



West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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December 2024 Newsletter

Issue 4

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January 2025 Deadline

December 15, 2024

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



VP Programs wishes everyone a very happy holiday season! There is no branch meeting in December. Our first meeting of the new year will be in January 2025. An email will be sent out providing details on the meeting.

Happy Holidays to all and best wishes for 2025.






**WEST HARRIS COUNTY
HOLIDAY PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
4:30 P.M. TO 7 P.M
Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum,
901 Yorkchester, Houston, Texas 77079**


Celebrate the holidays with friends, food and art. The Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum mission is to provide opportunities for SBISD students, parents and the surrounding community, to experience the art of diverse cultures, to understand the cultural and historical significance of art and to develop critical thinking and viewing skills.


Our meal will be catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill and include:

- *Choice of Penne Carrabba, Meat Lasagna or Grilled Vegetable Ravioli
- *Served with salad, broccoli, and baked focaccia bread w/ oil & herb mix
- *Cannoli
- *Beverages will be a choice of iced tea, sparkling or still water

Please make your reservation early by responding to this email with the name(s) of those attending and your choice(s) of entrée(s) by December 2, 2024. Send your check made out to AAUW-WHC for \$40 per person to Diana Tiberia, 22223 Coriander Drive, Houston, TX 77450.

 **Penne Carrabba with Chicken** - made-from-scratch Alfredo tossed with Penne pasta, wood-grilled chicken, sautéed mushrooms, and peas.

 **Meat Lasagna** - pasta layered w/ pomodoro sauce, meat sauce, ricotta, Romano & mozzarella.

 **Grilled Vegetable Ravioli** -filled with roasted red and yellow peppers, asparagus, portabella mushrooms, ricotta, and parmesan tossed in a tomato cream-goat cheese sauce.



President's Message



Holiday Greetings to the AAUW WHC Branch.

I hope everyone gets into a holiday mood this December with our Holiday Dinner on **Saturday, December 7th**. We had a wonderful review of the book [The Spirituality of Grief: Ten Practices for Those Who Remain](#) written by Fran Tilton on November 16th. Enjoy the holiday with friends and family, and we will meet again at the branch meeting in January.

Jo Glidewell, President



YOU DID IT!!



Congratulations to the AAUW-West Harris County Branch! The Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund satisfied a goal set in August by a generous, anonymous member of collecting \$10,000.00 contributed by at least half of the branch membership. If the branch met that goal by November 28, 2024, she would donate an additional \$10,000.00. You met that goal a month early and the checks are still coming in. If you haven't heard, so far, we have collected \$12,025.00 from 87 members. After November 28, 2024, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer will announce the final figures. Your generosity and the generosity of our anonymous donor have given Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund the ability to open an account with Fidelity Investments with the purpose of eventually endowing one or two of our annual scholarships.

Through the generosity of member donors over the past year, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer had almost \$60,000 invested in CD's. As these CD's mature, the resulting funds are being deposited to the Fidelity Account. The donations provided by our membership during this drive and the \$10,000 matching grant are also being deposited into that account. They will be allocated between a Money Market and a managed investment fund containing a mixture of stocks and bonds. Future donations will be invested in this account with sufficient cash kept in the Money Market to provide for the scholarships awarded that year. By the end of the first quarter of 2025, we should have invested \$80,000.00 at Fidelity. \$15,000 will be in the Money Market for the 2025 scholarships and \$65,000 will be in the managed investment fund. We need to have at least \$100,000 invested to generate the income to endow two \$5,000 scholarships.

We can do it!

*The only fees associated with the Fidelity Account are the fund expense fees. There are no management fees associated with the account.

Campaign of Giving 2024
AAUW

AAUW West Harris County Branch

*Double Your Impact with AAUW
National's Dollar-for-Dollar Match!*

As the clock winds down on 2024, there's still time to make a lasting impact. By donating to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund, you're supporting critical programs that advance equity for women and girls in education, leadership, and economic security. Here's the exciting part: **AAUW National will match every dollar you give before December 31st!** That means your generosity goes twice as far, doubling the difference you make in creating a better future for all.

Together, we can make 2024 a year of progress, equity, and opportunity. Let's finish strong for women and girls everywhere!

