



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

President

Poupette Farnell
aauwfparnell@gmail.com

President Elect

Josephine "Jo" Glidewell

Program Vice President

Lilian Care

Membership Vice President

Carolyn Stoffel

AAUW Funds Vice-President

Helen Santire

Recording Secretary

Peggy Edwards

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Diana Tiberia

Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

Newsletter Editor

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May 2024 Deadline

April 15, 2024

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

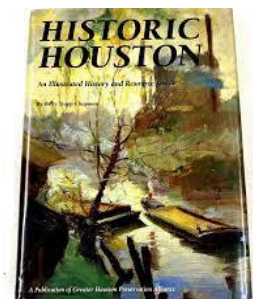
AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH

APRIL MEETING

Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER

Our April speaker will be local historian, Betty Chapman. Betty is a well-known expert of local history and co-curated an exhibit on the suffrage movement in Houston at the Heritage Society Museum at Sam Houston Park.



For over 50 years Betty has done her best to support history preservation. She champions the women, as well as the men, who helped build this city. And she's an author, lecturer, consultant, and educator, too. She quotes former Mayor Bill White when she says the more people know about their city, the prouder they will be.

Betty's presentation will be about an early Houston suffragette, Annette Finnigan, a Wellesley College graduate who was one of the first patrons of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. Ms. Finnigan was also a champion of a woman's right to vote.

Please come and join us on April 20 for what will be a fascinating topic from a Houston treasure!

Lilian Care, VP Programs

Election Of 2024-2025 Branch Officers

Congratulations to the new West Harris County Branch officers elected at the March 16, 2024, branch meeting.

President-elect:	Lilian Care
Membership Vice President	Kris Bybee-Finley
AAUW Funds Assistant Vice President	Maureen Kraker
Recording Secretary	Michele Taylor

These new officers along with Incoming President, Josephine Glidewell, will be installed at the branch meeting in June.

A sincere thank you to each of them for their willingness to share their time and talents with the WHC Branch.



President's Message



Congratulations to our newly elected branch officers. Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise with our branch. It takes numerous people in addition to the elected board members to keep our branch active and relevant. I also want to thank the members who filled out the membership survey. Please consider a non-elective position when called upon.

Attendance at our monthly branch meetings is rising. Thanks to Program VP Lilian Care, for the innovative and informative speakers she has secured for us, Membership VP Carolyn Stoffel for her endless effort in recruiting new members and keeping up branch membership, and to Hospitality Chair Debbie Rossi for making sure the meetings have delicious snacks for all of us to enjoy.

I hope to see all of you at the following events: April branch meeting (see article on page 1 for details), at our annual May fashion show on **May 5** (see flyer on page 3 for details) and our end of the year Branch Recognition and Program Luncheon on **June 15**. (Details in upcoming newsletters.)

Poupette Farnell, President

Spread the word!

Please share this information with any family, friends, and/or organizations who may have contact with girls eligible for this year's scholarship.

**Attention High School Senior Girls
STEM Scholarship Opportunity \$3,500**



Thomsen-Baker-Telfer STEM Scholarship

3 scholarships will be awarded. One to a student in each of these districts: Alief I.S.D., Houston I.S.D. and Spring Branch I.S.D.

Application deadline: April 15, 2024

For information click the link below or scan the QR code to open the Application

<https://westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/about/scholarships/2024-scholarship-application>



YOU ARE INVITED TO
WEST HARRIS COUNTY AAUW

Celebrating Mother's Day

at

Chico's/Soma

12850 Memorial Drive

Town & Country

**\$30 ticket benefiting:
AAUW FUNDS**

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (or others) to help further our national mission by going to aauw.org and using your credit card, preferred as fast, convenient, and safe.

1. Go to aauw.org and log in.
2. On the left in the menu, click on "My Affiliations", confirm "West Harris County" as your Primary Branch
3. Click the red **DONATE** button and continue with your donation
4. IMPORTANT – Please email your receipt for your reserved spot to Diane Statham - distatham@msn.com
5. Purchase no later than May 1st - No checks will be accepted at the door

OR

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship

CHECK ONLY - C/O Carolyn Morris

11159 Riverview Way

Houston, TX 77042

SUNDAY, MAY

5

5:30 - 7:30 PM

2024

If your \$30 donation goes to AAUW Funds you must make it directly to AAUW National using your credit card. Please keep your receipt, present it at the door and notify Helen Santire at helen.santire@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY



It is time to VOTE again!

School Board Election Day is Saturday, May 4

Early voting will be held April 22 - April 30

According to the National School Boards Association, school boards “establish the vision and goals for the public schools in their district, and they set standards for the performance of schools and superintendents.”

