



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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aauwfparnell@gmail.com

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**June 2024 Deadline**

May 10, 2024

**Stay informed!**

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

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

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](http://aauw.org) and using your credit card, preferred as fast, convenient, and safe.

1. Go to [aauw.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:helen.santire@gmail.com)*



*President's Message*



Dear West Harris County Members,

I hope everyone was able to participate in the virtual AAUW Texas Conference. Did you notice the two nominees from our branch - [Helen Santire](#) and [Valerie Koehler](#)?

Each year, AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the world for leadership training at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This year our branch is sending two students from TSU, [Kenadi Walker](#) and [Kayla Jackson](#) to the Conference on May 30, 2024. The girls will be accompanied by Dr Michele Taylor, Student Chapter Liaison.

Hope to see you all at our fantastic coming events: May 5, the Style Show Fundraiser at Chicos; and June 15 our Spring Luncheon at KP's Kitchen, when we install our new officers and honor the Thomson-Baker-Telfer scholarship winners. Mark your calendar and sign up now.

Finally, you should have received an email with a link for AAUW election and bylaw change. AAUW National has proposed changing the bylaws by eliminating degree requirements. National is proposing this change because it will make our organization more inclusive. Deadline for voting is May 15, be sure to voice your opinion.

*Poupette Farnell, President*

SAVE THE DATE



Our spring luncheon is set for **Saturday, June 15** from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at KP's Kitchen, located at 8412 Katy Freeway. We will be honoring the recipients for this year's Thomsen-Baker-Telfer scholarship awards.

In addition to recognizing our scholarship awardees, we will have a guest speaker, Valerie Koehler, owner of the Blue Willow Bookshop in West Houston.

Publisher's Weekly 2023 named Valerie one of two independent booksellers for taking a courageous stand against Texas House Bill 900, a controversial book banning law in our state.

Further details regarding menu options, pricing and response deadline will be provided in another email blast shortly. Meanwhile, please mark your calendars for June 15!

*Lilian Care, VP Programs*

## PUBLIC POLICY



### Important May Voting Dates

#### School Board Election Day is Saturday, May 4

Early voting will be held April 22 - April 30

Go to your school district website for more information.

#### HCAD election is Saturday, May 4

Early Voting will be held April 22 - April 30

Harris County Appraisal District Board election is a first-time election for three of the nine seats on the board. There are 13 candidates running for these seats. Previously all seats were appointed rather than elected positions.

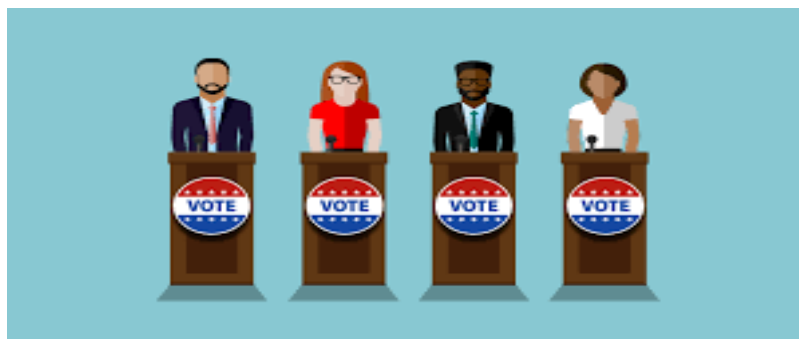
#### Primary Runoff is Tuesday, May 28

Early voting will be held May 20 - May 24

Go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/> for sample ballots and voting locations or outside Harris County refer to your county website for information.

Get the May 4<sup>th</sup> Non-Partisan Houston Voters Guide at <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/>. Subscribe to learn more about League of Women Voters activities and voter information.

*Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair*



## MEMBERSHIP

As we get close to the end of the year for AAUW-WHC, there are some important events that need membership participation. In addition to the AAUW National business of opening up membership, there are Local and State elections. Both impact our best interest in the community. The School Board and State Primary Runoffs are important, so go VOTE!



Other activities pertinent to AAUW-WHC Branch directly, are the **Sunday, May 5th** Style show at Chico's supporting AAUW Funds and our Spring Luncheon in June to honor three Scholarship recipients. It has been a great year with the opportunity to gather in person. Please continue to support these upcoming events. Also, start thinking about inviting a Prospective New Member to our New Member Coffee in August!

Thank you for your support for the last four years.

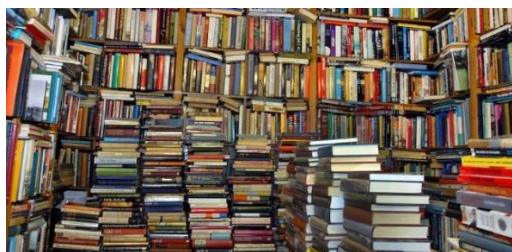
*Carolyn Stoffel, Membership VP*

## Thomsen-Baker-Telfer STEM Scholarship

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer scholarship online application is now closed. The scholarship board will assess each submitted application. Thanks to all the many generous individual and matching donations, the T-B-T committee will award THREE \$3,500 scholarships, one to a senior high school girl in each of the three school districts: Alief, Houston and Spring Branch.

