



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Volume XXXIX

November 2024 Newsletter

Issue 3

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

Helen Santire

Recording Secretary

Michele Taylor

Finance Officer

Diana Tiberia

Corresponding Secretary

Becky French

Newsletter Editor

Laura Fiorentino Cahill
aauwhcnews@gmail.com

December 2024 Deadline

November 15, 2024

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH Saturday, November 16th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER

Fran Tilton Shelton, author

"Spirituality of Grief:

Ten Practices for Those Who Remain



Fran Tilton Shelton is a founder and president of Faith & Grief, a nonprofit that provides opportunities for comfort and hope to those who have experienced the death of a loved one. She is a spiritual director and earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has served in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for more than two decades and is currently a

parish associate at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. The author of *No Winter Lasts Forever*, Shelton is a member of Spiritual Directors International and has been recognized by Faith Hospice and Forefront Living Foundation for her impact on those experiencing grief.

Fran will share her insights about the grieving process from a personal and spiritual vantage point. She brings her real-life humor, relatability, and depth to every speaking engagement. We hope you will find Fran interesting and comforting. Her book is available at the Blue Willow Bookshop.





Greetings to the West Harris County Branch

We had a very informative Branch meeting on October 19th. at the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker was Dallana Camargo, the Programs Officer for Voter Services for the League of Women Voters. For November's Branch meeting we are looking forward to hearing from Fran Shelton, the author of the book entitled The Spirituality of Grief. I am hoping we will have a good turnout to welcome Fran Shelton to hear her discuss her book.

Jo Glidewell, President



Get Ready to Vote

Election Day is November 5th

- Pick a date, time, and place to vote. If possible, vote early Oct 21 - Nov 1.
- Research every candidate and measure on your ballot: make informed choices by comparing candidates based on their stances on issues, resumé, and endorsements.
- Review and print your ballot. If you live in Harris Co, go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>
- Make sure you vote all the way down your ballot; get to know your elected officials at every level of government.
- Your vote matters for more than electing the President.

PUBLIC POLICY

Adopting a Library through League of Women Voters: Leads to registering voters and getting out the vote

In her own words.....

I've enjoyed participating in the League of Women Voters "Adopt a Library" program to increase voter turnout. I had not realized that Texas law requires public libraries to offer mail-in voter registration materials in the run-up to elections. Sure enough, when I went to my assigned Hillendahl neighborhood library, which is very near my home, they were tucked into an obscure, unlabeled corner.

The wealth of colorful materials provided by the LWV inspired me to break out some long-retired bulletin board skills. The bulletin board I created called attention to the colorful how-to pamphlets and forms in four languages. I even found a small flag and some attention-getting red, white, and blue tinsel!

The next day, I returned to see what kind of interaction had occurred; hmmm, hardly any. I conferred with the librarians about busy times at that branch, then hit up a VDVR I had met recently. We teamed up twice a week for an hour. We checked with the library patrons to see if they were registered and helped those who needed to register. We also distributed information about rides to the polls, early voting locations, and access to information about candidates on the ballot. It was a really rewarding experience, and I felt it benefited my neighborhood.

Cathy Urquhart

Thank you, Cathy! I am so glad you said "Yes" to adopting a library. We must also thank Cathy for working during the election. She told me that she "got fired up and got myself hired as a deputy election clerk for November 5!"

Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair





Holiday Party! **SAVE THE DATE** **Same date, new location**

Our Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Spring Branch ISD, Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum, located at 901 Yorkchester, Houston, Texas 77079.

Our reservation at the Brookwood Café was made on June 4th. At that time, the Brookwood Christmas Open House date was not on their calendar. In the last few days, we have been made aware of this conflict. Members who have attended the Brookwood Open House were concerned that the crowds would be too large for us to enjoy the luncheon. For that reason, we have scrambled to find an alternative venue. We will have a catered sit-down dinner from Carrabba's at the art museum. Please look for a BLAST with a reservation form the first week in November.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to November. Book Clubs are meeting and discussing stories. Activities are in full swing even if fall weather has not arrived yet. Our monthly meetings have had great attendance and great food. Directories were distributed at the September meeting when Ms. Hudspeth spoke (she's on TV a lot right now). I loved how members in attendance went through to look for absent friends' names and offered to hand deliver to them. I loved how Rose Ennis and Diana Guarniere took most of the unclaimed ones and drove around for days to deliver them. About 30 of the directories were mailed and should have been received by now. If you do not have this year's (2024-2025) directory, please email me at AAUWWHCMembership@gmail.com to request a copy. The directory is full of information and events. It may be the best book you've opened lately. Take care and stay warm (just kidding).

Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership V.P.

“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 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 or Maureen Kraker - maureenkraker@gmail.com**

THE STATE OF THE THOMSEN-BAKER -TELFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

October 2024

First and foremost, thank you to all who have donated and are still donating to the Tomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund. The matching grant has been met! Checks are still arriving. The matching grant, total dollars and number of members, will not be finally calculated until November 28, 2024. The following are answers to questions you might have.

Question 1: Why does the scholarship fund need a surplus of funds?

1. The surplus funds will make it possible to keep the scholarship amount steady or increase in value. The Board of Labor Statistics released the inflation rate from September 2023 to September 2024 at 2.4%. We will need to periodically increase the scholarship amount to keep it at the current level. This year, the AAUW WHC board approved an increased value from \$3,500 per student to \$4,000. This reflects the generous donations received from our membership.
2. Historically, the scholarship amount has varied with the level of donations given by the membership. If there should be a lean year in donations, the scholarship fund will be able to retain the \$4,000 per year scholarship level. This signals to high school counselors and STEM teachers that the scholarship is worthy of recommending to their students.

Question 2: How are our donations being protected?

1. Over the last few years, a small amount of operating cash has been kept in the checking account. The rest has been in CDs. Currently, \$69,662 is invested in business CD's earning 4.4-4.8%. Each year, one CD has been scheduled to come due in late April or May in time to write the scholarship checks.
2. CD values have decreased dramatically this month. It is time to change our investment strategy. With that in mind, the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship board began looking at investment institutions. The decision was made to deposit the funds into an investment account with Fidelity Investments. Two of the business CDs are due this month. The funds from those CDs will be deposited into this newly opened account.
3. Scholarship board members met with an investment counselor from Fidelity. The money will be invested with a portion going to long-term and short-term investments. We were advised that it will take approximately \$80,000 to fund one scholarship. With that in mind, \$12,000 will be retained in a CD to cover the 2025 scholarships. The remaining funds will be invested to meet the long-term funding needs of one scholarship.

The scholarship board welcomes questions and advice from our members. The board meets monthly by Zoom at 9:30 AM on the last Monday of the month. Please email thomsenbakertelferscholarship@gmail.com for the Zoom link if you would like to attend.



Legacy Circle

AAUW Texas is encouraging each branch to work on the 5-Star rating all year. As we have evaluated the Five-Star Tool Kit and the requirements for achieving 5-stars, we decided that we would advertise some of our areas where we are weak but could easily improve. One of these was *Legacy Circle*.

What is the Legacy Circle?

AAUW's Legacy Circle acknowledges donors who have included AAUW National in their estate plans with a planned gift. Please note that the Legacy Circle does not recognize planned gifts made to AAUW state or branches.

Is there a minimum amount you must leave to AAUW to qualify?

There is no minimum amount. You are not required to disclose your donation amount. We ask that you be as generous as possible and will celebrate a gift of any size.

Are there any benefits associated with the Legacy Circle?

All Legacy Circle members receive a special Legacy Circle pin designed by Swarovski exclusively for AAUW as a tangible symbol of their generosity and commitment.

Can I leave my gift to a specific program or area of interest within AAUW?

While we are grateful for every gift we receive, we strongly prefer unrestricted donations, which offer AAUW the flexibility to use funds where they are needed most at any given time.

What are the different ways to make a planned gift?

