



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
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April 2025 deadline:

March 15, 2025

Stay informed!

Branch website: aauw-whc.org

National website: aauw.org

AAUW WEST HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH
ANNUAL MEETING and POTLUCK BRUNCH and SOCIAL
SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025, from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER
3599 Westcenter Drive



It's Women's History Month! At our March Annual Meeting we will elect new branch officers for 2025-2026, discuss current branch initiatives, share ideas, socialize and recognize *Equal Pay Days!* Please bring a dish to share.

Slate of Officers for 2025-2026

Presented by the Nominating Committee:

Lilian Care, Susan Boone (WHC Board Representatives)
Anne Amador, Marilyn Arendt, Betty Chapman (Members-at-large)

- President – Lilian Care (1 year position, previously served as President - Elect)
- President Elect – Susan Boone (1 year position in preparation to serve as President the next year)
- Program Development Coordinator - Diana Guarniere (1 year position, previously served for 1 year in this position)
- AAUW FUNDS Assistant Vice President - Kathy Bliss (1 year position in preparation to serve as VP of FUNDS the next year)
- Finance Officer - Pamela Ossario (2- year position)
- Corresponding Secretary – Marie Helmy (2-year position)



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

★ ★ WIN A TERRIFIC RAFFLE ★ ★

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS AT THE HISTORIC TREMONT HOUSE IN
GALVESTON, TX
(PRIZE NON-TRANSFERRABLE)

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

AAUW - West Harris County Branch

(IN CHECK MEMO: AAUW Funds National - Greatest Needs)

Mail check to:

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





President's Message



It is hard to believe it is already March and time to spring forward! This month's big event is our Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch on March 22nd. Everyone is asked to bring a small dish for the luncheon. The program for the meeting is the election of officers for the 2025-26 year. The offices up for election are President-Elect, Program Vice President, Financial Officer, and Corresponding Secretary. There will also be a report on the State of the Branch. This will be a time for fellowship and good food. If anyone would like to help me plan the June luncheon at which time we will install the new officers and award three \$4,000.00 scholarships to deserving young ladies, please contact me at: Jo Glidewell wslide@gmail.com.

Jo Glidewell, President

MEMBERSHIP

What makes you get up and go? A tasty meal? An interesting book? A speaker who motivates or touches your heart? Time with a good friend? Volunteering to help children? All of these things got me out the door during our mercurial February. And all of these things presented me with such great rewards- each one satisfying in its own way. These things gave me a sense of community, new knowledge, and personal challenges. If you are sitting at home, wondering what to do, check out the Activities section of this newsletter, read about what you can do to strengthen AAUW's position in Georgia's Public Policy column, find a place to volunteer (I do one-on-one tutoring at the Family Resource Center), call a friend to celebrate or commiserate, or read a good book. Enjoy life and make things happen. Let me know if you need any help. auwwhcmembership@gmail.com

Kris Bybee-Finley, Membership Vice President



AAUW WHC members get together



February meeting with Kelly Moneyhan with Dress For Success



Garden Divas February outing to the River Oaks Plant House



Demonstration at the River Oaks Plant House

PUBLIC POLICY

Join AAUW members from across the state for

AAUW TEXAS LEGISLATIVE DAY

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025, 2 pm to 6 pm

Texas State Capitol Legislative Conference Center, Austin, TX

Meet with Kate Kuhlmann our Lobbyist.

Go with other members to meet with your legislators and their staff.

The AAUW Texas Public Policy Team will be providing additional information, via Zoom meetings, including training for talking with your legislators.

Contact Georgia Kimmel gwkimmel@juno.com for more information.

Tuesday, March 25th is Equal Pay Day 2025



Each year, this symbolic day is used to raise awareness around and combat the impact of pay inequities. The current state of the gender pay gap for women is 83% for full-time, year-round workers and 75% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal).