Thank you for your support,

AAUW FUNDS - Credit Cards Only

1. Go to [aauw.org](https://www.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 (Greatest Needs Funds 9110)
4. IMPORTANT – Please email your receipt to:
Helen Santire – helen.santire@gmail.com Maureen Kraker- maureenkraker@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

The holidays are coming fast and furious. Christmas decorations were in evidence even before Halloween. Soon we will have red, white and blue AND green ornaments showing up in July. Granted, celebrating peace on earth and a new year is always welcome in our hearts. Some of us will be traveling during the season because our families are spread out all over the country and the world. If you are in Houston, please take the time to check on friends and neighbors to see if they have plans. Inviting one or two more to your table would be a kindness that will make everyone feel the love of this Season. Safe travels to those leaving. Safe 'staying put' for those who have chosen home.

Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership Vice President



AAUW WHC members at the November meeting hold up ribbons with loved ones' names on them. Author Fran Tilton will weave the ribbons into a memorial arch in Dallas.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Texas Lobbyist, Kate Kuhlman, provides an introduction to the 89th legislative session.

AAUW Texas is inviting you to a Public Policy Zoom meeting

Our AAUW TX lobbyist, Kate Kuhlmann of Hillco Partners, assists us in identifying legislation to support or oppose on issues that will impact the women of Texas. During this Zoom meeting, she will present a perspective on issues that will likely see traction in the upcoming session. She also will provide suggestions on how AAUW TX members can be most effective in our public policy efforts.

Time: **Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6542612876?omn=82234997601>

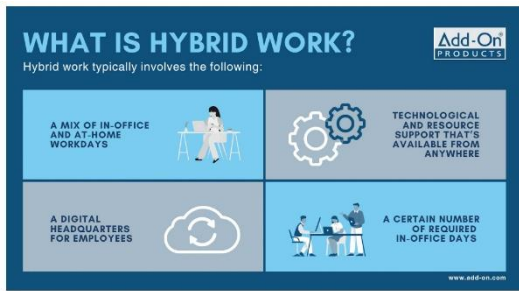
Meeting ID: 654 261 2876



Kate Kuhlmann

Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair

Diversity in the Workplace: Hybrid Work Empowers Women



The Covid pandemic led to significant changes in the American workplace. How we work, when we work, where we work, and the overall expectation of the workplace experience has risen from background noise to breaking news. A series of lockdowns, aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus, lasted until the mid-2020s, when the first wave of the pandemic was believed to have passed. With people in quarantine, online shopping and home delivery services flourished. Many brick and mortar shops were forced out of business and larger companies realized that to stay in business, they would need to create more flexible working

arrangements for employees. Thousands of employees worked for entities that began to allow them to work remotely, at least part of the time, from home now referred to as hybrid working.

This flexible working schedule has especially helped women be able to balance their work and family responsibilities. Remote work allows for better time management. Without the burden and stress of commuting, women are freer to schedule their work time and other responsibilities. Hybrid work can enable more women to enter the workforce, as many women have family responsibilities that prevent them from pursuing a career. Many employers discovered that hybrid work can also make women more productive.

Hybrid work has become an equalizer for women leaders as it provides women with opportunities to advance their careers without the constraints of a traditional 9-5 office schedule. This can help them break the “glass-ceiling” and achieve greater leadership positions. Hybrid work allows women improved access to online training and development opportunities, regardless of their location or family responsibilities. According to a study by [McKinsey & Company](#), women are less likely to have access to professional development opportunities overall than men. Hybrid work can break down barriers to career advancement for women by providing greater flexibility and access to professional development opportunities. According to a report by the [Center for American Progress](#), women are less likely than men to hold managerial positions. Hybrid work can help women learn about other roles within their organization and increase their visibility with senior leadership.

By the numbers:

- 53% of women say hybrid work has empowered them to apply for a promotion.
- 66% of women say that the hybrid model has opened up new opportunities at work.
- 61% of women with a mobility disability agree the hybrid model has made their job more inclusive.
- 75% of women from minority groups say hybrid work has brought them greater opportunities.
- 70% of women say hybrid work has positively impacted their career thanks to better mental health.

Source: Advancing Equality: Women in the Hybrid Workplace

Interviews with several middle-aged women, currently working hybrid positions, reveal that not all women enjoy this hybrid schedule. They miss the collegial work environment and the social interactions with coworkers. This is often referred to as “proximity bias”. Employees working in close proximity to one another feel more connected to co-workers, able to share progress on projects with smoother collaboration, and enjoy spontaneous conversations. Two in five workers report feeling worried that less face-to-face time with company leadership will negatively impact their career growth. This worry is also shared by organizations, with [41%](#) of executives saying potential inequities between remote and in-office employees are their top concern. Thus, these companies continue to work to mitigate these concerns.

