



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXXXII

February 2024 Newsletter

Issue 6

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## March 2024 Deadline

February 15, 2024

## Stay informed!

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

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

## AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH FEBRUARY MEETING

Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 9:30 am to 12 pm  
TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER



Our speaker in February will be Remi Willoughby, a past president of the West Harris County Branch.

Remi Willoughby was President of the West Harris County Branch in 2005-2006. She also was awarded an AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowship in 2002-2004. An exceptional educator with more than 34 years of teaching experience, she is a graduate of the University of Lagos, Nigeria (B.A.) Ed., and received her master's degree from Texas A&M. An astute robotics instructor, after twenty-three years in Houston public schools, Remi retired in June 2015. She is passionate about the opportunities that robotics education can provide for students, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. She is the co-founder of Roboglobal Educational Consulting, a Lagos and U.S.-based company that specializes in training and curriculum development in the areas of educational robotics, programming, STEM Integration, and introduction to engineering.

Remi is going to talk to us about her work promoting STEM studies for young women.

*Lilian Care, VP Programs*



## President's Message



Dear AAUW WHC Members,

I have some information to pass on this month.

1. It is time for the Branch to review and/or update our 5-year Strategic Plan. We are going to meet at my house, 12531 Piping Rock Dr, on Wednesday February 14 at 10am to go over the current strategic plan. If you would like to give your input and help, please RSVP to [farnellpat@gmail.com](mailto:farnellpat@gmail.com).
2. The AAUW Texas biannual conference will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The 2024 conference will consist of 3 "mini sessions" to challenge members to deal with the changes that will shape the future of AAUW. The topics are Networking, Sustainability and Diversity, and Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The biannual conference is an important event for AAUW Texas, and we reserved a room at Tracy Gee on April 6 for our branch "watch party". Please mark your calendar, more information will follow.
3. Don't forget to vote for the 2024 Proposed AAUW Bylaw Changes. Your vote is instrumental in guiding the direction of AAUW. Voting begins April 3 (online voting is highly recommended) and will be concluded May 15. Results will be announced online.

Keep warm.

*Poupette Farnell, President*



### ***It's Wine Time!***

Are you a winner? The drawing for the Wine Tasting Event honoring donors to AAUW Funds and the Thompson-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund will be held in February. The event will take place at Total Wine, 12516 Memorial Drive 77024 on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the wine tasting for 20 people at Total Wine was given to a WHC member. She has graciously offered it to the WHC Funds committee and the scholarship board to use as a thank you to donors who participated in the Fall drive from July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

AAUW National keeps the records for donors to the WHC Fall Funds drive. We have received a list of donors from them through October 19, 2023. If you donated after October 19, 2023, and you would like to be entered in the drawing, please send your name to Carolyn Morris at [morriscarolyn16@gmail.com](mailto:morriscarolyn16@gmail.com). We have the complete list of donors to the scholarship fund. If for some reason you do not want to be entered in the drawing, please let Carolyn Morris know at the above email.

## PUBLIC POLICY

*Be an Informed Voter on **March 5th***

### Important 2024 Primary Election Dates

Last Day to Register to Vote - February 5  
Deadline to apply for a ballot by mail - February 23  
Early Voting - February 20<sup>th</sup> through March 1  
Primary Election - March 5  
Primary Runoff Election (If Necessary) - May 28  
General Election - November 5



Super Tuesday is March 5th. You have time to prepare. The primary decides the Democratic and Republican nominees in local, state, and national races and can significantly shape the future of our communities.

While this election is considered a primary, in a few races it may actually elect the candidate. That occurs when an incumbent of one party is opposed by another candidate of the same party and no candidate is running from the opposing party. The candidate who wins the primary election will then be unopposed in the General Election and will automatically be elected.

This year, there are a number of incumbents who are opposed by another candidate of the same party. Prominent politicians in both parties are opposing some of their own parties' incumbents who broke with them on high-profile issues.

Local races affect us the most with day-to-day decisions made by local office holders on essential services and resources in our immediate communities. Some local politicians use their offices to become better known and later run for state or national offices.

Make a voting plan ahead of Election Day. Registered Texas voters can vote in either the Republican or the Democratic primary regardless of your political persuasion. You cannot vote in both primaries. Choose the one you wish to vote in.

Look up and print your sample ballot. With redistricting your representatives may have changed.

