



# West Harris County Branch

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

**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**

Open

**Newsletter Editor**

Laura Fiorentino Cahill  
aauwhcnews@gmail.com

**May 2025 deadline:**

April 15, 2025



**NO BOARD OR BRANCH MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL.**

**Happy Spring!** This month we are taking a break to enjoy the season and prepare for upcoming events. Since the Passover and Easter holidays fall on two of the April weekends, the scheduled program speaker for April that was printed in the directory is unable to speak in April this year but can be rescheduled at a different time next year. Also, the Opera Group gathers on the third weekend. As a result, the branch Board of Directors voted to forgo making additional arrangements to meet on the fourth weekend. This allows more time to focus on preparing for the Annual Style Show in early May.

**Enjoy the holidays! Celebrate Earth Day!**

**BRANCH SPRING CALENDAR - SAVE THE DATES**

**Sunday, May 4th** at 6:00 p.m.

*ANNUAL SPRING STYLE SHOW* at Chico's in Town & Country

**Saturday, June 14th** at 2:00 p.m.

*SPRING RECOGNITION LUNCHEON* at Fratelli's Ristorante at Wirt & Westview, Installation of Officers and TBT Scholarship Winners

**Stay informed!**

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

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





AAUW- WEST HARRIS COUNTY PRESENTS:

# Chico Chic

ANNUAL SPRING STYLE SHOW

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT  
AAUW FUNDS NATIONAL - GREATEST NEEDS

*Sunday, May 4, 2025*

*6:00pm*

Fabulous fashions provided by:

*Chico's/Soma*

12850 Memorial Dr -Town & Country

★★★ WITH A TERRIFIC RAFFLE ★★★

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS AT THE HISTORIC TREMONT HOUSE IN GALVESTON, TX

**TICKETS:**

\$40 PER TICKET (INCLUDES 2 RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE GRAND PRIZE)

TICKET SALES COMMENCE FEBRUARY 15TH AND CLOSE APRIL 19TH, 2025

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

***HURRY, TICKETS ARE GOING FAST !!***

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

AAUW - West Harris County Branch  
(NOTE ON CHECK: AAUW Funds National - Greatest Needs)

**Mail check to:**

Helen Santire  
12515 Piping Rock Dr  
Houston, TX 77077  
713-468-6531





## President's Message



April is upon us already! We are looking forward to the Passover and Easter holy days with some members traveling or visiting with family and friends. There will be no Branch Board meeting, nor a General Branch meeting in April. There is a Cultural Trip on Tuesday April 22 to Orange, TX to visit the Stark House and Stark Museum. Complete information on this trip is in this newsletter. Enjoy a lovely April and look forward to the upcoming activities in May.

*Jo Glidewell, President*

# THE AAUW PROGRAM

Five Star National Recognition Program (Follow-up to Branch Meeting in March)

The Five Star Recognition Program aims to provide branches with a framework to ensure they are financially healthy, sustainable, and aligned with AAUW's mission and priorities. In accordance with getting this recognition is a requirement that we make sure our members "resubscribe" on the National AAUW website. On this website, you can make sure all personal information on your membership is up to date so that you will receive monthly texts on timely topics that relate to our mission. Please go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org). This will ask for your email and passcode, but if you don't have an account or if you forgot your passcode, it will show you how to create an account. Check to see if personal information is correct, and if not, change it. Go back to the top and log out when finished. If you have any difficulties, a Five Star Team member will help you at the May branch meeting.



## MEMBERSHIP

Do you know what feels good? Knowing that when momentous events occur, AAUW members are there for you like a safety net. They catch you when you fall or bounce with you in jubilation. Please, remember that when you need support during difficult times, reach out to an AAUW friend and we will all be there for you. And, let us know when you want to celebrate—we love reasons to dine out!

Update for AAUW National dues. Starting April 1, 2025, individual member dues will be \$74. On April 1, 2026, dues will change to \$76. State (\$13) and WHC (\$11) dues remain the same.

**Why it matters:** Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, member dues have not kept pace. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 allows AAUW dues to keep up with inflation and continue supporting the important work of AAUW.

