

West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXIX November 2023 Newsletter Issue 3

President

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Helen Santire

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Finance Officer Diana Tiberia

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Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 9:30 A.M.

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER

Anne Sung, Policy Director, Harris County Precinct 4

Anne will give us an overall picture of the work carried out at Harris County Precinct 4. She will explain how they develop proposals that help create a more equitable, sustainable, and brighter future for Harris County. From improving legal defense within our criminal justice system to creating programs for direct COVID relief for families, they put forward new ideas at every Harris County Commissioners Court to improve the quality of life for Harris County residents.

Lilian Care Program Vice President







Dear West Harris County Members,

I hope you had a chance to participate in the Autumn Leaf Ball. Together we can reach our goal of gender equity in education, economics and leadership.

While we are enjoying this gorgeous weather, please keep up with what is happening in the Texas Legislature. Get involved. What is at stake are teachers' raises (which are tied to vouchers), vouchers, book banning and cost of living raises.

And don't forget to vote! In this newsletter, we have provided information regarding the current election.

Happy Fall, Poupette Farnell, President



The branch Nominating Committee is in the process of formation. Five members are needed to serve – two from the Board and three from the general membership.

- Jo Glidewell and Helen Santire offered to serve on the committee as representatives from the Board.
- Three representatives from the general membership are needed to complete the Nominating Committee.
- Please send your name or suggestions of people who would be a good fit to serve, with their permission, to Jo Glidewell, President-Elect.

Approval by the Board of five members to serve will take place at the November 13, 2023, Board meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



Public Policy - Vote

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7

Early Voting runs until November 3

Sites in Harris County are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except October 29, noon to 7 p.m.

There is a lot on the ballot. An excellent resource of information is the League of Women Voters' Guide online at https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/



Sample ballots are posted and available at

https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/What's-on-my-Ballot You can print your sample ballot, make your choices at home and bring the sample ballot into the voting booth with you.

- There are 14 Texas Constitutional Amendment Propositions on the ballot.
- You will be voting for candidates for a variety of county and city offices.
- There are also Harris County and City of Houston propositions. These propositions may affect how your local government can respond to immediate community needs and issues that affect you day to day.

For example: Harris County Proposition A seeks voter approval of a \$2.5 billion bond authorization to finance the rebuilding and upgrading of the Harris County Hospital District's facilities.

You are urged to consider a "Yes" vote on Harris County Proposition A. Harris County Proposition A will finance the replacement of the LBJ hospital, the creation of a third Level I Trauma center, add capacity at the existing Level I Trauma Center, and invest in clinics and health services across the County. The hospital district serves nearly five million residents of Harris County and often many of the residents in the surrounding areas. The LBJ hospital is frequently over capacity and often has major repair issues that decrease the number of patients it can admit. While none of us expects to seek care at a Trauma Center, you may need care at one should you be severely injured in an accident.

Your vote matters.

Be prepared to vote again soon: It is possible that the mayor's race and some of the council races could require a second election if no candidate receives a majority of the vote. If so, the top two candidates would face off in a runoff election on December 9.

Georgia Kimmel Public Policy Chair

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund

October 2023 Report

Many thanks for the generous donations of our AAUW-WHC members. We met our \$10,000 matching grant from our anonymous donor. We will be able to give college STEM scholarships this year, 2023-24, to three deserving girls from our area school districts - Alief ISD, Spring Branch ISD and Houston ISD. Thank you again for your support and generosity to the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship. Please remember we will continue accepting donations to the scholarship fund.



At the October 9, West Harris County Board meeting, a motion passed to raise the scholarship to \$3,500 per student. That is a total of \$10,500 to be awarded in the spring of 2024. Each year since the start of the scholarship the WHC board has decided the value of the scholarship.

In January, there will be several ways you can become involved with the scholarship fund. Volunteer to: 1. be on the financial committee to guide the investment of the fund; 2. rewrite the scholarship by-laws; 3. be on the board of directors; 4. be on the scholarship selection committee. Rewriting the by-laws and the scholarship selection committee are bite size commitments. The financial committee and board of director commitments will last throughout the year.

Financial Information

The Matching Grant started at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2023, and was achieved by the first week of October with donations of \$10,395.

