



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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October 2024 Deadline

September 15, 2024

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER



Welcome back! We are delighted to have Teneshia Hudspeth, Harris County Clerk and Chief Election Official of the third-largest county in the nation and the largest county in the State of Texas, as our guest speaker for September. The meeting will be on **Saturday, September 21st at 9:30 a.m.** at the Tracy Gee Community Center. Harris County has a population of more than 4.9 million. Clerk Hudspeth has been with the County Clerk's Office for more than 17 years and has served in many roles under four County Clerks. In January 2020, she was appointed Chief Deputy, responsible for office operations, and in less than a year, she was elected Harris County Clerk. Clerk Hudspeth earned her degree in Communications at Texas Southern University.

Services of the County Clerk's Office:

- Marriage licenses
- Birth and death certificates
- Property records
- Assumed name certificate/DBA
- Commissioners Court
- Probate Courts
- County Civil Courts at Law
- And so much more...



The Harris County Clerk's Elections Department has the responsibility of carrying out statutory electoral functions outlined by federal and state laws. In short, the Elections Department works with the Commissioners Court, the major political parties and other stakeholders to establish an elections infrastructure that facilitates access to the voting process to the citizenry of the third largest county in the United States.

Kris Bybee-Finley, VP Programs Committee member


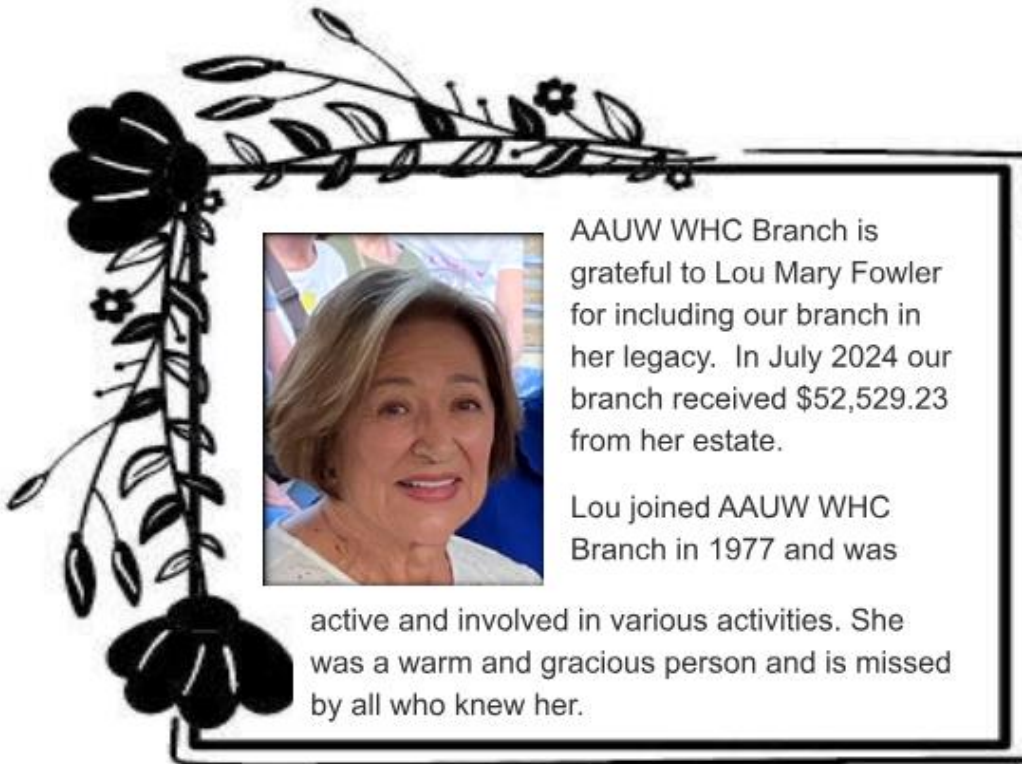


President's Message

Dear West Harris County Members,

Welcome back everyone to our AAUW Branch's 2024-25 year. I am encouraging everyone to join us at our very informative monthly meeting programs on the third Saturday of each month, join us on our wonderful monthly field trips, or try to be a member of a book club or an activity that interests you. By being an active member of this branch, you and the branch will grow in knowledge and friendship as we strive to reach the goals that AAUW advocates. See you on Saturday September 21st. Also, a reminder that all are welcome at the Board meetings.

Jo Glidewell, President



AAUW WHC Branch is grateful to Lou Mary Fowler for including our branch in her legacy. In July 2024 our branch received \$52,529.23 from her estate.