Your member dues help fund our work such as:

- **Education & Advocacy:** Member dues help support AAUW's public policy and member advocacy programs, which are now vitally important to defending higher education and rights for women on campus
- **Member Trainings:** Our regular virtual member gatherings and training programs provide education and engagement on several relevant topics
- **Member Engagement:** We organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees, and coordinate AAUW's member advocacy through 2-Minute Activist
- **Real-Time Support:** Connect Team provides daily assistance to members

*Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership Vice President*

## AAUW WHC members get together



Michele Taylor - Recording Secretary



Jo Glidewell - President



Kate Conlan and Mickie Adams - our incredible Hospitality Committee

## PUBLIC POLICY

### **Watch for your School Board and Local Elections held in early May**

The uniform election date in May of an odd-numbered year is a date on which many local political subdivisions, such as cities, school districts, and water districts, have their regular general elections for members of their governing bodies or special elections to fill vacancies. If you are not registered, the last day to Register to Vote to be eligible to vote in these elections is Thursday, April 3, 2025.

If you live in Harris County check on this website for who is on your ballot at <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Voter/Whats-on-my-Ballot> Otherwise check with your county clerk and with your local school district regarding what's on you ballot and for voting locations.

#### **Spring Uniform Election Dates**

##### **Important Dates**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 **First Day to vote early in person**

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 **Last Day to vote early in person**

Saturday, May 3, 2025 **Election Day: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

##### **Important dates for those who vote by mail:**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 **Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail** (Received, not Postmarked)

Saturday, May 3, 2025 **7:00 p.m. - Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail** if not postmarked  
Or Monday, May 5, at 5:00 p.m. If postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on May 3

Saturday, June 7, 2025 **Runoff elections, if needed**



**Join the AAUW Action Network**

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Sign up to get regular alerts on how and when to engage on national legislation and issues. The ready to use tools give you the needed information to call or send a pre-written messages that you can personalize to your members of Congress. It makes it easy to contact your national legislators about pressing issues.

All you do is click to send the email to your representatives. The more our legislators hear from their constituents, the more likely they are to support or oppose specific bills or, in some cases, improve and expand the proposed legislation. When a group of us collectively ask them to focus on an issue, they listen. It takes all of us to be involved. Even if you choose not to contact your representative, the releases will keep you informed on topics such as STEM, economic security, education, and pay equity.

As part of the Action Network, you will receive urgent e-mail notices alerting you when advocacy is needed most. These are also available online. The Two-Minute Activist tool takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!



## A Day at the Texas State Capitol

Thank you to AAUW-WHC members who joined AAUW members from across the state at the capitol in Austin for the 2025 AAUW TEXAS LEGISLATIVE DAY on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kris Bybee, Rose Ennis, Michele Taylor, Meg Scott Johnson, Linda Morgan, Cheryl Smith, and Diana Guarniere

learned more about the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative session and had an opportunity to meet with their Texas Representatives and Senators to discuss public education legislation. They also met with House Education Committee members. I hope you will ask them about the experience.

From Representative Ann Johnson's weekly update 3/19/25:

It was great meeting with the **American Association of University Women** to discuss critical issues like protecting public education, expanding healthcare access, and addressing Texas' gun violence epidemic. Their advocacy and commitment to a better future for every Texan is truly an inspiration!



AAUW members Cheryl Smith and Michele Taylor and Representative Johnson.

*Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair*

## THOMSEN-BAKER-TELFER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Below is an update from our third 2024 Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship recipient, Emerie McCann. Emerie graduated from Houston ISD and is a student at University of Texas in Austin. Like our other two scholarship recipients, Emerie is enjoying success in her first year of college and is keeping incredibly busy.



My name is Emerie McCann, and I am a first-year Environmental Engineering major at The University of Texas at Austin, set to graduate in May 2028 as part of the Class of 2028. I am honored to be a recipient of the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship, which has given me the opportunity to focus on both my academic and extracurricular growth during my first semester.

