



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXIX

October 2024 Newsletter

Issue 2

## President

Josephine "Jo" Glidewell  
aauwjglidewell@gmail.com

## President Elect

Lilian Care

## Program Vice President

Committee headed by Diana  
Guarniere

## Membership Vice President

Kris Bybee-Finley

## AAUW Funds Vice-President

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## Recording Secretary

Michele Taylor

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Diana Tiberia

## Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

## Newsletter Editor

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aauwhcnews@gmail.com

## November 2024 Deadline

October 15, 2024

## AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday, October 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER



## Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy: How to get involved and make a difference

**Dallana Camargo**  
**Programs Officer for Voter Services**  
**League of Women Voters of Houston (LWV)**

Dallana Nicole Camargo is the proud immigrant daughter of Colombian parents who gave up a lot to provide their children with access to opportunities. Dallana (pronounced Diana) graduated from UTSA with a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies and a Public Administration Master's Degree. Dallana brings a fresh perspective to LWV. She attributes her upbringing to understanding the impact the lack of representation has on low-income communities. This understanding fuels her to work for equity and social change.

This topic is a timely one as our WHC branch is collaborating with the LWV Houston to Get Out the Vote, register voters, build awareness of issues affecting our communities, and provide nonpartisan information on candidates to our members and to our neighbors. Learn about the many initiatives being promoted by LWV.

## Stay informed!

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

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





## President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,

Greetings Fellow AAUW members. We are kicking off the new year with many wonderful activities and projects to further the causes that AAUW advocates. Please try to attend the monthly meetings as we have great programs lined up for the coming year. Our speaker on September 21 was an example. Teneshia Hudspeth, Clerk for Harris County was interesting and funny while giving our group a lot of information about what the Clerk's office does for the citizens of Harris County. The speaker for October is from League of Women Voters with timely information on how to help get out the vote in November.

Please participate in the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer matching funds project to secure the potential \$10,000.00 matching grant to our branch scholarship program. The deadline is November 28th. We have raised the \$10,000.00 but we have not met the 50 percent of AAUW-WHC members participation requirement which we must do to receive the grant. Please donate, however modest, so that we will reach 50% participation and Thomsen-Baker-Telfer will receive the matching \$10,000. With your help AAUW-WHC's scholarship program will be able to continue awarding scholarships to deserving young women.

Remember to vote in November and encourage others to vote also.

*Jo Glidewell, President*



### IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

Last Day to Register	Monday, October 7
Mail Ballot Application Deadline	Friday, October 25
Early Voting	October 21 - November 1
Election Day	Tuesday, November 5, 2024 – 7am – 7pm

Completed Mail Ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.

View your sample ballot, find a vote center, track your mail ballot, and much more at <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Election-Information> or <https://www.vote411.org/>

## MEMBERSHIP

It's nice to be invited. This conclusion comes from times I was excluded and how that hurt, and the times I was included and how that felt good. There are many excuses for not inviting someone: "I don't know them. I'm shy. They are different. I already have friends." We sift through the excuses then miss the opportunity to grow a friendship with a new person. During meetings and club outings, make it a goal to talk to someone you haven't spent time with. Find a commonality and work from there. As Ted Lasso said, "Be curious." And then, invite them: "Walk with me." "Sit next to me." "Carpool next time." "Let's find a restaurant." When you do that, you make another person feel good. Trust me, I know.

*Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership VP*



### **Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Needs You!**

Something wonderful happened at the September Branch Monthly Meeting! The dollar amount of our \$10,000 matching grant was reached. The total after the meeting was **61 members** who have donated **\$10,260**. The \$10,000 from our anonymous donor is within our reach. We need to meet 50% of the total membership to collect \$10,000 and pass go. In other words, we **need a total of 80 members** to donate in order to reach the 50% goal.