Your school **Board of Trustees**, comprised of seven local citizens, provides an important public service to the community, and serves without compensation. In accordance with the Texas Elections Code, Board elections are held on the first Saturday in May each year. Some districts hold their elections in the fall. Board elections are held at various locations across each district. Board members serve three-year terms. All registered voters who reside within the school district are eligible to cast ballots in Board of Trustees elections.

Many school board meetings are no longer sleepy and boring. Contentious issues (banning books, vaccine policies, CRT, LGBTQ policies, etc.) and fiery protests are becoming more common.

Why vote?

Local election turnout is very small, often only 5-10% of the electorate. Because of this low turnout, these races can be susceptible to the whims of a small number of voters. Many voters don't study the school board candidates. This has allowed candidates who do not share the views of the majority of community residents to take control of school boards.

Research your local races. Know the candidates. Know what's at stake. Support pro-equality, inclusive candidates. Encourage your friends and neighbors to support the candidates who are committed to safety and quality education for all students.

Vote in school board elections. Who runs your school district matters. Remember: Your vote makes the greatest impact in races with the fewest voters. It will make a difference. Even if you do not have children in the school district, your support of public schools matters. Your vote may avoid unpleasant surprises.

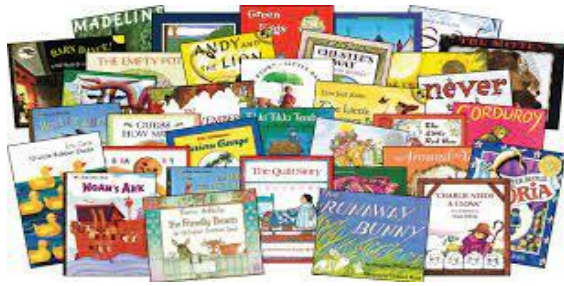
More information on candidates, polling places and board meetings is available at your school district's website.

<https://www.fortbendisd.com/boardelections>

<https://www.katyisd.org/domain/4308>

<https://www.springbranchisd.com/news/read-more/~board/sbisd-post-board/post/2024sbisd-board-of-trustees-election-update>

Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair



WHCB Project to Promote Literacy Donate your books!

As you have read or heard on the news, many school districts are having to cut their budgets for the 2024-2025 school year. This is the result of the legislature not passing sufficient school funding during the last legislative session. To cut costs, Spring Branch ISD is eliminating librarian positions at all schools. Other school districts may take similar steps.

To advance literacy in one low economic neighborhood, our branch is supporting a free library that has been started at Spring Branch Family Development Center (SBFDC). What's needed are books. Gently used (or new) books in either English or Spanish are requested. The SBFDC Free Library can share everything from toddler board books to beginning readers, chapter books, graphic novels, illustrated nonfiction texts, mysteries, and young adult fiction, etc.

Many of you are grandmothers or maybe you are a retired teacher. You may have gently used children's books in your home for entertaining grandchildren who have outgrown them and are no longer used. Perhaps your treasured book collection can be put to good use. Members can donate books at our next branch meetings in April and May.

When: April and May

Where: Branch meetings

Who: All WHCB members

What: Donate gently used or new children's books

For: Spring Branch Family Development Center

Questions: Contact by email Georgia Kimmel, Cathy Urquhart, or Diana Guarniere.

MEMBERSHIP:

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!

At our March meeting a new Membership V.P. was elected, Kris Bybee-Finley. I would like to take this month to thank everyone that has helped with membership projects over the last four years. Major to retaining and bringing in new members is active participation by all members. However, there have been West Harris County Branch "angels" who helped with calling members to renew membership, branch directory information input, branch directory printing and deliveries, and New Membership Coffees.



Top of the list are Mary Andersen and Pam Doan for Directory development and printing, and Diana Tiberia for National registrations while dealing with a difficult National system. Rose Ennis, Diana Guarniere, and Carolyn Morris have jumped into action whenever additional strength was needed concerning Membership. Thanks to Susan Boone for producing invitations and Loretta Coussirat for assembling beautiful floral arrangements for Membership Coffees, June Luncheons, and Holiday Parties. Thank you to the entire WHC Membership for the continued support of community involvement and gender equity for women and girls.

Carolyn Stoffel, Membership V-P

APRIL 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Hiking Honeys



On **Thursday, April 18th**, the Hiking Honeys will head to Armand Bayou Nature Center located at 8500 Bay Area Blvd. in Pasadena, Texas. Armand Bayou, founded in 1974, is situated on 2,500 acres of natural wetlands, forest and prairies and offers more than 5 miles of well-maintained trails through the Center's habitats. There will be a \$5.00 per person fee for entry to the Center. 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 to Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Please contact either Mary Ann McMordie at mamcmordie@gmail.com or Kathryn Motard at kdmotard@sbcglobal.net if you would like to join us.

Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

The April dates for the Wednesday evening Great Decisions are Wednesday, **April 10th** - NATO's Future - Discussion Leader - Willette Norman and Wednesday, **April 24th** - Understanding Indonesia - Discussion Leaders - Sharon and Eric Jorgeson. The group meets at **7:00p.m.** on Zoom. Please contact Willette Norman at 281-450-8875 or willetten@sbcglobal.net to be put on the contact list.

The Inside the Loop afternoon group will meet on Tuesday, **April 2nd, April 16th, and April 30th** at **3:00 p.m.** on Zoom. The topics will be US China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, and Understanding Indonesia. Contact Pat Thomsen at patthom2@sbcglobal.net or 713-302-8899 for further information.

Gourmet Groups - Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group does not meet in April. Please join us in May for our next dinner. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.

Vicarious Voyagers



Our April gathering of the Vicarious Voyagers will be back at Hazel Kjos's home in Sugar Land on Thursday, **April 25th** starting at **10:00a.m.** This will be part 3 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition presented by Jane Wood. Don't forget to RSVP and bring something for our potluck lunch. Happy Travels! Hazel's address is 6326 Logan Creek Lane in Sugar Land, TX 77479 and her phone number is 713-499-9668.

Byway Birders



April is a great time to visit the High Island Sanctuaries to look for spring migrants. To take advantage of this wonderful time for birding, the Byway Birders are planning two trips to the area in April. On Wednesday, **April 10**, the group will head to High Island

and Anahuac NWR for a day of birding. Please contact Betty Cartmell at drbettyc@earthlink.net or 713-789-4898 for more details and to arrange carpooling. Our next trip will be an overnight stay in Winnie, TX. on **April 27-28**. We will meet on Saturday, **April 27 at 9:00 am** on the Bolivar side of the ferry and look for shore birds. After lunch we will go to the High Island rookery and search for migrants at Boy Scout Woods and nearby areas. We will spend the night in Winnie. Our plan is to start early the next morning to see more migrants. Day trippers are welcome. Please contact Sharon Jorgeson at sjorgeson@gmail.com or 281-703-5939 if you plan to go. Hotel information and other details will be sent out soon.

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

"Take me out to the ballgame! Buy me some peanuts and cracker jacks! I don't care if we never get back!"

Get ready for a fun afternoon at the ballpark! On Sunday, **April 21**, we will head to Sugar Land to watch the Sugar Land Space Cowboys play the Round Rock Express at Constellation Field. The Cowboys are the Triple A affiliate of the Houston Astros. The game starts at 2:05 PM and we plan on being there by **1:15 p.m.** Once there we will savor all the typical ballpark fare like hotdogs, peanuts, popcorn, nachos, burgers, etc. at our own expense.



We were unable to secure a Harris County bus for the event, so we will carpool from the parking lot on Barryknoll Street across from the Cinemark Theater in Memorial City Mall. Departure from the lot will be **12:35 p.m.** You can, of course, drive yourself directly to the ballfield at 1 Stadium Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77498. The phone number for the park is 281-240-4487.

Please email an RSVP to Melba Armstrong at armstrong.melba@comcast.net letting her know you plan to participate and whether you will meet at the Barryknoll lot or drive yourself. You may call her at 832-778-9467 if you prefer. Your check made out to Melba Armstrong in the amount of \$19 and mailed to her at 22423 Tullis Trail Ct, Katy, TX 77494 will secure your ticket to the game. The tickets are limited to members only. However, you may put a spouse or friend on a waiting list in case we have cancellations.

SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY, MAY 17th



After a long absence, the group will return to the Houston Public Library Family History Center at the Clayton Campus which houses our city's renown Genealogy Center. If you are interested in family history, this is an excellent place to begin your quest. Started as a small special collection of the Houston Public Library in 1921, the genealogy research collection was originally housed in the Julia Ideson Building in downtown Houston. In 1968, the collection was relocated

to the Clayton House at 5300 Caroline Street in Houston's historic Museum District. This was the former home of Houston businessman and statesman William Lockhart Clayton and wife Susan Vaughan Clayton, who deeded the property to the City of Houston for use as a public library. Built in 1916-17, the Clayton's Georgian Revival house features Tuscan columns, paneled pilasters, elliptical fanlight over the front door, and fan lit dormers on the roof. The home became a Texas Historic Landmark in 1988.

A special guest on our tour of the center and home will be a descendant of the Clayton family, who will share stories of growing up in the area. You won't want to miss it. There is no cost to this event except for lunch. Send an email to Elizabeth Martin (elizamart349@gmail.com) to sign up for this May 17th event. Look for more details in May's newsletter.