Harris County: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Whats-on-my-Ballot>

Montgomery County: <https://elections.mctx.org>

Fort Bend County: <https://www.fortbendvotes.org>

Research the candidates ahead of time. Check out their views and voting records. AAUW suggests that you support those who endorse key issues: pay equity, public education, diversity, women's health choices, child care availability, diversity of school reading material, i.e., freedom to read, etc. Add your own concerns to the list. The League of Women's Voter's online guide at Vote 411 ([vote411.org](http://vote411.org)) is nonpartisan and will be "live" starting February 2, 2024.

Complete your sample ballot and take it with you to your polling place. You can use it when you VOTE!

*Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair*

Additional Resources

<https://www.texastribune.org/2023/12/15/mark-jones-texas-house-special-2023-liberal-conservative-scores/>

<https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Vote-by-Mail>



AAUW NORTH HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
BY ATTENDING THE

*Outstanding  
Women Awards Luncheon*

*Honoring*

**Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora**  
Education Honoree

**Susan Schaeper**  
Community Service Honoree

*Program*

**A Legacy of Service**  
*50 Years and Counting*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**10:30 A.M.**

Social Hour, Raffle and Shopping

**11:30 A.M.**

Program and Luncheon  
Garden Room at Shirley Acres  
217 Woerner Road, Houston, Texas 77090





## 2024 Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon

- ☐ Tables for ten \$700  
☐ Individual ticket \$70  
☐ I cannot attend, but please  
accept my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required with credit card payment)

- ☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to **NHC**  
**AAUW Fellowship Fund**-a 503(c)(3) organization  
☐ Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_\_\_  
MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number      /      Exp. Date      CIV (# on bk)

### Sponsorships (partial donations accepted)

- ☐ Printing (8 for \$200 each)  
☐ Mimosa Cocktails (3 for \$300 each)  
☐ Decorations (\$250)  
☐ Entertainment (\$200)

### My Table:

Please **PRINT** names of Guests on  
the **back of this card** for seating  
reservation and correct spelling

MAIN CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this card in  
the enclosed envelope.

For information:

Call 412-956-6865 or email  
BetsyCAAUW@Yahoo.com  
RSVP **February 16, 2024**

## Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund

Many thanks again to our members. We have met our \$10,000 matching grant. And, we have had other generous donations. All donations count, large or small, and are appreciated. We will be awarding a \$3,500 scholarship to each of 3 senior girls from Alief, Spring Branch and Houston ISD majoring in a STEM field and planning to attend a 4-year college.

Thanks to the efforts of members Jan Kerekgyarto and Anne Amador in securing a \$3,000 donation from the First Congregational Church of Houston Endowment Board. Our scholarship application will be posted by Pamela Ossorio on our website from February 1 to April 15. After our evaluation and selection, it will be exciting to meet 3 college-bound girls at our June luncheon. Our 2023-2024 fundraising drive is a roaring success due to your generosity!

# FEBRUARY 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

*Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator*

## Hiking Honeys



On **Thursday, February 15th**, the Honeys will visit Memorial Park, Houston's largest urban greenspace. Memorial Park contains 1,500 acres, twice the size of Central Park in New York City.

Memorial Park was established in 1924 and is currently celebrating its 100th year. The park has been transformed over the past several years, first with the overhaul of the park's golf course and facilities, followed by the creation of the Eastern Glades. The Glades were formerly inaccessible parklands that have now been converted into a natural environment. Additionally, the development of the Land Bridge over Memorial Drive has added 25 acres of natural prairie over six lanes of traffic. Marilyn Watson and Ann Hebert will co-

lead the Hiking Honeys on a route beginning with the Eastern Glades followed by taking the Seymour Lieberman Trail to the Kinder Land Bridge. We plan to have lunch after our hike at the Black Walnut Café at 5512 Memorial Dr. More details will be forthcoming to Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Contact Marilyn Watson at [marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marilynwatson2463@sbcglobal.net) or Ann Hebert at [mrprnr@gmail.com](mailto:mrprnr@gmail.com) if you would like more information.

## Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

Great Decision groups will begin meeting in February. Both afternoon and evening groups meet via ZOOM. All branch members are invited to join Please contact the coordinators for more information and to receive the ZOOM link.