***We know there are 19 members who can make a donation, so that we reach our goal of 80 participating members. This matching grant is too great an opportunity to allow it to slip through our fingers.***

How can I give my donation? Donations can be mailed to Mary Andersen 5426 Wigton Drive, Houston 77096 or paid by Zelle to [ThomsenBakerTelferScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:ThomsenBakerTelferScholarship@gmail.com). Don't trust the mail! Look on page 5 of the directory for a list of scholarship board members. Call or email any one of them. They will happily pick up your donation.

The matching grant is for \$10,000 to be matched by 50% or more of the WHC membership by November 28, 2024. The amount, deadline and 50% participation by the membership are firm conditions. We need to collect a minimum of \$10,000 and the funds donated must come from at least 80 members (50% of 160 members in August 2024). As of September 22, 2024, we have received \$10,260 from 61 members. Thank you to all the members who have gotten us this far. We still have a long way to go. To be clear, even though we have reached the monetary goal of \$10,000, if we do not have at least 80 members donating to the Scholarship Fund by November 28, 2024, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer will not receive the matching \$10,000.

You can be part of a young woman's dream education. The selection committee carefully chooses deserving young women with high aspirations. They have BIG dreams of advanced degrees which will take a great deal of money.

Thank you for your consideration! Every person counts!

## AAUW-WHC WELL REPRESENTED ON TEXAS AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year AAUW-West Harris County Branch has three members serving on the Texas AAUW Board of Directors.



**Debbie Campbell** was elected to be Vice-President for AAUW Funds. Debbie served in this position for AAUW-WHC in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. She was instrumental in guiding the membership through using the new national website to make donations online.



**Georgia Kimmel** has been appointed to the AAUW Texas Public Policy position. Georgia has served in this position for AAUW-WHC for years. All of us have learned from her informative articles in the branch newsletter each month.



**Michele Taylor** - having joined AAUW-WHC last year, Michele organized the branch's sponsorship of two TSU students to attend the 2024 NCWSL Conference in Maryland. Texas AAUW has appointed her as their College/University Representative. Michele is also serving as the Recording Secretary for AAUW-WHC.

When you see these hard-working members at meetings or activities, remember to thank them for their commitment to AAUW.





# “Campaign of Giving”

October through December

**Be inspired to advance AAUW’s mission to break through educational barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance to realize their potential by contributing to:**



## AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it’s needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of the AAUW into the future.



### Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers that prevent women from thriving in school and pursuing the careers of their dreams. That means championing equal access to education and ensuring women can learn in environments free from harassment and discrimination.



### Economic Security Fund (4449)

Promotes women’s livelihoods through advocacy for fair-pay, legislation, researching the pay gap, training women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, and advising employers on fostering fair cultures.



### Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports AAUW’s work to bolster the number of women in top roles across all industries by addressing systematic biases and giving women the skills and resources they need to lead.

## How to Support AAUW’s Mission

**No donation is too small**

Contributions to AAUW FUNDS are fully tax-deductible

### AAUW Funds steps

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 to:  
Helen Santire – [helen.santire@gmail.com](mailto:helen.santire@gmail.com) or Maureen Kraker - [maureenkraker@gmail.com](mailto:maureenkraker@gmail.com)



September Monthly Meeting with County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth.

## AAUW-WHC DATABASE MANAGER

Mary Andersen has served as the branch database manager for five years. Because of other commitments, she is resigning from that position, and the branch needs another member to take over keeping track of member information. This is not a technical position. Excel is used because it is easy to sort information, but if you use Word, you will have no problem with this job.

The main duties are keeping member information up-to-date and sending out the newsletter each month and information blasts as needed. The Database Manager is not responsible for writing the newsletter or the blasts.

Mary will be available to assist and answer any questions the new Database Manager may have.

If you are interested in getting more involved in AAUW-WHC than going to activities and attending the monthly meeting, this is a great opportunity. Email or call Mary at [713-503-8784](tel:713-503-8784)/[mande7707@hotmail.com](mailto:mande7707@hotmail.com).