Lou joined AAUW WHC Branch in 1977 and was active and involved in various activities. She was a warm and gracious person and is missed by all who knew her.

MEMBERSHIP

Step forward. Try something new. Get out of your comfort zone. Show up. Bring a friend.

I am the new Membership Vice President, and my job isn't entirely about new members. It's about all the members we have right here, right now. We want to see you, talk to you, share with you, welcome you.

My formative years prepared me for new friendships. After three different middle schools and four different high schools I knew how to make friends like an Olympian at a young age. My first AAUW social event was a Gourmet Group dinner at some stranger's home; I went solo. I showed up with a bag full of spicy flavored paletas from Tarascos Ice Cream on Westheimer. The host hadn't received my email RSVP, but they welcomed me and set another place. I didn't know anyone. After that night, I had some friends. So, if you are new or not getting out as much as you would like, I invite you to peruse the book lists for our new year (7 book clubs!), check out the outings for Divas, Honeys, Bird-Watchers, Culture tours, and Gourmets. There's got to be something out there for you to like enough that will make you get in your car and go.

You've joined. Now, join us. Thank you to everyone who made our Membership Coffee such a success.

Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership VP

Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Awards

At the AAUW-WHC Branch luncheon on June 15, 2024, our own Thompson-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund awarded three area graduating seniors \$3,500 scholarships.



Fathia Fakoya from Elsie High School (Alief ISD) will attend Texas A&M University in College Station where she will study Neuroscience. Fathia plans to become a neurosurgeon.



Natalie Keen from Northbrook High School (Spring Branch ISD) will attend the University of Texas in Austin, majoring in biology. Natalie will pursue a pre-med program and plans to attend medical school and become an MD.



Emerie McCann from Young Women's College Preparatory Academy (Houston ISD) will attend University of Texas in Austin majoring in Environmental Engineering. Her goal is to tackle environmental issues in underserved communities.

NOTE: The announced HISD recipient at the June Luncheon was Lola Giwa. After the luncheon Lola was awarded a full scholarship to Xavier University of Louisiana. Thomsen-Baker-Telfer had to withdraw its offer of scholarship funds to Lola as she has zero need in her Xavier account. Thomsen-Baker-Telfer's guiding procedures do not allow the fund to give money directly to a student. We wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career!

The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) deductible organization funded through contributions from all our generous members. Checks should be made out to Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund and mailed to Mary Andersen, 5426 Wigton Drive, Houston TX 77096. If you prefer to give electronically, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer accepts **Zelle**. Enter the email address thomsenbakertelferscholarship@gmail.com in your banking app. Also, please send an email to thomsenbakertelferscholarship@gmail.com to advise that you have donated through **Zelle**.



AAUW – West Harris County Branch
Invites you to participate in
2024 Fall Fundraiser
“Campaign of Giving”

Let’s all take this opportunity to demonstrate solidarity for the AAUW Mission:

“To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy”

To help advance AAUW’s mission, contribute to:

1. AAUW FUNDS – Credit cards only
 - a. Go to aauw.org and login
 - b. In the left menu, click on My Affiliations and confirm West Harris County as your primary branch
 - c. Click the big red DONATE button and continue with your donation.
 - d. Important – next to Additional emails please enter aauw.whc.funds@gmail.com.
This copies to Helen Santire, 713-468-6531 and Maureen Kraker 713- 498-3549.

AND/OR

2. Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund
 - a. Mail check to: Mary Andersen, 5426 Wigton Dr., Houston, Texas 77096
or
 - b. Use Zelle by entering thomsenbakertelferscholarship@gmail.com in your banking app.



PUBLIC POLICY

Human Trafficking



Each day people are tricked, coerced, or forced into exploitative situations that they cannot refuse or leave. Each day you likely encounter someone who is enslaved. Human trafficking has grown to be one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world with an estimated one million currently in the United States. AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that are against human trafficking and promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.

Karen McKibben-Morris, Public Policy Committee Member

For every 130 girls or women on the planet, one is a modern slave

“What we see, we understand. What we see more, we understand more.” This quote, from renowned Vietnam War photojournalist Phillip Jones Griffiths, sums up what has driven my work for the past 10 years. For most Australians, modern slavery is a foreign concept. Many would assume they’ve never seen it – and if they have, they haven’t recognized it. But slavery is all around us, in the clothes we wear, the toys we buy our children, the food we eat, it has even been discovered in some of our protected institutions. I first encountered the crime of modern slavery at a young age and couldn’t look away. This discovery set me on the path to establish Walk Free in 2011 – an international human rights organization focused on ending modern slavery in our lifetime.