**INSIDE THE LOOP** meets Tuesday Afternoons on first and third Tuesdays from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** February meetings are: **February 6th** Topic "Mideast Realignment"; **February 20th** Topic "Climate Technology". Please get your book online or download it before the meeting. For further information contact coordinator, Pat Thomsen at 713-302-8899 or [patthom2@bcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@bcglobal.net) or Linda Marlin at [marlinl@com.cast.net](mailto:marlinl@com.cast.net).

**THE EVENING GROUP** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The February meetings are: **February 14th** topic - "Mideast Realignment"; **February 28th** topic - "Climate technology and Competition", discussion leaders Toby and Arun Singhanian. For further information please contact coordinator, Willette Norman at 281-450-8875 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com).

## Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group does not meet in February. Please join us on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** for our next dinner. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



## Byway Birders

Byway Birders will go to Rockport to see Whooping Cranes and other winter birds in the area **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> through Monday, February-12<sup>th</sup>** We will go to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Goose Island State Park, and other parks to see the wildlife. We may go to Corpus Christi if time permits. Miriam has not made reservations to go out on a boat because the price has increased, and we have found whooping cranes in other areas. We will stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Rockport. Everyone needs to make their own reservations. The number for the front desk is 361-729-4444. Please let Miriam Vyles know if you are going on this trip. Birders will meet at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center in Austwell, Texas on Friday at lunchtime, where they will have a picnic lunch. After lunch, they will proceed to Rockport. Miriam can also give you info if you want to make your own reservations for a boat trip, [mvyles123@gmail.com](mailto:mvyles123@gmail.com) C: 713-501-7945.

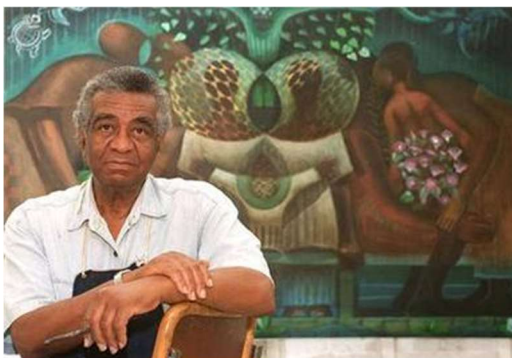


## Bridge Groups

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.

## Culture Interest Group



A LEGACY WORTH SHARING!

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

AAUW West Harris County Chapter will be visiting Houston's Texas Southern University to experience the life and work of world-renowned artist Dr. John Biggers. A first-time event, our group will tour the historic murals by Dr. Biggers, along with sculptures, markers, and paintings highlighting the University's legacy of justice, politics, and humanities. We will tour the Mack H. Hannah Hall, Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The cost of the trip is \$18, which covers your Jason's Deli lunch.

We will meet at the parking lot across from Memorial City Mall on 12161 Barryknoll St. The bus will leave promptly at 9 a.m. To sign up for the tour, please send your check for \$18 to Michele Taylor 3622 Storm Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77088 no later than Tuesday, February 20, 2024. If you have any questions, give Michele a call at 281-851-6598.



## TUESDAY MARCH 26 SAVE THE DATE

The Cultural Group will be going on an architectural tour of The University of St. Thomas and the Menil Campus on **Tuesday March 26th**.

We will be treated to a Preservation Houston Tour led by our favorite guide – Jim Parsons. The University of St. Thomas broke with tradition when it hired Philip Johnson to design its new campus in 1956. Though Johnson took inspiration from the modern architecture of Mies Van der Rohe, his campus plan was influenced by



something much older: Thomas Jefferson's 1818 design for the University of Virginia. This tour will focus on the development of the university's beautiful campus and the adjacent Menil campus, which includes Eugene Aubry's Rothko Chapel and Renzo Piano's Menil Collection Twombly Gallery. Please join us to enjoy all this and more. After the walking tour we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant. The bus will leave from the usual spot across from Memorial City Mall. The cost of the tour is \$15.00 and remember your \$1.00 for the bus driver. Lunch will be on your own. Look for times and more details in the March newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Motard at 713 503- 7885.

## Vicarious Voyagers

The Vicarious Voyagers will meet at **10 a.m. on Thursday, February 22** at the home of Hazel Kjos for Part 2 of the Lewis & Clark Expedition presentation. Please bring something to contribute to our Pot-Luck lunch. RSVP to Hazel. Don't hesitate to call her if you have further questions. Hazel Kjos, 6326 Logan Creek Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77479, mobile #713-499-9668 [filbertkjos@gmail.com](mailto:filbertkjos@gmail.com).