Karen McKibben-Morris, Public Policy Committee Member

AAUW-WHC HAS A NEW MEMBER DATABASE MANAGER

On January 1, 2025, Linda Griffin will take over the position of AAUW-WHC Member Database Manager. Please send any new member information and corrections or changes to existing members' contact information to Linda at drlgriffin@outlook.com. Please put drlgriffin@outlook.com in your contacts. This will help make sure that your email server accepts group branch communications.

Remember, the person requesting the blast is responsible for writing it. Requests for blasts to members must be sent to Branch President, Josephine Glidewell first for approval (aauwiglidewell@gmail.com). She will forward the approved blast to the Member Database Manager to be sent out to branch members.

AAUW WHC members enjoying outings



AAUW WHC members enjoyed the November field trip to Coastal Prairie Conservancy's Indiangrass Preserve



AAUW WHC Gourmet group November dinner at Jonathan's The Rub

DECEMBER 2024 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Garden Divas



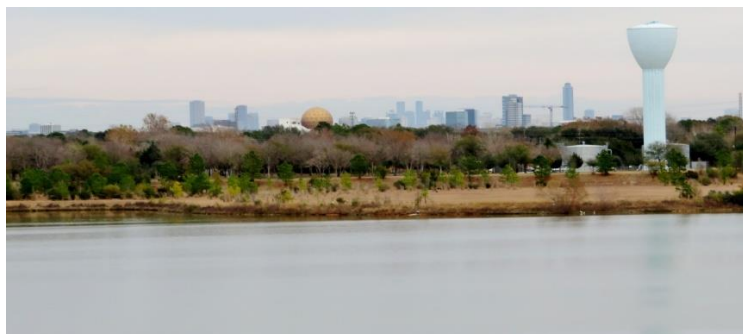
The Divas are visiting Kim's Home and Garden Center in Huntsville on **Tuesday, December 3rd**. The center has been locally owned since its inception in 1985. With a wide variety of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and houseplants to choose from, they can offer you virtually any plant for every gardening or landscape need. To ensure your gardening experience with them is successful, they offer expert gardening advice from Texas Certified Nursery professionals. With more than 50 years of experience in the industry, the staff of experienced nursery professionals and

landscape designers are on hand for assistance in selections, questions, diagnosis and consultations. In the turn of the century mansion, treasures await, with gifts, décor for every room in the home, gourmet foods, bath and body lotions, arrangements, wreaths, and unique décor from around the world. Kim's Home and Garden Center is located at the historic Top Of the Hill Farm, with 175+ year old trees on the grounds and gardens...beauty and tranquility await at every turn. Their address is 2715 Lake Rd., Huntsville, TX 77340-5609. The Center is roughly 1 hour and 15-minute drive from Memorial City Mall. Tolls are required. We are going to carpool from Memorial City's satellite lot south of Barryknoll and will leave at **9:00 a.m.** I did try to get a bus but was not successful. After our visit we will dine at the Farmhouse Café and Bakery in downtown Huntsville. The address is 1004 14th St, Huntsville, TX 77340. The restaurant offers down-home southern cooking, known as comfort food. If you are NOT on the 'Diva' mailing list, please let Susan Boone (samboone@gmail.com) know that you would like to be added so you can receive emails to reply for RSVP. This should be a lovely 'holiday' outing.



Byway Birders

The group will bird at Cullinan Park and Bishop Fiorenza Park on **Friday, December 6th**. We will meet at Cullinan Park, 13414 Highway 6 S at **10:00 a.m.**, by the picnic tables near the boardwalk. We will check out the birds on the Lake and hike the trails. Our plan is to picnic at the park then head to Bishop Fiorenza Park for further birding. Please let Sharon Jorgeson know if you plan to join the group at sjorgeson@gmail.com, or 281-703-5939 as there may be changes to date and location due to weather and/or location of birds. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, a hat and sunscreen.



Bishop Fiorenza Park

Culture Group

SAVE THE DATE

The Culture Group tours the POST in January!