Starting college has been both an exciting and challenging experience. Adjusting to the rigorous coursework of an engineering degree, balancing my studies with campus involvement, and finding my place in such a large university have all pushed me to grow in ways I never expected. Despite the struggles, I have worked through them and, in the process, developed an even deeper passion for environmental engineering. I am more motivated than ever to address the environmental disparities affecting underserved communities, and I look forward to continuing to build the skills and knowledge that will allow me to make a real impact in the future.

Beyond academics, I have immersed myself in student organizations that align with my passions and values. I joined Texas Lonestars, an all-women and nonbinary spirit and service organization that fosters community, philanthropy, and leadership at UT Austin. Within Lonestars, I am actively involved in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, where I contribute to efforts that ensure our organization remains welcoming and inclusive for all members. Looking ahead, I plan to run for DEI Chair next semester, as I want to take on a larger role in promoting diversity and ensuring that everyone in Lonestars feels seen, heard, and valued.

Furthermore, I am an active member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) UT Austin chapter. NSBE has been an invaluable resource in my engineering journey, allowing me to connect with other Black engineers, gain mentorship, and expand my professional network. Through NSBE, I have been able to further explore my interests in environmental engineering while also surrounding myself with like-minded individuals who share similar goals of breaking barriers in STEM fields.

This first semester has been an incredible learning experience, and I am so grateful for the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship, which has made it possible for me to focus on both my studies and my passions. This support has allowed me to fully immerse myself in my education and leadership opportunities, and I hope to pay it forward by using my platform and experiences to uplift others in the future.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of AAUW West Harris County Branch for making this scholarship possible. Your generosity has not only impacted my journey but has also motivated me to continue striving for excellence, leadership, and service. I look forward to the opportunities ahead and am excited to continue growing academically, professionally, and personally throughout my time at UT Austin.

Emerie McCann

*Environmental Engineering Major  
at the University of Texas at Austin*

# APRIL 2025 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

*Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator*

## Garden Divas



The Garden Club of Houston and River Oaks Garden Club presented the first Florescence at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in 1995. Since then, Florescence has been held biennially in the spring at the Museum. Florescence is a Major Flower Show, accredited by The Garden Club of America, a status it was accorded at its inception in 1995. Every Florescence incorporates several classes of Floral Design, Botanical Arts, Horticultural Specimens, Horticultural Design, and Photography. Talented designers, gardeners and artists

from The Garden Club of America member clubs may enter or exhibit at this show, and it is open to the public to enjoy. There are also special exhibits by invitation and an education exhibit that relates to the show theme. Florescence 2025: Splendor, will be held on **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Rather than a group event, plan on a buddy day to the museum of Fine Arts on April 15 or 16. Florescence is being presented by The Garden Club of Houston, River Oaks Garden Club, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. MFAH Member Free, ALL ACCESS (Adult 19+)|\$24 ALL ACCESS (Senior 65+ with ID)|\$20 For more information, contact [florescence@mfaah.org](mailto:florescence@mfaah.org) or 713.639.7581. There are several nearby restaurants that are really nice. Enjoy! For parking and more information, please visit the website. <https://flohouston.org>

**SAVE THE DATE: May 5-6**

The Divas are planning a trip to Fredericksburg in May. We will be staying **Monday and Tuesday nights, (May 5 & 6)** and will be visiting the Wildseed Farms on Tuesday. If you are interested in going on this trip, please arrange your hotel room ASAP. We are staying at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Fredericksburg. (1-830-955-8070). You can email me [smboone@gmail.com](mailto:smboone@gmail.com) for more information.

## Byway Birders

April is the best month of the year to be a birder in Texas! If you have never been to High Island in April this is something to add to your Bucket List. This is a good chance to see lots of baby birds in nests. There will be two trips this year. Byway Birders will travel to High Island on **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>** for a one-day trip, and **Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>-Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** for an overnight trip. For the April 12<sup>th</sup> trip, we will meet up at Anahuac NWR at 8:30 a.m. for the willows and wood lot. We will have a picnic lunch there or at Boy Scout Woods followed by birding at High Island. Bernice Hotman is in charge of this trip, [BHotman@comcast.net](mailto:BHotman@comcast.net) or 713-724-4027. Please let her know if you plan to go. For the second trip, **April 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup>**, the contact is Pat Dach, 281-701-5846. Let her know you would like to come, and she will send out more information closer to the date. In the meantime, make your own hotel arrangements at La Quinta Inn in Winnie, Texas, whose phone number is 409-296-8800.