## Garden Divas



The Divas will visit 'The Arbor Gate,' way more than a garden center and plant nursery. It is quite literally an inspired collection of unusual plants, and artisan-created decorative pieces, with a constantly changing array of items that bring beauty, comfort, and even flavor to the home and garden. Our trip will be **Tuesday, February 6th**. The Gate (as it is fondly called) is an entry to a symphony of color, fragrance, form, and function that can infuse your indoor and outdoor living spaces with personal warmth and beauty. Plants are their passion. You will find yourself surrounded by

magnificent display gardens that can't help but inspire your creativity. And, because the Arbor Gate family includes so many experienced and dedicated gardeners and plant experts, your questions will be answered with an unusual depth of knowledge and know-how. We will leave Memorial City Mall's parking lot off Barryknoll at **9:15 a.m.** to arrive at Arbor Gate at 10 a.m. Please let me know if you are planning to come and whether you will meet in the parking lot or at Arbor Gate. My email is [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com). The address for Arbor Gate is 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. We will have lunch at Tejas Chocolate and Barbeque, 200 N Elm Street, to help get us into the rodeo spirit! (and the chocolate was an attraction as well)



# Book Groups

## Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, Feb. 7th at 1:00 p.m.** at Eagle's Trace for lunch. Starting at 1:30 p.m., we will discuss A Train to Moscow by Elena Gorokhova. The discussion leader is Sharon Jorgenson. Please contact coordinator Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499 or Cheryl Smith at 402-651-2445 for more information.

## Contemporary Readers

On **Wednesday, Feb. 7th at 1:00 p.m.**, we will be discussing The Last Dance on the Starlight Pier by Sarah Bird. Our group will meet at MDUMC West Campus at 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, [curquhart80@gmail.com](mailto:curquhart80@gmail.com).

## Enjoying History Book Club

We will meet on **Monday, Feb. 12th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing The Nazi Conspiracy by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, with Julia Dombrowski as the leader. Please email me with any questions, Nancy Guilloud, [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com).

## Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, Feb. 5th at 5:00 p.m.** when we will discuss The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. We will meet at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Dr. at Kirkwood. The coordinator is Jo Glidewell, [wcgslide@gmail.com](mailto:wcgslide@gmail.com); 936-327-2085.

## Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM** to discuss No Shred of Evidence by Charles Todd. The leader will be Peggy Edwards. Please contact Pat Pease [popease@aol.com](mailto:popease@aol.com) or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, [brazitku@gmail.com](mailto:brazitku@gmail.com) for more information.

## Outstanding Literature

For our February meeting we will discuss A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain by Robert Olen Butler. The meeting will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 13th at 9:30 a.m.** We will have our usual excellent breakfast and then the discussion. The discussion leader is Linda Griffin. Our meetings happen at La Madeleine, Carillon, The Wine Cave, 10001 Westheimer Road. Coordinator is Leigh Rappole, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com), 281-596-016, or Barbara Butler, [barbarabutler2021@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabutler2021@gmail.com), 713-305-0570.

## Zoom Eclectic Book Group

We will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 15th at 2:30 p.m.** and discuss Noah's Wife by T.K. Thorne. All meetings occur on ZOOM. Members are welcome to join us for one or all the books. Please email Carolyn Morris (Coordinator) at [morriscarolyn16@gmail.com](mailto:morriscarolyn16@gmail.com) for the Zoom invitation. The Co-coordinator is Pat Thomsen, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net), 713-302-8899.





### FEBRUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

|                  |        |                 |        |
|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Sara Dalton      | Feb 02 | Fatima Abdulla  | Feb 12 |
| Julia Dombrowski | Feb 04 | Sheila Jaynes   | Feb 12 |
| Diane Clarke     | Feb-05 | Karen LaVelle   | Feb 16 |
| Sharron Maler    | Feb 07 | Janis Groves    | Feb 20 |
| Marietta Hostak  | Feb 10 | Elaine White    | Feb 21 |
| Ann Teague       | Feb 10 | Judith Peterson | Feb 22 |

### DIRECTORY ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

Please note that **Dorothy Lauterbach** has a new address:  
103 Redbud Crossing #212 Houston Tx 77077

Please note to contact **Pamela Ossorio**, only use her  
cell number: 713-416-0333.