Planned gifts at AAUW include:

- **Bequests:** A bequest is a gift that is made through a will or living trust. Bequests can be made as a percentage of an estate, a specific dollar amount, or a specific asset. Bequests can be unrestricted or restricted to a specific purpose.
- **Retirement plan assets:** Retirement plan assets, such as an IRA or 401(k), can be donated to AAUW. This can be a tax-efficient way to make a charitable gift.
- **Life insurance:** Life insurance policies can be donated to AAUW. This can be a tax-efficient way to make a charitable gift.
- **Charitable gift annuities:** A charitable gift annuity is a contract between the donor and AAUW. The donor makes a gift to AAUW (minimum \$10,000) in exchange for fixed payments for life. Donors must be 75 or older to set up an AAUW charitable gift or annuity. Donors who are not 75 should consider a deferred Charitable Gift Annuity.

More information is available at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>. As soon as you have made the necessary arrangements, complete the Legacy Circle enrollment form, sign it, and send it to AAUW, Planned Giving Office.

1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C., 20005

What does AAUW National do?

- **Policy Advocacy**: Focuses on national issues affecting women and girls, such as education equity, pay equity, and reproductive rights. We coordinate our Public Policy Committees, participate in coalition work and partner with other prominent National organizations to raise awareness about our policy priorities (such as the YWCA for our Gen Z Town Hall in Philadelphia).
- **Subject Matter Expertise**: We have historically produced in-depth studies on topics like the gender pay gap and women in leadership roles. While we haven't produced reports recently due to limited funding - we have done high level analysis of pay gap data recently released. We are frequently asked to comment on topics related to pay equity, student loan debt and other issues related to gender equity. You can see our recently updated page on Latinas and the pay gap for example here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/latinas-and-the-pay-gap/> We have tens of thousands of social media followers across all platforms and have well over 1 million website viewers - ensuring that our brand remains prominent and relevant. AAUW's representative to the United Nations has been invited to White House events on at least three occasions recently. On a Global level - our work in this capacity provides great reputational value related to global gender equity work.
- **Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Training**: Offers training and resources for women to develop skills to be financially empowered. In particular, our Work Smart, Start Smart and Money Smart trainings provide valuable resources and tools for women to become economically empowered. Nationally, we work with organizations such as the HBCU Career Center, Tri Delta, Coca Cola Foundation, Finra Foundation, SAGE and others to bring these trainings to thousands of women across the country. These trainings were developed and are updated and managed by the National office. They have been independently evaluated by two separate entities and continually receive very high ratings from participants.
- **Fellowships & Grants**: We award and administer over \$6 million in fellowships and grants each year to hundreds of women in the US and Internationally. We also connect our members and branches to these awardees and alumnae and have an Alumnae Relations team charged with growing and maintaining relationships with our thousands of distinguished Alumnae.
- **Membership Services**: Provides support and resources for local branches and members, including access to national networks and events. We host all aauw.net websites, process dues, support 990 filings, and maintain our history and globally recognized brand. Without AAUW National, AAUW branches would instead be independently organized entities who would not be networked with one another or have the ability to utilize the AAUW name. In essence, while AAUW National sets the strategic direction and focuses on broader issues, local branches implement programs and initiatives that directly benefit their local communities. Together, our aim is to work towards the common goal of advancing gender equity.



NOVEMBER 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Culture Group, Hiking Honeys, Byway Birders and Garden Divas

Exploring the Coastal Prairie Ecosystem

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th! This is a FIELD TRIP like no other! When people think of Houston, towering skyscrapers, sprawling suburbs, and endless highways often come to mind. But before the urbanization of this vast city, Houston was home to one of the most unique ecosystems in the world: the coastal prairie. The prairie filters stormwater runoff, sequesters carbon, and is one of the last strongholds for wildlife in the region. Prairies provide important habitat for many migratory species, including geese, waterfowl and songbirds. The protection and restoration of these lands plays an important role in regional flood control by absorbing and holding floodwater from downstream Houston. Lastly, this is a place we can go to feel like we are among nature as it was designed to be enjoyed. We invite you to come visit Coastal Prairie Conservancy's (CPC) Indiangrass Preserve to experience the prairie for yourself. Culture, Hiking Honey's, Byway Birders, and Garden Divas are collaborating for a joint visit to this showcase property on **Friday, November 15th**. We will meet at our usual Memorial City Mall parking lot (12125 Barryknoll) at **9:30am** and carpool to the Preserve, a 45-minute drive northwest of town. We will hear from the Outreach and Stewardship Director, understand the conservancy's mission and vision, explore the trails, seed room, and native plant nursery, check out the birds, bees and butterflies, and breathe deeper. Bring a picnic lunch and binoculars. Wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Hat and sunscreen are recommended. There is No Cost for this outing. Share your plans with your Interest group leader and an email to Jane Wood at jane.wood9@icloud.com. Let us know if you can drive.



