthday to all members!" As Corresponding Secretary I send a digital birthday card from Jacquie Lawson to all members on the actual dates of their birthdays. During the two years I've done this, I have observed that about 1/3 of you never open the cards. If you are worried about getting spam, let me assure you that anything from jacquielawson.com is clean and safe. You can safely go back to your birthdate—even two years ago—and see what you've missed. Some of the cards are cute, some beautiful, all with lovely classical music or



appropriate original music composed to match the card. Be assured; you will not import anything damaging to your computer. Enjoy!!

Becky French
Corresponding Secretary



Bernice Hotman	Sept 02
Misako Ajouz	Sept 04
Helen Maher	Sept 04
Laura Cahill	Sept 10
Susan Boone	Sept 11
Dorothy Harrison	Sept 12
Martha Ewell	Sept 14
Susan Hertz	Sept 15
Georgia Kimmel	Sept 22
Jeanne Wolbert	Sept 25
Helen Santire	Sept 28