Current Account Information

Checking Account- \$7,412.63

CD #1-\$25,161.46* invested at 5.00% Annual Percentage Yield, Matures 9/17/24

CD #2- \$5,086.70 invested at 4.5% Annual Percentage Yield, Matures 11/17/23

CD #3-\$5,100.90 invested at 4.5% Annual Percentage Yield, Matures 1/23/24

* This includes a \$10,000 grant to the endowment fund by Anonymous Donor #2. This is not the \$10,000 from the matching grant of Anonymous Donor #1. That gift will be received on or before November 27, 2023.

If you have questions, call Carolyn Morris (713-560-1889) or Brenda Moss (218-450-8875).

NOVEMBER 2023 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys



On Thursday, November 16 Mary Ann McMordie and Ann Hebert will lead us on the trails of the Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve featuring beautiful Marshall Lake surrounded by paved roads and trails with unpaved natural areas. This destination is located in northwest Houston off Texas Highway 249 at 20215 Chasewood Park Drive. We will carpool from the lot on the south side of Barryknoll across from the movie theater in Memorial City Mall and plan on leaving at 9 a.m. More information, including where to meet in the preserve and lunch plans, will be provided via email later. Please contact either Mary Ann McMordie at amcmordie@gmail.com or Ann Hebert at rnrprnr@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Byway Birders

On Saturday, November 4 at 8:30 a.m., By Way Birders will meet in Bear Creek Park. We will meet near the bathroom at Golbow Road, the first road off Bear Creek Drive. After birding, we will head south down Highway 6 to Cullinan Park. The last time we were there we saw a pair of Eagles. Recently, someone spotted Sedge Wrens. Bring a picnic lunch or snacks if the weather is nice. Please contact Diane Tiberia at 832-866-8411 or ditiberia@att.net. if you plan on joining.





Gourmet Groups - Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group will meet in the home of Ed Alami on Saturday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. The theme will be Mediterranean foods. For further information and to sign up for the dish you plan to bring, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832, chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.

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Culture Group

Off to Newman's Castle in Bellville on Wednesday, November 15!

There's a Castle in Texas? Of course there is! You are invited on a whimsical 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. The tour will first stop at Newman's Bakery in Bellville where you can enjoy coffee, your favorite pastry, or use the restroom. Then, we'll travel a short way to the Castle where we will hear about Mike Newman's manifested dream, which he designed and



built. You will be free to roam, explore and eat lunch at your own pace. Lunch will include a sandwich (ham and cheese or turkey and cheese or a simple salad (by special order), bakery treats, iced tea, and water. The 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 casual shoes and attire. We will be going rain or shine.

Traveling back to Bellville, we will enjoy a guided tour of the historic Austin County Jail and Museum. The jail was built in 1896, recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1976, and operated as a jail and sheriff's house until 1982. One of our tour guides is the son of the last sheriff to live there. The imposing three story structure, with a fourth-floor tower serving as gallows, houses an archive of material covering Austin County. In 1848, the County Seat was moved from San Felipe to Bellville. The museum's contents reflect the entirety of Austin County's past, not just its criminal exploits. Afterward, you will be free to walk around the Town Square and browse the local boutiques for some early Christmas shopping.

To reserve your spot on the bus and prepay for admission to the castle, lunch and Jail Museum, send a check for \$25 made out to Pamela Ossorio to 4113 Cason, Houston, TX 77005 or use Zelle with email address p_ossorio@yahoo.com. Include information on special dietary needs. The Precinct 3 bus will leave from Memorial City Mall at the Barryknoll parking lot at 8:45 a.m. Please have \$1 to give Pamela when you get on the bus to pay for the driver's lunch. We will arrive back in Houston around 4:00 p.m.

Vicarious Voyagers

There will not be a meeting of Vicarious Voyagers in November as our gathering date falls on Thanksgiving. See future newsletters for updates.

Christmas Culture Theater Event coming up on December 8



Join your friends for a fun holiday play, "A Texas Carol" at A.D. Players Theater at 5420 Westheimer on Friday, December 8. The Dinkel family is headed to Mee-Maw Jane's East Texas ranch for what might be her last Christmas. The play begins at 8 p.m. We will meet at the Memorial City parking lot on the south side of Barryknoll between Gessner and Memorial City Way, directly across from the Cinemark Theater. We will ride a Precinct 3 bus to dinner at a restaurant to be determined, and then, on to the play. Your check for \$36 is your reservation, made out and sent to Linda

Morgan, 11934 Riverview Drive, Houston, Texas 77077. Her phone is 281-989-6499. We look forward to seeing you there for this fun holiday event.