On **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**, the Cultural Interest Group will be visiting POST HOUSTON located downtown near Buffalo Bayou. It has a long and storied history. Established as a depot next to Houston's Grand Central Station in 1934, the present-day structure was designed by the same architectural firm that built the Astrodome. The new building became the Houston headquarters of the USPS in 1961. In 1984, the Post Office was named after Barbara Jordan, the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate. The HUGE structure was redeveloped in 2015 as the POST, one of the jewels on the downtown scene, a hub for culture, food and recreation. Noteworthy is the rooftop Skylawn and garden, a state-of-the-art Music Hall and an International Food Hall with 25+ vendors. You WILL enjoy the food and the view! We meet at our usual Memorial City Mall parking lot (12125 Barryknoll) at **10:00 a.m.** and carpool to the POST. Our free guided tour will start at 11:00 a.m. Early arrivers can wait inside at the Eden Plants and Coffee Shop on the first floor. The POST is located at 401 Franklin Street, 77201. Parking is free for the first 90 minutes and \$5.00 for each additional hour. Payment is by credit card only. We will eat lunch in the International Food Hall, also credit card only. Please RSVP to Debbie Rossi at drossi1584@gmail.com or text her at 713-248-7520. Let me know if you can drive or if you will be meeting us there.

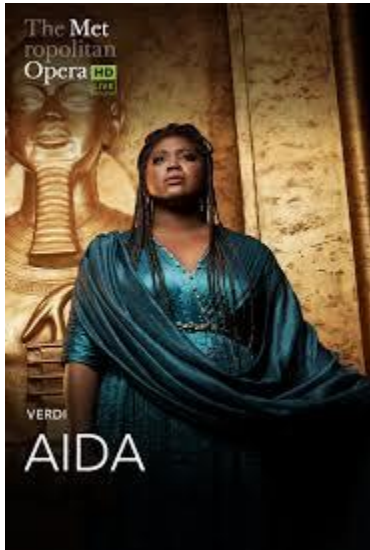


Bridge Group

Fun and friendship await you in the active AAUW bridge group. If you are interested in getting on the sub list or would like more information, contact the coordinator. We meet on the 3rd Thursday (10:30 a.m.) each month. Peg McNealy, 281.679.7299. The Friday Duplicate Bridge group has disbanded.

Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE



On **Saturday, January 25th at 11:55 a.m.** at Cinemark Theater Memorial City, start 2025 off right with an opera by Verdi that continues to be performed throughout the world. It was first performed on December 24, 1871, at the Khedivial Opera House, Cairo, Egypt. Next, its European premiere was February 8, 1872, at La Scala in Milan, Italy. This opera of love, loyalty, and betrayal should not be missed. Also, Aida's Triumphal March is a classic for all times. The incredible period costumes, extravagant sets, dramatic arias, and unforgettable sounds of the chorus will leave you wanting to attend, like so many opera goers, again and again!

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.

Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group does not meet in December. Please join us in January for brunch. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley at 304-610-8708.



Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups



Great Decisions Inside the Loop will start on **Monday, January 13th at 3:00 p.m.** on Zoom. For more information, please contact Pat Thomsen patthom75@ATT.net or Linda Marlin. LMarlin505@gmail.com

The 2nd^d and 4th Wednesday Group meets at **7:00 p.m.** via Zoom, starting in January. For more information, or to be placed on the contact list, please contact coordinator Willette Norman at 281-450-8875 or willetten@gmail.com.



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, December 4th at 1:00 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 The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. 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, December 4th at 1:00 p.m.**, we will discuss Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. Our group will meet at the home of member Sue Phipps, 6336 Woodway Drive, unit 1905, 713-204-3982, 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, December 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 Egypt's Golden Couple: When Akhenaten and Nefertiti were Gods on Earth by Colleen Darnell and John Darnell. Nancy Guilloud will lead the discussion. Please contact Coordinator Nancy Guilloud at nanguilloud@aol.com for more information.

Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, December 2nd at 5:00 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant on Kirkwood and Memorial. We will discuss The Necklace: Thirteen Women and the Experiment That Transformed Their Lives by Cheryl Jarvis. 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, December 17th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss Greeks Bearing Gifts by Phillip Kerr. The discussion leader is Pat Dach. Please contact Pat Pease, 713-824-1681, 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, December 19th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss Mr. Texas by Lawrence Wright. Our leader is Nancy Ennis. 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.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Cindy Erdin | Dec 02 |
| Jane Wood | Dec 06 |
| Imelda Beauchamp | Dec 07 |
| Patricia Dach | Dec 09 |
| Margaret Gruss | Dec 10 |
| Cynthia Hickok | Dec 11 |
| Janice Kerekgyarto | Dec 14 |
| Kathryn Motard | Dec 14 |
| Margaret Carlson | Dec 23 |
| Pat Pease | Dec 26 |
| Loretta Coussirat | Dec 27 |
| Mary Peterson | Dec 27 |
| Margaret McNealy | Dec 28 |

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Carolyn Stoffel - new address
1917 Pagemill Lane
Conroe, TX 77304
Delete home phone number