It serves as a stark reminder that despite legal protections, a significant gender pay gap persists, with women still earning significantly less than men for comparable work, highlighting the need for continued action to address systemic inequalities and ensure fair compensation for all genders across all sectors. This day should be used not only to raise awareness of the issue but also include to push for policy changes, increased transparency in pay practices, and robust enforcement mechanisms to close the gap, particularly for women of color who face

even greater disparities.

Unequal pay significantly impacts women's economic stability, limiting their access to essential needs and contributing to wealth disparities. To effectively address the pay gap, policymakers should prioritize legislation promoting pay transparency, strengthening enforcement of equal pay laws, and implementing policies that support working mothers, such as paid family leave.

AAUW promotes workshops where women learn to be proactive in negotiating salaries, seeking career advancement opportunities, and utilizing available resources to understand their market value. We must continue to work toward a future where everyone receives fair compensation for their labor, regardless of gender.

A new AAUW Pay Equity Resource, **The Not So Simple Truth 2025 supplement**

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/02/The_Not_SoSimple_Truth_Gender_Pay_Gap_2025-1.pdf includes AAUW's analysis of gender pay gap data by race/ethnicity and by state in 2023.

Georgia Kimmel, Public Policy Chair

Thomsen Baker Telfer Scholarship Fund Update



The Thomsen Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund received another update from one of our 2024 scholarship recipients. Her letter is below. It is amazing how busy these young women are while maintaining high grades.

As of February 1st, the Thomsen-Baker-Telfer Scholarship Fund is live online and accepting applications. If you know of young women in HISD, Alief ISD and/or Spring Branch ISD who are graduating this year and plan to attend college majoring in a STEM field, encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. For 2025, Thomsen-Baker-Telfer is awarding three \$4000 scholarships (one to a student from each school district). These are links to an information page and the application:

<https://westharriscounty-tx.aauw.net/about/scholarships/2025-scholarship-application/>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TBT-application>

Natalie Skeen, Spring Branch ISD Recipient

My name is Natalie Skeen, and I am currently a freshman on the pre-med track at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to a Bachelor of Science in Biology, I am pursuing UT's Pre-health Professions Certificate and am still deciding on a minor at this time. Following my undergraduate career, it is my goal to attend medical school, become an MD, and later specialize in pediatric neurology or cardiology.



During my time at UT, I have been and continue to be a member of cohorts such as the Biology Scholars Program (BSP), Freshman Research Initiative (FRI), and Women In Stem Program (WiSTEM). In addition, I have recently joined UT's Emancipet on Campus, an animal welfare community, and will soon be joining some of UT's pre-med student organizations. While my free time is a bit more limited these days, I am continuing my work as a swim instructor, coach, lifeguard, and deck manager at my local YMCA when I visit home over weekends and holiday breaks. Thanks to the many groups I am a part of, I have also been able to establish an amazing network of friends and mentors that have helped me to thrive in both a social and academic manner.

As a child with only one relative – my mom, who works as a nurse – navigating the finances of college has been difficult. For this reason, the Thomsen Baker Telfer Scholarship has been incredibly helpful in easing my financial burdens. This last semester I was able to fully focus on adjusting to college life, learning new study methods, and maintaining good grades rather than the stress of having to work during the semester to help pay for school. As a result, I ended my first semester with a 4.0 and am beyond grateful for the positive impact this scholarship has had on my academic success. This opportunity is one that I will forever be thankful for, as it will continue to benefit me as I put all my efforts towards my future medical career.



Ways to Give

1. Through our PayPal link at haycenter.org or use the QR code or link below.



<https://tinyurl.com/HAYGiving>

2. Through mail

Make checks payable to The HAY Center Foundation

Mail to: The HAY Center
PO Box 300002
Houston, TX 77230

3. Through Volunteering

If you are interested in learning more about The HAY Center's volunteer opportunities, please email VolunteerHAY@harriscountytexas.gov

TEXAS WORKS PATH TO SUCCESS JOB TRAINING PROGRAM



The HAY Center will have several young adults who were formerly in foster care participating in an extensive 6-week paid job training program. Upon successful completion, they are guaranteed a full-time position with HHSC as a Texas Works Advisor I

HOW CAN YOU HELP
OUR YOUNG ADULTS BE
SUCCESSFUL?

BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES LIKE...

- ✓ \$10-15 Gift Cards for Restaurants
- ✓ Uber or Lyft Gift Cards
- ✓ Anything else you'd like to donate with a \$10 value!

CONTACT BREANNA HAILE FOR MORE INFORMATION
Breanna.Haile@harriscountytexas.gov



MARCH 2025 ACTIVITIES & INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Sharon Jorgeson, Activities Coordinator

Garden Divas



Hidden away beneath beautiful Texas native trees, the Enchanted Forest is a family-owned retail garden center. It provides a quiet getaway to satisfy your gardening needs. The Divas will visit the forest located at 10611 FM 2759 in Richmond on **Tuesday, March 4th**. Note that this is NOT the same nursery location visited by the Divas in 2018 (although it is related to the nursery visited in 2018). Enchanted Forest has vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs, trees, antique and hybrid roses, and native Gulf Coast plants; hanging baskets, pottery, planters, and window baskets; houseplants for air conditioning, low-light, indirect, and

artificial light environments; terrariums and fairy gardens; statuary, fountains, benches, chimes, wrought iron, and other garden accents; greenhouses with miniature plants of all kinds; a bookstore; and a gift shop with an eclectic selection of unique gifts and seasonal décor. We will tour the nursery and get a presentation about tomato plants. Then we can shop on our own before going to lunch at noon (likely Sandy McGee's in Richmond, but that is yet to be confirmed). We will carpool from the West side of town, leaving the Memorial City parking lot off Barryknoll at **9:30 a.m.** For divas living closer to Richmond, I will send a list of potential carpool options the weekend before. A headcount is needed for lunch arrangements. If you would like to attend, please email Susan Boone at smboone@gmail.com.

Byway Birders

Byway Birders will be visiting the Texas City dike on **Friday, March 7th** Plan on meeting at the first parking area on the dike at **9:30 a.m.** We will have lunch at a restaurant afterwards. Mary Dodson is the contact person. mpdodson@sbcglobal.net or 713-516-4266. Please let Mary know if you plan on going or if you want to carpool.

Hiking Honeys

On **Thursday, March 20th**, our hiking destination will be the Rice University campus. Rice University is located on a 290-acre plot of land in the Museum District of Houston. Founded in 1912, the University is bordered by five streets in pentagon shape: Greenbriar, Rice Blvd, Sunset Blvd, Main Street and University Blvd. Rice University takes great pride in the amount of green space available on the campus. Dedicated in 1999, the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum includes more than 4,000 trees and shrubs spread throughout the campus. Management of the trees on campus has earned Rice the status as a "Tree Campus USA" from the Arbor Day Foundation. Mary Ann McMordie will lead us through the University by combining the outer perimeter as well as the loop around the center of the campus. More information, including where to meet and lunch plans, will be provided to the Hiking Honey roster members closer to the date of the hike.



Gourmet Groups – Classic and Nouveau Combined

Join the gourmet group for a St. Patrick's dinner at the home of Ed Alami on **Saturday, March 1st at 6:30 p.m.** For further information please contact the co-chairs: Barb Cook 713-705-7832, chefbjcook@sbcglobal.net or Kris Bybee-Finley 304-610-8708.



Culture Group



Visit Historic Gonzales, Texas on **Monday, March 24th**
Known for the Come and Take It Cannon

The Texas Revolution began in Gonzales with the first shot fired on October 2, 1835. We will visit the city's Memorial Museum built in 1937 by the CCC to honor the "Immortal Thirty-two" men who rushed to defend the Alamo at the request of General W. B. Travis and ended up giving their lives fighting for freedom there. The north wing of the museum contains the famous Come and Take It Cannon and items