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 here: For the third Thursday of the month (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299, for the second Friday of the month 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 Thomsen at 713-302-8899 or Linda Marlin at lmarlinl@comcast.net (832-533-1265). For the evening group, please contact Willette Norman at willetten@gmail.com or 281-497-3626.

Garden Divas



The Garden Divas are going to the Houston Botanic Garden on Tuesday, November 7. The garden features a collection of plants showcasing the region's biodiversity, grown for educational, research, and display purposes. We will experience an added bonus with the 'Glass in Flight' exhibit by Tucson artist Alex Heveri. Twenty-one steel and hand-cut Dalle de Verre glass sculptures of gigantic, realistic insects – including butterflies, dragonflies, and beetles will treat our senses in the Susan Garver Family Discovery Garden. We are fortunate to have a guided tour for this visit! There is a \$10 (group cost) entrance fee. A Precinct Bus has been reserved for the day! (RSVPs are critical!).

We will meet at the Barryknoll parking lot at 9:15 a.m. I plan to pick up box lunches from Belong Kitchen (chicken sandwich, chips and dessert - \$15 includes tax and tip). I will bring an ice chest with water (or you can bring your own). There are picnic areas outside the garden.

For those who are interested, Belong was created to provide dignified, meaningful, paid employment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in a nurturing environment. These individuals struggle to find jobs, purpose, and social connections – and the food is wonderful! Family meals are \$50 and delicious! https://www.belongkitchenhtx.org/.

We should return to the mall parking lot by 2:30. Since there is a bus and lunch orders for this trip, please make sure you RSVP to smboone@gmail.com by Friday, November 3 to be included in our count. A special thanks to Mary Hilton for sharing her magnificent garden for the October event.

Susan Boone

Book Groups

Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will be meeting on Wednesday, November 1 at 1:30 p.m. at Eagle's Trace to discuss <u>Demon</u> <u>Copperhead</u> by Barbara Kingsolver. Please contact coordinators Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net or Cheryl Smith, 402-651-2445, <u>ccherylsmile@gmail.com</u>, for more information.

Contemporary Readers

On Wednesday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m. we will be discussing Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. 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, curquhart80@gmail.com.

Enjoying History Book Club -

We will meet Monday, November 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing Land by Simon Winchester, led by Nancy Gusler. Please email me with any questions. Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on Monday, November 6 at 5:00 p.m. when we will discuss Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney, led by Poupette Farnell. The meeting will be held at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Drive at Kirkwood. The coordinator is Jo Glidewell, wcglide@gmail.com, 936-327-2085



Mystery Book Club

NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE REGULAR SCHEDULE

We will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. at Marilyn Arendt's house to discuss The Man Who Died Twice by Richard Osman. The leader will be Marilyn Arendt. Please contact Pat Pease popease@aol.com. or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com for more information.

Outstanding Literature

The Outstanding Literature Book Group has CHANGED THE BOOK FOR OCTOBER. We will be reading <u>The Personal Librarian</u> by Marie Benedict. The meeting will be on <u>Tuesday</u>, 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, Co-Coordinator Barbara Butler, 713-305-0570, barbarabutler1959@att.net.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

Thursday, November 16, at 2:30 p.m.

House on Endless Waters by Emuna Elon. Leader:
Marie Helmy. All meetings occur on ZOOM. Please email Carolyn Morris (Coordinator) at morriscarolyn16@gmail.com for the Zoom invitation. Co-coordinator: Pat Thompsen, patthom2@sbcglobal.net 713-302-8899



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Cherilyn Jackson Nov 1

Marie Helmy Nov 2

Betty Cartmell Nov 4

Karen Dittert Nov 4

Carol Cain Nov 5

Mary Edwards Nov 5

Lillian Care Nov 15

Karla Dunn Nov 15

Martha Hebert Nov 15

Leigh Rappole Nov 17

Karen McKibben - Morris Nov 24

Michele Taylor Nov 26

Janet Kennedy Nov 28

Charlotte Kibler Nov 28

Directory Update New Address

Arlene Baker 32 Lacosta Court Towson, MD 21204