Over the years, we have built an expert team working across five continents, to produce the world’s leading dataset measuring the prevalence of modern slavery. We provide guidance to business, government and religious leaders around the world, and advocate for international legislation to eradicate supply-chain risk and harmful practices such as forced and child marriage. We work closely with survivors and organizations on the frontline.

Four years ago, I was in Lebanon’s Beqaa Valley, assessing the increased vulnerability that refugee communities are to modern slavery and exploitation, in the context of distressed migration. I interviewed Syrian refugees about their experience of fleeing their homes, crossing the border in a war zone and adjusting to their new life in a refugee camp. What I was expecting to document were stories of extreme hardship, of great loss and uncertainty and displacement. What I did not expect was the further injustices they were facing, purely because of their gender. Agree to your daughter marrying a stranger or have her navigate the risk of rape every day? One predator, or multiple? This was the impossible decision facing a mother in the camp who explained she did not want to force her daughter to marry, but in this setting, it was the best worst option. In these camps there is no

physical safety: no doors, no locks. Every day is a constant risk assessment between survival and sexual violence.

I know that travelling to witness the stories of mothers and daughters across the world is a privilege. By sharing their experiences, we seek to change the odds that are so heavily stacked against women and girls. This week, alongside the United Nations' Every Woman Every Child and 40 international human rights groups and survivor organizations, Walk Free is launching our latest report, Stacked Odds, the most comprehensive evaluation of the female experience of modern slavery and exploitation to date. It reveals almost 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery. The report reveals one in every 130 women and girls around the world is living in modern slavery. It demonstrates that gender is stacking the odds before girls are born. Girls and women are at higher risk of slavery and exploitation at every stage of their lives.

There can be no gender equality while millions of women and girls are systemically held back. There are more women and girls living in slavery today than there are people in Australia. And, although shocking, these numbers are conservative. They can't yet take into account the ramifications of COVID-19, which we know is driving even greater risk of forced marriage and modern slavery for women and girls around the world.

Exploitation at this scale is facilitated through global supply chains: the clothes we wear and products we buy and use every day. It is not the consumers' fault vulnerable people are being exploited, but it is our responsibility to show businesses we care about this. We must demand transparency and accountability. We vote for the kind of world we want to live in with the way we spend our money. We can no longer say we can't see or understand this problem. Businesses, government and consumers must all acknowledge this ongoing human rights crisis and take action to unstack the odds for women and girls.

This article was published by The Sydney Morning Herald on 9th October 2020.



AAUW-WHC 2024 Membership Coffee

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to create a wonderful event.



Thank you to our speakers and all who attended.



Thank you for being leaders for Activities and Book Clubs (and doing the newsletter)



SEPTEMBER 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Garden Divas

The September outing for the Garden Divas will be a visit to RCW Nurseries, 15809 Tomball Parkway. They grow their own trees specifically acclimated to the Texas Gulf Coast. In the Garden Store you'll find a large selection of fertilizers, gardening books, magazines, gift items, gloves, pots, pruners, soil and much more. The extensive organic



product lines will please the most environmentally minded gardener. RCW believes in providing good soil and amendments for your home and garden. That includes compost, mulch, and amendments because healthy soil gives you a healthy garden. We will wander through the gardens and browse through four acres of plants and displays. We will be able to enjoy the birds and relax in the most peaceful setting since the Garden of Eden. After we visit the nursery, we will have lunch at 'Quotes', 8002 Willowbrook Mall. The concept of Quotes was birthed out of the desire to bring a fresh and new dining experience to the community. An experience that would fill your belly when you're hungry, relax your mind after a long day, and uplift your spirit by pleasantly immersing you in their "motivational and inspirational quotes theme" throughout the restaurant. We will meet at the Memorial City Mall's Barryknoll parking lot and head to the nursery at **9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3rd**. Hope to see you soon. I am looking forward to Fall! Contact Susan Boone, samboone@gmail.com if you want to join us for the nursery visit.



Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group is having lunch on **Saturday, September 14th, from 12:00-2:30 p.m.** We will meet in the Bybee-Finley home. The lunch will feature Midwestern cooking. More information and the menu will be sent to group members in September. 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.

3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.) Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299

2nd Friday Duplicate Bridge (11:00 a.m.) Cheryl Smith, 402.651.2445.





Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities

at Cinemark Theatre Memorial City on select Saturdays at 11:55 A.M.