## PUBLIC POLICY



### **AAUW Public Policy Work**

AAUW's public policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls. At the national level, our priority is to remove bias from education, fight for fair pay and economic equity, and to advance women in leadership.

Learn more about these national positions and advocacy work on major issues by going to our national website <https://www.aauw.org/> A nonpartisan guide about key gender equity issues is available at <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/06/Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf>

It's easy to advocate for women's issues by becoming a two-minute activist. Check this link: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> Sign up to receive alerts.

In Texas, at the state and local levels, public policy work includes identifying, tracking and assessing legislation, regulations, and policies with our legislative priorities:

- Equal Pay
- Women's Healthcare, including reproductive rights
- Education-related issues including vouchers by any name
- Book censorship
- Reducing Gun Violence
- Free and Fair Elections

Our local branch encourages voting, advocacy, and being informed.

### **Thank You! For Supporting WHCB Project to Promote Literacy**

There were many book deliveries made to Spring Branch Family Development Center from May through July. In response we received this note:

***Dear Georgia,***

***Thank you and please thank AAUW for supporting SBFDC's Little Free Library.***

***I'm its unofficial librarian and it is so exciting to be able to keep the collection vibrant with good quality reading materials. I expect 600 books to be checked out each month this summer. It is very popular.***

***Thank you for supporting the thirst for learning and our community!***

***Laura Segura***

***Spring Branch Family Development Center***

We are still collecting gently used 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

*Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair*



# OCTOBER 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

## *Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator*

### Byway Birders



Byway Birders will visit Anahuac on **Saturday, September 28th**. We will meet at **9:00 am** at the Visitors Center at 4017 FM 563 Anahuac TX 77514. From there we will look for shore birds at Robbins Park before heading to Anahuac NWR, 4318 FM 1985. Bring bug spray, drinks and lunch. Please let Mary Dodson know if you are going at 713-516-4266 or [mpdodson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mpdodson@sbcglobal.net). For more information or to be added to the mailing list, email Pat Dach at [patdach@gmail.com](mailto:patdach@gmail.com).

The rain date is Saturday, October 5th.

### Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities

ACT NOW! The first opera opportunity is happening – Les Contes d’Hoffman by Offenbach will be shown on **Saturday, October 5 at 11:55 a.m.** This opera is being live-streamed around the world from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Join us and enjoy this experience locally at the Cinemark Theatre in Memorial City.



Send a \$25 check to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077 to secure a spot immediately or purchase a ticket at Cinemark upon arrival. Additionally, you can purchase tickets online with Fandango. Feel free to bring spouses or friends. Optional après opera opportunity, at your expense, is to walk over to Rouxpour Restaurant and enjoy refreshments and discuss the opera. A synopsis of the opera will be sent to you if you let us know ahead of time that you are attending. [roseennis@att.net](mailto:roseennis@att.net) or 281-755-6483/[quarniered@gmail.com](mailto:quarniered@gmail.com) or 832-465-5578.

### Hiking Honeys



On **Thursday, October 17th**, our hikers will be strolling through Glenwood Cemetery. Glenwood was founded in 1871 as a picturesque garden style cemetery and its grounds include an extensive collection of historical monuments and statuary. The cemetery, in the shadow of downtown Houston, provides a canopy of live oaks to shade our path through the tranquil beauty of Glenwood. More information, including where to meet at the cemetery and lunch plans will be provided to the Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. 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 **9:30 a.m.** Anyone planning to meet at our destination, please arrive by 10:00 am. Please contact Mary Ann McMordie at [mamcmordie@gmail.com](mailto:mamcmordie@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.