## Hiking Honeys



On **Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**, the Honeys will be venturing to Mercer Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. It is located at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road. The 393 acres along Cypress Creek was presented to Harris County by Thelma and Charles Mercer to create the area's largest collection of native and cultivated plants. The Botanical Gardens and Arboretum are divided by Aldine Westfield Road. Situated on the east side of Aldine Westfield Road, Mercer Botanical Gardens consists of 60 acres of themed gardens and a diverse array of plants. The Arboretum located on the west side of Aldine Westfield Road features miles of well- marked walking trails with surfaces consisting of boardwalk, crushed granite, and asphalt

that wind through beautifully preserved woodlands. We will carpool from the lot on the south side of Barryknoll across from the movie theater in Memorial City Mall and plan on leaving at **9:15 a.m.** More information, including where to meet in the preserve and lunch plans, will be provided to Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike. Please contact Mary Ann McMordie at [mamcmordie@gmail.com](mailto:mamcmordie@gmail.com) if you would like to join the group.

## Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

The Gourmet group does not meet in April. Please join us **Saturday, May 3rd** for a Cinco de Mayo dinner. We will send out detailed information three weeks before the event. For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832 or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



## 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.



## Culture Group

### W. H. Stark House and the Stark Museum of Art



Join us on **Tuesday, April 22nd**, when the Cultural Interest Group will visit the 1894 W. H. Stark House and the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas. The Stark house was occupied from 1894 until 1936 and consists of Victorian architecture with 15 rooms and 14,000 square feet on three floors. The Stark Museum of Art displays nineteenth and twentieth century Western American art and features artists such as John James Audubon, Frederic Remington, Charles Marion Russell, and Georgia O'Keefe. There is also American Indian art and the complete set of *The United States in Crystal* from Steuben Glass.

We will travel by bus and meet at the lot on Barryknoll at **8:00 a.m.** We will arrive in Orange in time for lunch at The Old Orange Café and begin our tours of the house at 1:00 p.m. We will finish the tours by 3:00 p.m. and head back to Houston. There are no admission fees for the house or the museum, but you will need to buy your lunch. Please email Carole Ballew at [caroleballew@yahoo.com](mailto:caroleballew@yahoo.com) or call 832-656-0775 if you would like to go on the trip. There will be a limit of 32 members.

If you want to read about the sordid family trials and tribulations of the Stark family, read *If the Devil Had a Wife* by Frank Mills, a pseudonym for Rebecca Nugent, a descendant of the Starks. According to The Nelda C. and H.J. Lutch Stark Foundation, this book is “a compilation of salacious rumors, questionable documentation and dubious claims involving people who are no longer alive to either defend themselves or be questioned.” It’s a fun read, but don’t believe everything you read. The Stark Foundation has done wonderful things for Orange for many, many years. If you want to check out some of the accusations, go to [www.thestarktruth.org](http://www.thestarktruth.org)



## Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities – *Le Nozze di Figaro*



Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities at Cinemark Theatre  
Memorial City

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**, Begins promptly at **Noon**

According to Festival of Opera “If Mozart’s Don Giovanni is the greatest of operas, as many musicians have testified, The Marriage of Figaro is surely the best beloved of musicians.” The opera was revolutionary in its time because you had servants mocking their aristocratic master. When it was performed in Vienna in 1786 it was an immediate hit. Mozart wrote to his father from Prague a year later and said his music was being played wherever he went. Even the overture was revolutionary and abandoned the usual Italian form of a slow section between two fast sections. Mozart’s overture discarded both the slow introduction and the slow middle section. It is swiftly moving, highly spirited, and one you will recognize immediately. This opera follows the chaotic events surrounding the marriage of Figaro and Susanna complicated by other schemes by their employer, Count Almaviva involving his infidelities, mistaken identities, secret rendezvous, and comedic events. All of this happens in one day! Join us after the opera as we walk over to Maggiano’s Restaurant to chat about the opera and catch up with each other.