Join Diana Guarniere and Rose Ennis at this newly formed opera group and enjoy some of the most breathtaking musical experiences live-streamed from the Metropolitan Opera on select Saturdays. Several operas of the 2024-2025 Met season are being streamed all over the world, in real time! Don't you love technology! Fortunately for us, these transmissions are available close by at the Cinemark Theatre in Memorial City on select Saturdays at 11:55 a.m. Optionally, after the opera and at your expense, we will walk over to Rouxpour to enjoy refreshments and discuss the opera in more detail. Whether an absolute neophyte, occasional opera goer, or an aficionado who can personally sing, perform, or identify many arias by heart, all are welcome. We will e-mail a synopsis of the opera a few days ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the setting, characters, composer, and other pertinent background regarding the opera. What makes these presentations special is there are so many unexpected and fantastic delights such as: enjoying a famous opera singer giving background information before the performance and during intermissions, seeing opera attendees arriving at their seats, watching the famous chandeliers being lowered, following the conductor as he takes his place and getting a glimpse of the orchestra, listening to the day's featured opera singers being interviewed between acts explaining the demands of this performance both vocally and dramatically, seeing sets being meticulously changed between acts, and so much more. Always a surprise and beyond anything you would get if you were actually at the Met in New York City. Have we sold you on attendance? Three Ways to Get Tickets: 1) Send a \$25. check per opera at least 10 days before each showing to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077, 2) Purchase ticket at Cinemark Box Office upon arrival, or 3) Purchase online with Fandango. Please let Diana Guarniere or Rose Ennis know ahead of time if you are planning on attending so we can send the synopsis to you. roseennis@att.net or 281-755-6483, guarniered@gmail.com or 832-465-5578.

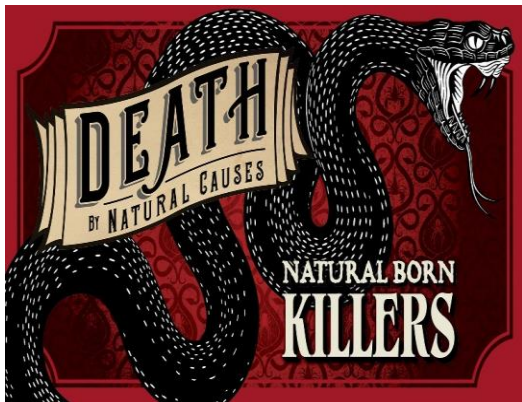
Here is the schedule:

October 5	Les Contes d' Hoffmann—Offenbach
November 23	Tosca—Puccini
January 25	Aida—Verdi
March 15	Fidelio—Beethoven
April 26	Le Nozze di Figaro—Beaumarchais and Mozart

The Metropolitan Opera

Cultural Interest Group

OUR FIRST CULTURE TRIP OF THE SEASON!!! HEINOUS KILLER OR MISJUDGED MISCREANTS? YOU BE THE JUDGE!



Join us for our first outing of the 2024-2025 Cultural Events season on **Wednesday, September 18 at 9:30 a.m.** when the group visits the Houston Museum of Natural Science to tour one of their most popular exhibits – Death by Natural Causes. You will be introduced to the range of “animal, vegetable and mineral” dangers that lurk in our everyday lives. On your docent guided tour you will meet the malefactors who do the Grim Reaper’s deadly work while disguised in delightful colors, sweet scents, unassuming identities, and more. Through a collection of specimens, text and interactives, visitors can see what can cause a death, either directly or indirectly, from the natural world. Poisonous, venomous and toxic are just a few of

the terms that will be clarified, and things you interact with almost daily will be used as examples – mushrooms, snakes, spiders, and even common foods! Old wives’ tales and urban myths will be debunked, as you travel through five general areas of rich graphics, compelling visuals and surprising specimens. Step inside and explore your fears, be they animal, vegetable or mineral, but tread lightly... You never know what treacherous creatures crawl just below your feet. This will be a popular trip! The Deadline (get it?) for ticket purchases is **September 13th**, so sign up now and send your check for \$20 to Mary Andersen, 5426 Wigton Dr., Houston TX 77096 or you can pay by Zelle to mande7707@hotmail.com. If you choose to use Zelle, please email Mary and let her know to expect your payment. This special price cannot be guaranteed for last-minute reservations. Trip details, including lunch plans, will be sent to registered attendees prior to the date. NOTE: We will be carpooling from our regular parking lot across from Memorial City Mall at 12161 Barryknoll Lane.

SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, October 16th

Kellum Noble House Story: the oldest house in town on its original foundation

Located at the Heritage Society on its original foundation is the Kellum Noble house, the centerpiece of Sam Houston Park. Recently restored, this 1837 home has a celebrated history. A special guest with Preservation Houston will lead us through the multi-year restoration of the building. A docent will provide a hands-off tour of the home and its occupants, dating back to the years when Texas was a republic.



Hiking Honeys

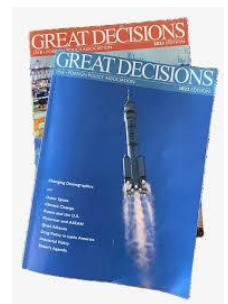


We will be hiking through the Downtown Houston Tunnel System on **Thursday, September 19th**. These air-conditioned tunnels were initially created back in the 1930s as a single tunnel 20 feet below downtown Houston as a connector between two buildings. After undergoing a series of expansions, this subterranean network now spans over six miles connecting 95 city blocks. We will carpool from the lot on the south side of Barryknoll across from the movie theater in Memorial City Mall and will depart for downtown at **9:30 a.m.** More information, including where to meet downtown and lunch plans will be provided to the Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Please contact Mary Ann

McMordie at mamcmordie@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

There are two Great Decisions groups that will begin meeting in February 2025. Topics will be announced later in the fall by the Foreign Policy Association. If you are interested in joining either the afternoon group, contact Pat Thomsen at patthom2@sbcglobal.net or the evening group, contact Willette Norman at willetten@gmail.com.



Byway Birders

At the end of September or the beginning of October, Byway Birders will travel to Smith Point to observe clouds of Hawks as they continue their migration to countries farther South. More information will be sent out when we have a definite date. Mary Dodson is leading this trip. Please contact her if you need more information at 713-516-4266 or mpdodson@sbcglobal.net.



Book Groups



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 1 p.m.** at Eagle's Trace Austin Square/Waterloo Restaurant at 14703 Eagle Vista Drive for lunch. Starting at 1:30 p.m., we will discuss Table for Two by Amor Towles. Please contact Co-coordinator Linda Morgan at 281-989-6499, amorgan352@sbcglobal.net, or Co-Coordinator Cheryl Smith at 402-651-2445, ccherylesmile@gmail.com, for more information.

Contemporary Readers

On **Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 1 p.m.**, we will discuss James by Percival Everett. 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 on **Monday, September 9th 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 The Wager, A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann. Patricia Dach will lead the discussion. Please contact Coordinator Nancy Guilloud at nanguilloud@aol.com for more information.

Evening Contemporary Literature

We will not meet in September. Our next book discussion will be on **Monday, October 7th at 5 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant. We will discuss The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. Please contact Coordinator Carole Ballew at carolballew@yahoo.com or call 812-656-0775 for more information.

Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Thursday, Sept. 17th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss The Bullet That Missed by Richard Osman. The discussion leader is Linda Griffin. Please contact Pat Pease popeace@aol.com, or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com for more information.

Outstanding Literature

We will begin our new season on **Tuesday, September 10th at 9:30 a.m.** with a discussion of Abraham Verghese's newest novel, The Covenant of Water. Our meeting will be held at La Madeleine in the "wine cave," 10001 Westheimer Road. Please bring 5 discussion questions and be prepared to lead a discussion about them. The coordinator of the group is Leigh Rappole, leighrap@aol.com, 281-596-0161, and Barbara Butler, barbarabutler2021@gmail.com, 713-305-0570. You know our motto, "We love our books, and we love our laughs! "

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

ZOOM Eclectic Book Group will meet on **Thursday, September 19th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. Our leader is Marie Helmy. 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 to receive the link.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bernice Hotman	Sept 02
Misako Ajouz	Sept 04
Helen Maher	Sept 04
Laura Cahill	Sept 10
Susan Boone	Sept 11
Dorothy Harrison	Sept 12
Martha Ewell	Sept 14
Susan Hertz	Sept 15
Kathleen Conlan	Sept 20
Ann Hebert	Sept 22
Georgia Kimmel	Sept 22
Jeanne Wolbert	Sept 25
Helen Santire	Sept 28

NEW MEMBERS

We are so happy to welcome our new members who joined AAUW-WHC at this year's Membership Coffee. These ladies attended the Coffee and saw how we supported education and equity for women. They also had a chance to review all the interest groups and book clubs present and thought AAUW-WHC was a good place to be. Thank you for joining.

Cynthia Behelfer
Janelle Festa

Christine Casey
Brenda Van Derbur

Betty Chapman