Culture Group

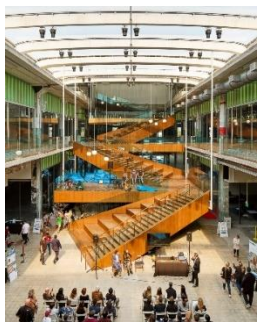
HOLIDAY TICKETS AT THE ALLEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU!!



On **Sunday, December 15th**, we will be going to The Alley's Neuhaus Theatre to see their new holiday show "The Night Shift Before Christmas." Get in the holiday spirit and "Join Margot on her Christmas Eve shift, braving grumpy drive-thru customers until her late best friend's ghost warns her of imminent spirits. Margot confronts her inner Scrooge in this holiday show packed with humor and heart." This will be the 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 at our usual meet up spot by Memorial Mall! (don't forget your \$1 for the driver). The exact time to meet bus at Memorial Mall spot will be sent to all those who sign up to go. Discounted group rate tickets are only \$30! To reserve your seat at this holiday show, send your check to Kathryn Motard at 4035

Greenoch Ln, Houston, TX 77025 with a follow up email to Kathryn at kdmotard@sbcglobal.net letting her know you want to reserve your spot, have sent a check, and whether you will be taking the bus or using your own transportation. **PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOV. 12TH.** The group rate and seating aren't guaranteed past that date. Kathryn will send details to those who confirm with her.

SAVE THE DATE! **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**



The Cultural Interest Group will be visiting POST HOUSTON in downtown Houston. It has a long and storied history as a train station and then the USPS Houston headquarters. In 1984 the Post Office was named after Barbara Jordan, the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate. In 2015, it was redeveloped as the POST and is now one of the jewels of the Houston downtown area. The 550,000-square-foot building was designed to bring people together with a Skylawn and garden, a state of the art 713 Music Hall and an International Food Hall with 25+ vendors. You especially will not forget the view from the roof! Please join us in January.

Byway Birders

On **Friday, Nov 22nd**, Byway Birders will visit Brazos Bend State Park located at 21901 FM 762 Rd, in Needville. Betty Cartmell is the contact person for this trip and can be reached at 281-686-8651. Text Betty to let her know you plan on going or if you need a ride. Plan to meet in the parking lot at the entrance and gift shop at **9 a.m.** In case you are late, our first stop will be the 40-Acre Lake parking lot. This area is reached by taking the first left after the entrance. We will first check out the lake from the viewing platform behind the restrooms. Late arrivals should look for us there. Plan on picnicking in the park for lunch. Please work out your own travel arrangements. You may reply all if you wish to carpool. Please note that there is a Texas State Park entrance fee of \$7 per person. It is free to the holder of a \$70 annual park pass and their guests. A Texas Parklands Passport is available to Texas residents over 65 and provides a 50% discount off the entry fee.



Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities



Join us at Cinemark Theatre Memorial City on **Saturday, November 23rd at 11:55 a.m.** for Tosca by Giacomo Puccini. If you joined us for Les Contes d'Hoffmann by Offenbach in October, you now know what to expect when you attend the next performance live-streamed around the world from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Our next Opera Opportunity is going to be a showstopper with Lise Davidsen in the role of the volatile diva, Tosca. The incomparable intermissions always feature a famous opera singer introducing us to the day's lead singers, behind the scenes set design changes, and so much more. Once again, we plan to stroll over after the opera to enjoy refreshments and discuss the opera at Maggiano's Little Italy. This is optional and at your own expense. The setting is Rome, 1800, awaiting news of the Battle of Marengo. The style is in the verismo tradition a term referring to "realism." Be prepared for passionate and dramatic arias over three acts.