## Culture Group



### THE KELLUM NOBLE HOUSE STORY

Wednesday, October 16

The Culture Interest group has a special outing planned to the Heritage Society where the group will tour the oldest house in Houston still standing on its' original location. Built in 1847, you will learn the story of this stately home, its owners, occupants, and the first school in town run by a woman. You will learn the Kellum Noble house story with a docent who will bring back the

days when Texas was a Republic. A special guest from Preservation Houston will lead us through the multi-year restoration of the building. As time permits, we will explore other houses on the Women's History Tour. You will learn about:

- Zerviah Noble's contribution to Houston history, including hosting a private school before public schools existed in the city.
- Progressive, educated, and talented women who helped change the shape of property ownership rights, voting rights, the school system, and the Arts scene.
- How the house was designated as a UNESCO site in 2022 as part of its "Slave Route Project."
- Original "Texas Furniture" made by German cabinetmakers.
- The "Mexican American History & Culture in 20th Century Houston" mural in Connally Plaza.

The deadline for ticket purchase is Thursday, October 10th so sign up now and send your check for \$28 (which includes lunch) made payable to: Pamela Ossorio and mail to 4113 Cason, Houston, TX 77005, or hand your check to me at one of the many interesting AAUW WHC events. You can pay by Zelle to [p\\_ossorio@yahoo.com](mailto:p_ossorio@yahoo.com) If you use Zelle, please email Pamela Ossorio [p\\_ossorio@yahoo.com](mailto:p_ossorio@yahoo.com) so I will expect your payment.

Trip details, including lunch plans and onsite parking, will be emailed to registered attendees.

NOTE: We will be carpooling from our regular parking lot across from Memorial City Mall at 12125 Barryknoll Lane. Plan on leaving the parking lot by **9:30 a.m.** to arrive at Sam Houston Park before 10.



SAVE THE DATE and Save our Prairie!!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th !



Ever wonder why there's all this hype about prairies? There are native flowers and grasses now saturating the landscape in Memorial Park, prairie restorations taking hold at the Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, and Pocket Prairies sprouting up around neighborhoods, hospitals and schools. Well, now is your chance to learn while enjoying some time outdoors feeling and seeing the wonders we call the prairie. Culture, Hiking Honey's, Byway Birders, and Garden Divas are collaborating for a joint visit to the Indiangrass Preserve on the Katy Prairie on Friday, November 15th . You will see and learn the benefits of the prairie from this showcase property. The Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC) has been steadily setting aside prairie acreage since 1992 when a group of landowners decided to save a piece of our land heritage in perpetuity. This non-profit has now saved 32,000 acres in 9 counties that will never be developed. See how they did it. We will carpool to the Indiangrass Preserve. There is No Cost for this outing. Just share your plans to attend with an email to Jane Wood at [jane.wood9@icloud.com](mailto:jane.wood9@icloud.com) or call 832-302-6224. Details will be provided in November's newsletter.

HOLIDAY TICKETS AT THE ALLEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU!!

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Are you ready for the holidays????? Me neither, BUT mark your calendar for Sunday, December 15th when we will be going to The Alley's Neuhaus Theatre to see their newest holiday show "The Night Shift Before Christmas." This will be the Sunday matinee performance at 1:30 p.m. on the small stage. After the show, we will enjoy a late lunch together at Birraporetti's next door. Bus transportation to and from will be provided! To reserve your seat at this holiday event, send an email to Kathryn Motard at [kdmotard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdmotard@sbcglobal.net). Discounted group rate tickets are only \$30! Details to follow in the November newsletter.



## Garden Divas

Unfortunately, Garden Divas will not meet in October. Our plan was for an outing to the Flora Cocina on edible flowers. Organizing this event proved to be a challenge. The best I could get was a ZOOM class and I opted out of that opportunity and made the difficult decision to SKIP the October outing. Special thanks to Pamela Ossorio and Carolyn Morris for noble efforts to try make plans. As a side-note, our date also conflicted with National Neighbor's Night Out (*at least two Divas are helping host the event in their neighborhood*), so I would encourage you to share your wealth of gardening knowledge with your neighbors and venture out on Tuesday, October 1st. Plans are starting for the **Tuesday, November 5th** Fern Plantation visit, so mark your calendars and save the date! I apologize that this trip did not happen and perhaps we can try again in the future.