Don't forget our **Sunday, May 5th** style show at Chico's with AAUW models where members can still donate to the scholarship fund (checks only).

*Brenda Moss, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship*



### WHCB Project to Promote Literacy Donate your books!

“A book is a present you can open again and again.”

If you have donated books already, THANK YOU! If not, you can help with this project in May and throughout the summer. We're collecting gently used children's books and women's magazines. All donated books will be given to support a free library located at Spring Branch Family Development Center (SBFDC). Most needed are toddler board books, beginning readers, chapter books, graphic novels, illustrated nonfiction texts, mysteries, and young adult fiction, and old issues of women's magazines.

Questions: Contact Cathy Urquhart at [curquhart80@gmail.com](mailto:curquhart80@gmail.com) or text 832-454-5017

**Where:** Branch functions

**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.

# MAY 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

*Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator*

## Hiking Honeys



On **Thursday, May 16th**, the Honeys will venture to Mercer Arboretum located at 22251 Aldine Westfield Road in Houston, Texas. The 250 acres along Cypress Creek were presented to Harris County by Thelma and Charles Mercer to create the area's largest collection of native and cultivated plants. Situated on the west side of Aldine Westfield Road, Mercer Arboretum contains well-marked walking trails with surfaces consisting of boardwalk, crushed granite, and asphalt that wind through beautifully preserved woodlands. 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 **9:15 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 Mary Ann McMordie at [mamcmordie@gmail.com](mailto:mamcmordie@gmail.com) if you would like to join the group.

## Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

The next meeting of the Great Decisions Inside the Loop Group is **3 p.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** and the topic is: "High Seas Treaty". The last meeting is on **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** where the topic is "Pandemic". For more information contact Pat Thomsen, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) or Linda Marlin, [marlinl@comcast.net](mailto:marlinl@comcast.net).

The Great Decisions Wednesday Evening Group will meet on **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** and the topic will be "Understanding Indonesia" with discussion leaders, Sharon and Eric Jorgeson. On **Wednesday, May 22**, the topic will be "High Seas Treaty" with discussion leader Mike Dach. Please contact Willette Norman at 281-450-8875 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com) for more information.

## Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group is postponing our May dinner until **Saturday, June 1st**. We will meet in the Bybee-Finley home. The dinner will feature Modern French cooking. More information and the menu will be sent to group members in May. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



## Vicarious Voyagers

Greetings Vicarious Voyagers! On **Thursday, April 25th** we will gather at my home (see below for address) for the next presentation of the Lewis & Clark Expedition presented by Jane Wood. We will also get a chance to meet a great big loveable Newfoundland dog, the kind that accompanied the explorers on their expedition. If you have a dog allergy, don't forget your allergy meds. Please remember to bring something for our potluck lunch. Also, a reminder, we are in a gate-guarded neighborhood. When you get to the call box, scroll to my name, and hit the "CALL" button, it will call me, and I can buzz you in through the gate. When you are through the gate make a left and another left and we are the third house on the right. Please RSVP so I know how many will be coming. Hazel Kjos, 6326 Logan Creek Lane, Sugar Land, mobile 713-499-9668.

## Cultural Interest Group

### Madam Butterfly Opera

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 a.m.- Memorial City Cinemark Theater.



This opera will be live streamed from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City as it is performed! You will get to be up close and personal with all the performers in real time. No bus to catch, just drive yourself or carpool and meet at Memorial City Cinemark Theater by 11:40 a.m. Standard tickets are \$25/Senior tickets are \$23. You may go online yourself to purchase tickets beforehand. (<https://www.cinemark.com/theatres/tx-houston/cinemark-memorial-city/>)

Please let Diana Guarniere know you are attending or need assistance by May 10, so she has a count for the opera as well as the restaurant following the performance [guarniered@gmail.com](mailto:guarniered@gmail.com) or 832-465-5578/

The opera lasts 3 hours and 15 minutes. After the performance, we will gather at The Rouxpour Restaurant located in Memorial City Mall next to Maggianos. Drinks and food will be on your own.

Note: This activity is in lieu of attending the Texas Music Festival at U.H. scheduled for June due to the lack of available county buses to transport our group. However, tickets will be available for the Texas Music Festival performances should you want to attend on your own.

### Houston Public Library Family History Center

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](mailto:elizamart349@gmail.com)) to sign up for this Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> event.

We will meet at the Memorial City Parking lot on Barryknoll at 9:10 a.m. where we will carpool to the Museum District. You can also meet us at the library at 5300 Caroline St, Houston, TX 77004 at 9:50am.