Three Ways to Get Tickets

- 1) send a \$25. check at least 10 days before the opera to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077, or
- 2) Purchase tickets at Cinemark Box Office upon arrival, or
- 3) Purchase online with Fandango.

Please let Diana Guarniere or Rose Ennis know in advance if you are planning on attending so we can send the synopsis of the opera to you. guarniered@gmail.com or 832-465-5578 roseennis@att.net or 281-755-6483.

Garden Divas

What do roses, radishes, violets, and squash have in common? They have edible flowers! Learn how to grow, safely choose, and use edible flowers to give a pop of color and flavor to your recipes. Many are easy to grow and can be eaten in salads, used to decorate cakes and candies, or made into teas. The Divas will meet at Kris Bybee-Finley's home at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 5th**. I will send a list of those interested before November 5th. Kris' address is 15914 Fleetwood Oaks Drive. Our presenter, Debra Caldwell, is a retired biology professor and Harris County Master Gardener. After the presentation, we will have a pot-luck lunch. Please bring your favorite dish to share!



Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The gourmet group is going out this month. On **Saturday, November 9th at 6:30pm** we will meet at Jonathan's The Rub located at 12505 Memorial Dr. The reservation will be under AAUW. The restaurant will offer separate checks. Please email Poupette Farnell at farnellpat@gmail.com by November 7 if you will be attending.

Bridge Groups

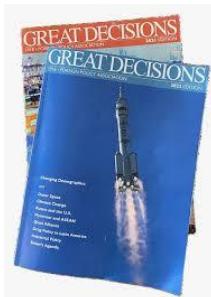
Fun and friendship await you in the two active AAUW bridge groups. If you are interested in getting on the sub list or would like more information, contact one or both coordinators listed below.

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

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



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 or Linda Marlin, LMarlin505@gmail.com

2nd and 4th 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.

Book Groups



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, November 6th 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 Horse by Geraldine Brooks. Everett. 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, November 6th at 1 p.m.**, we will discuss Empire of the Summer Moon by S.C. Gwynne. 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, November 11th 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 Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Grace Katz. Mary Anderson will lead the discussion. Please contact Coordinator Nancy Guilloud at nanguilloud@aol.com for more information.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, November 4th at 5 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant on Kirkwood and Memorial. We will discuss All the Broken Pieces by John Boyne. Please contact Coordinator Carole Ballew at caroleballew@yahoo.com or call 832-656-0775 for more information.

Mystery Book Club

We will meet on **Tuesday, November 19th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss Storm Watch by C.J. Box. The discussion leader is Peggy Edwards. Please contact Pat Pease popease@aol.com, or Kris Bybee-Finley, 304-610-8708, brazitku@gmail.com for more information.

Zoom Eclectic Book Group

ZOOM Eclectic Book Group will meet on **Thursday, November 21st at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss The Women by Kristen Hanna. Our 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 to receive the link.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cherilyn Jackson	Nov 1	Martha Hebert	Nov 15
Marie Helmy	Nov 2	Leigh Rappole	Nov 17
Betty Cartmell	Nov 4	Nancy Ennis	Nov 22
Karen Dittert	Nov 4	Karen McKibben-Morris	Nov 24
Julia Land	Nov 11	Michele Taylor	Nov 26
Kathy Bliss	Nov 13	Janet Kennedy	Nov 28
Lilian Care	Nov 15	Charlotte Kibler	Nov 28
Karla Dunn	Nov 15		

NOVEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please welcome new member:

Julia Land

6411 Waltway Drive, Houston TX 77008
Cell: 713-824-2817
jaland@earthlink.net

Please note the following phone number changes:

Melba Armstrong: delete home phone number; only use cell

Linda Griffen: correct cell phone number to 713-907-6081

Please note these changes of addresses for two current members:

Barbara C. Kyse

7887 Broadway #603
San Antonio, TX 78209-2537
bksye@msn.com
210-379-4804 (cell)

Sara Nizzero

4655 161st Ave.
Bellevue, WA 98006