September Gourmet Group dinner

## Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

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

## 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Duplicate Bridge** (11:00 a.m.) Cheryl Smith,  
402.651.2445.



## Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups



Great Decision inside the loop will start on **January 13, 2025, at 3 pm on Zoom**. For more information Please contact Pat Thomsen [patthom75@ATT.net](mailto:patthom75@ATT.net) or Linda Marlin, [LMarlin505@gmail.com](mailto:LMarlin505@gmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Group** meets at **7:00 pm via Zoom**. The meetings will start in January 2025. For more information or to be placed on the contact list, please contact coordinator Willette Norman at 281-450-8875 or [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com).



# Book Groups



## Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, October 2nd at 1 p.m.** at Eagle's Trace Austin Square/Waterloo Restaurant, 14703 Eagle Vista Drive, for lunch. Starting at 1:30 p.m., we will discuss James by Percival Everett. Please contact Co-coordinator Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499, [amorgan352@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amorgan352@sbcglobal.net), or Co-Coordinator Cheryl Smith at 402-651-2445, [ccherylesmile@gmail.com](mailto:ccherylesmile@gmail.com), for more information.

## Contemporary Readers

On **Wednesday, October 2nd at 1 p.m.**, we will discuss Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes. 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](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, October 14th at 1:30 p.m.** in the library at Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive (near Beltway 8/ Sam Houston Tollway and Richmond Avenue) to discuss Empire of the Summer Moon by S.C. Gwynne. Diana Guarniere will lead the discussion. Please contact Coordinator Nancy Guilloud at [nanguilloud@aol.com](mailto:nanguilloud@aol.com) for more information.

## Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant. We will discuss The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. Please contact Coordinator Carole Ballew at [caroleballew@yahoo.com](mailto:caroleballew@yahoo.com) or call 832-656-0775 for more information.

## Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Tuesday, October 15th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss Murder On Friday Street by Russell Cooper. The discussion leader is Linda Griffin. Please contact Pat Pease [popese@aol.com](mailto:popese@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, October 8th at 9:30 a.m.** at La Madeleine, Carillon, 10001 Westheimer, 713-266-7686. We will discuss the book, Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson. Peg McNealy will lead the group. Leigh Rappole, 281-596-161, [leighrap@aol.com](mailto:leighrap@aol.com), is the coordinator and Barbara Butler, [barbaracbutler2021@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracbutler2021@gmail.com), 713-305-0670, is the co-coordinator. "We love our books, and we love our laughs!"

## Zoom Eclectic Book Group

ZOOM Eclectic Book Group will meet on **Thursday, October 17th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss All the Broken Places by John Boyne. Our leader is Susan Duntun. 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) to receive the link.



### OCTOBER 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Arlene Baker	Oct 01	Peggy Edwards	Oct 13
Valerie Koehler	Oct 01	Michelle Adams	Oct 16
Joan Belk	Oct 04	Diana Tiberia	Oct 16
Josephine Glidewell	Oct 05	Elizabeth Chapman	Oct-18
Barbara Cook	Oct 07	Sharon Rodgers	Oct 18
Kendree Keagan	Oct-08	Jane Cooper	Oct 25
Karen North	Oct 08	Deborah Rossi	Oct 26
Jennifer Gillespie-Malone	Oct 10	Mary Dodson	Oct 28
Jacqueline Shelton	Oct 10		

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

The following members have renewed their membership, please add them to your directory:

**Julie Eisenhauer:**  
2262 Woodland Springs Drive  
Houston, TX  
713-851-4703  
JEisen777@aol.com

**Beryl Hogshead**  
10838 Lynbrook Unit B  
Houston TX 77042  
713-782-4872  
bhogshead@earthlink.net

**Barbara Butler has a new address:**  
1321 Park Bayou Drive #N310  
Houston, TX 77077