## Garden Divas



On **Tuesday, May 7th at 10:00 a.m.**, we will stroll the shaded paths, enjoy the beauty of the flowers, and spend time in quiet reflection as we escape into the Land of the Rising Sun (also known as the **Japanese Gardens**). The Japanese Gardens have been a focal point in Houston since 1992. The garden celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022. We will have a tour of the garden and an opportunity to visit the newly opened Commons area. The Commons has been extensively renovated into a picturesque stone cover, a wetland garden and new paths through the distinctive oak trees.

Afterward, we will visit our Rosie the Riveter Rose Garden in the McGovern Centennial Gardens to check the progress of the rose bushes planted. If you have your Rosie Bandanna, be sure to bring it!

Lunch will be at Ginger Cafe, 6104 Hermann Park Dr.

We will carpool from the Memorial City parking lot, south side of Barryknoll leaving at **9:30 a.m.** (Directions if you plan to meet us at the garden at 10 a.m.: The entrance to the Japanese Garden is near the Pioneer Memorial obelisk just off Molly Ann Smith Plaza near the Heart of the Park. The closest parking is Lot A (free) located just off Sam Houston Monument circle. To get to the Japanese Garden from Lot A, follow the decomposed granite path along the Jones Reflection Pool under the double allée of trees. The entrance is just off the plaza with the obelisk.)

Email Susan Boone-[smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com) if you are interested in going on this trip so she can get a head count for lunch.

## Byway Birders

On **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Byway Birders will meet by Zoom to plan for next year. Please be thinking about activities that you would like to include in our schedule next year.

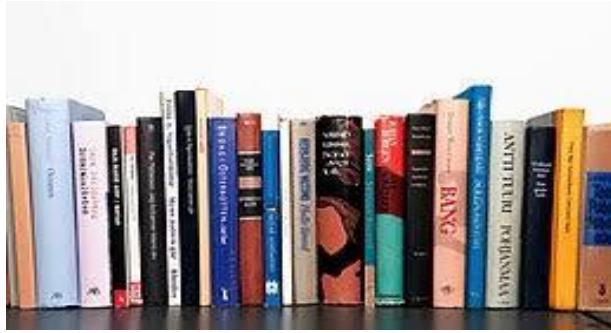
## Bridge Groups

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.



# Book Groups



## Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m.** at Eagle's Trace for lunch. Starting at 1:30 p.m., we will discuss Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver. The discussion leader is Cheryl Smith. Please contact coordinator Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499 or Cheryl Smith at 402-651-2445 for more information.

## Contemporary Readers

On **Wednesday, May 1st at 1:00 p.m.**, we will discuss The Trackers by Charles Frazier. 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, May 13th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center Library. We are discussing Saving Freedom, Truman, the Cold War, and the Fight for Western Civilization by Joe Scarborough. Brenda Moss is 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, May 6th at 5:00 p.m.** when we will discuss Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. We will meet at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant, Memorial Dr. at Kirkwood. The coordinator is Jo Glidewell, [wzglide@gmail.com](mailto:wzglide@gmail.com); 936-327-2085.

## Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Tuesday, May 21st at 1:30 p.m.** at the Robinson Library Meeting Room to discuss The Sentence is Death by Anthony Horowitz. NOTE: This is a change in meeting place. The discussion leader is Pat Dach. 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

The Outstanding Literature book group will meet on **Tuesday, May 14th at 9:30 a.m.** at our usual location, La Madeleine, Carillon, 10001 Westheimer to discuss The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty. Each of us will bring three good discussion questions and we will take turns leading the group. Leigh Rappole is the coordinator, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com), 281-596-0161. The co-coordinator is Barbara Butler, and she can be reached at [barbarabutler2021@gmail.com](mailto: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, May 16th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss Nothing Daunted by Dorothy Wickenden. The leader is Susan Dunten. 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](mailto:carolynmorris16@gmail.com), or Pat Thomsen, co-coordinator, [patthom2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patthom2@sbcglobal.net) to receive the link.





## MAY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Jorgeson	May 12	Marilyn Watson	May 23
Marylois Miller	May 14	Cheryl Smith	May 25
Marilyn Arendt	May 16	Pamela Doan	May 26
Donna Harshman	May 16	Edith Dunlop	May 27
Mary Hilton	May 19	Susan Wilson	May 28
Shari Mauthner	May 22		

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Margaret Carlson New Address:

301 Cardinal Run, #308  
Houston, TX 77077

There was confusion regarding this information in the April Newsletter; please check and make sure you have the correct spelling and contact information for New Member:

### Kendree Keagan

8023 Burning Hills Drive  
Houston, TX 77071-1208  
H: 713-995-1028  
C: 713-894-9627  
kmkeagan@gmail.com