Three Ways to Get Tickets:

- 1) Send \$25 check to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie, Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077, or
- 2) Purchase ticket at box office upon arrival, or
- 3) Purchase ticket online with Fandango.

Please let Diana or Rose know in advance if you are attending so we can send the synopsis of the opera to you.

## Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

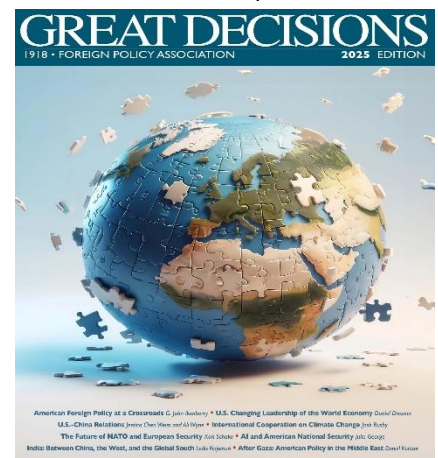
The Great Decisions Wednesday Night Group meets at **7:00 p.m.** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from February through May on Zoom.

The upcoming topics are:

**April 9th** - "International Cooperation on Climate Change" The Leader is Marie Helmy.

**April 23rd** - "The Future of NATO and European Security" The Leaders are Sharon and Eric Jorgensen.

All branch members and their spouses are invited to join the group for stimulating discussions of the United States’ foreign policies and US relationships countries around the world. Contact coordinator Willette Norman to be put on the member list and receive Zoom contact information. [willetten@gmail.com](mailto:willetten@gmail.com), or 281-450-8875.



The Great Decisions inside the Loop meets every other **Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.** April meetings are **April 8<sup>th</sup>** and **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. For more information and to be placed on the contact list, contact Pat Thomsen, [pthom2@sbglobal.net](mailto:pthom2@sbglobal.net) (713-302-8899) or Linda Marlin, [marlinl@comcast.net](mailto:marlinl@comcast.net) (713-469-0856)



### Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** for lunch at Eagle's Trace, Austin Square/Waterloo Restaurant, 14703 Eagle Vista Drive. At 1:30 p.m., we will discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah. 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, April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.**, we will discuss Cheneyville by Paulette Jiles. Our group will meet at 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, April 14th at 1:30 p.m.** in the library at Tracy Gee Community Center Library Room. We will discuss Moscow Nights by Nigel Cliff Julia Dombrowski will lead the discussion. Please contact Nancy Guilloud with any questions, nanguilloud@aol.com

### Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant on Kirkwood and Memorial. We will discuss Horse by Geraldine Brooks. Diana Guarniere will lead the discussion. 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, April 15th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss The Long Call by Ann Cleves. The discussion leader is Ann Hebert. 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, April 17th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Carolyn Morris will lead the discussion. 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 713-560-1889 or Pat Thomsen, Co-coordinator, patthom2@sbcglobal.net, 713-302-8899.



### April Birthdays

Rose Ennis	April 03	Hazel Kjos	April 18
Elizabeth Martin	April 03	Diana Guarniere	April 22
Beryl Hogshead	April 05	Fran Macy	April 22
Pamela Ossorio	April 10	Patricia Driscoll	April 24
Carole Ballew	April 12	Barbara Kyse	April 25
Janelle Festa	April 12	Carolyn Morris	April 25
Patricia Cordrey	April 13	Anne Amador	April 29
Susan Dunten	April 13		

**Please add the following to your directory:**

Please welcome new member:

Kathy Washburn  
 310 Gershwin Drive  
 Houston, TX 77079  
 kathy.washburn@gmail.com  
 713.454.4397

Becky French new address:

14703 Eagle Vista Dr.  
 #PT 331  
 Houston, TX 77077

Beryl Hogshead: New email address

bhogshead@att.net