Garden Divas

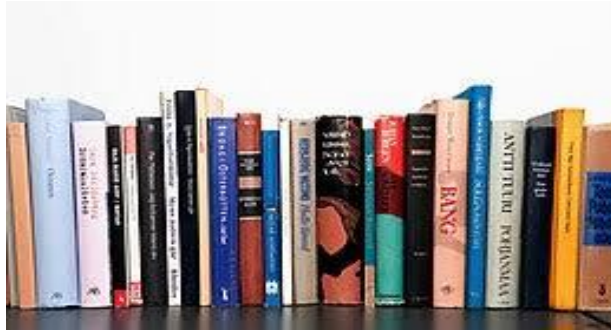
The Garden Divas will visit the John Fairey Garden owned by The John Fairey Garen Conservation Foundation on **Tuesday, April 2**. This garden has been widely acclaimed for the originality of its design, the breadth of its collections, and its education and conservation programs. The garden features an extraordinary variety of plants that are well-suited to the climate of central Texas and the Texas gulf coast. The garden contains more than 3,000 plants (1000 unique taxa) from Mexico, Asia, and the United States. The mission of The John Fairey Garden Conservation Foundation is to preserve, share, and advance the horticultural and artistic legacy of John Fairey. The garden is a preservation garden of The Garden Conservancy, ensuring it will remain as John Fairey intended, in perpetuity. Their website (<https://jfgarden.org>) has a wealth of information that I encourage you to review prior to the trip.



The John Fairey Garden is located at 20559 F.M. 359 Road, Hempstead, Texas. We will carpool from Memorial City from the lot South of Barryknoll leaving at **8:30 a.m.** See the address above if you prefer to meet us at the Garden. The fee for a private tour is \$25 per person. Our tour is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. If you become a member, then the cost is only \$10. Membership information can be found on the website. (Senior membership is only \$35!) There is also a nursery that we can visit where we will have access to some of the garden's outstanding plants. A large part of the foundation's mission is to make uncommon and distinctive plants available for sale to guests and other botanical gardens. The sale plants are propagated from the garden and from plants collected around the world.

After our tour (and plant shopping) we will have lunch at Classic Events Café, 615 Business Hwy 290 N, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Please access and RESPOND to the form found at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/g2hr38SbQP8Fypih8>. If you have questions, contact Susan Boone at smboone@gmail.com.

Book Groups



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.** at Eagle's Trace for lunch. Starting at 1:30 p.m., we will discuss All the Broken Pieces by John Boyne. The discussion leader is Karla Dunne. Please contact coordinator Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499 or Cheryl Smith at 402-651-2445 for more information.

Contemporary Readers

On **Wednesday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m.**, we will be discussing Hang the Moon by Jeanette Walls. 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 or Co-coordinator, Cathy Urquhart, 832-454-5017, curquhart80@gmail.com.

Enjoying History Book Club

We will meet on **Monday, April 8th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing Last Call at The Hotel Imperial by Deborah Cohen. Carolyn Morris is the leader. Please email me with any questions, Nancy Guilloud, nanguilloud@aol.com.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Thursday, April 4th at 5:00 p.m.** when we will discuss The Gravity of Birds by Tracy Guzman. We will meet at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Dr. at Kirkwood. The coordinator is Jo Glidewell, wglide@gmail.com; 936-327-2085.

Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Tuesday, April 16th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss Last Remains by Elllie Griffiths. The discussion leader is Linda Griffin. Please contact Pat Pease popese@aol.com, or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com for more information.

Outstanding Literature

The Outstanding Literature book group will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 6th at 9:30 a.m.** We will meet at our usual location, La Madeleine, Carillon, 10001 Westheimer to discuss Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. Marietta Hostak will be our discussion leader. Leigh Rappole is the coordinator, leighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161. The co-coordinator is Barbara Butler, and she can be reached at barbarabutler2021@gmail.com, 713-305-0570. You know, we love our books, and we love our laughs!

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

ZOOM Electric Book Group will be meeting on **Thursday, April 18th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss The Chelsea Girls by Fiona Davis. The leader is Willette Norman. All meetings occur on ZOOM. Members and guests are welcome to join us for one or all the books. Please contact Carolyn Morris, carolynmorris16@gmail.com, or Pat Thomsen, co-coordinator, patthom2@sbcglobal.net to receive the link.



APRIL 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Rose Ennis	Apr 03	Susan Dunten	Apr 13
Elizabeth Martin	Apr 03	Hazel Kjos	Apr 18
Bery Hogshead	Apr 05	Diana Guarniere	Apr 22
Martha Armstrong	Apr 10	Fran Macy	Apr 22
Pamela Ossorio	Apr 10	Patricia Driscoll	Apr 24
Marjorie Poole	Apr 11	Barbara Kyse	Apr 25
Carole Ballew	Apr 12	Carolyn Morris	Apr 25
Patricia Cordrey	Apr 13	Anne Amador	Apr 29

New Member: please welcome

Kendree M. Keegan

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