pertaining to the history of Gonzales. The director of the museum will provide us with an overview of this historical site. The south wing contains artifacts pioneers used in their daily lives. We will then travel a short distance to the courthouse square to lunch at the Running M Bar and Grill, a classic rodeo themed meeting place. Following this break, we will enjoy a tour of the magnificent Gonzales County Courthouse built from 1894-1896 by architect J. Riely Gordon. Our guide will be the county judge himself, a local history buff. Depending on time, we hopefully will be able to walk around and visit the shops around Courthouse Square before we head back to Houston. Please e-mail Rose Ennis, roseennis@att.net, if you plan to attend or have any questions. The cost will be \$5.00 for the museum and \$1.00 for the bus driver's lunch. The \$6.00 will be collected when boarding the bus. We will meet at the Memorial City Mall Parking Lot across the street from Cinemark Theatre at 8:15 a.m. The bus will leave promptly at **8:30 a.m.** The bus trip is about 2 hours. We expect to arrive back at our cars around 5:30pm.

Save that Date: Post Houston

On **Thursday, May 29th**, 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.



Metropolitan OPERA Opportunities - *Fidelio*



On **Saturday, March 15th at 11:55 a.m.** at Cinemark Theatre Memorial City, HD transmissions will continue to enthrall those attending opera performances at Cinemark Theatre on select Saturdays. Fidelio, the only opera written by Beethoven, was a failure when first performed in Vienna in 1805. It was completely reworked by Beethoven and was reintroduced after many revisions in 1814. This is Beethoven's only opera and features the Prisoners' Chorus and some remarkable arias. The music is powerful and impressive and should not be missed.

Three Ways to Get Tickets:

- Send a \$25. check at least 10 days before the opera to Rose Ennis, 1607 Prairie Mark Lane, Houston, TX 77077, or
- Purchase ticket at Cinemark Box Office upon arrival, or,
- 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

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.

Great Decisions: Afternoon and Evening Groups

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

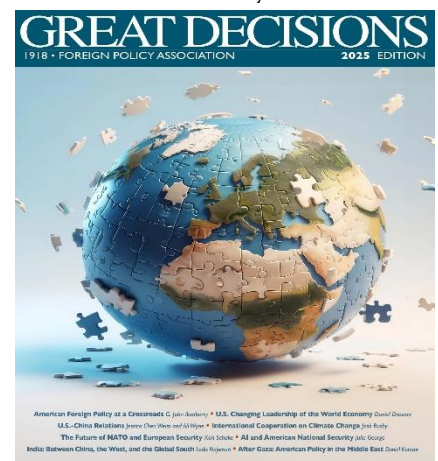
The upcoming topics are:

March 12th - "Competition, Cold War, or Conflict?" Navigating U.S. China Relations in Tense Times.

March 26th - "India: Between China, the West, and the Global South". Leaders - Toby and Arun Singhania.

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, or 281-450-8875.



The Great Decisions inside the Loop meets every other **Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.** March meetings are **March 4th** and **March 18th**. For more information and to be placed on the contact list, contact Pat Thomsen, pathom2@sbglobal.net (713-302-8899) or Linda Marlin, marlinl@comcast.net (713-469-0856)



Afternoon Contemporary Literature

We will meet on **Wednesday, March 5th 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 Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. 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, March 5th at 1:00 p.m.**, we will discuss The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. 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, March 10th at 1:30 p.m.** in the library at Tracy Gee Community Center. We will discuss The United States of Appalachia by Jeff Biggers. Carolyn Morris will lead the discussion. Please contact Nancy Guilloud with any questions, nanguilloud@aol.com

Evening Contemporary Literature

Please join us on **Monday, March 3rd at 5:00 p.m.** at Los Tios Restaurant on Kirkwood and Memorial. We will discuss The Women by Kristin Hannah. Pat Farnell 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, March 18th at 1:30 p.m.** at the Tracy Gee Library to discuss Everyone on This Train is a Suspect by Benjamin Stevenson. The discussion leader is Cheryl Smith. 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, March 20th at 2:30 p.m.** to discuss The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See. Elaine White 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, pattthom2@sbcglobal.net, 713-302-8899.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Toby Singhania	Mar 03	Kathryn Palmisano	Mar 16
Mary Anderson	Mar 04	Diane Treich	Mar 16
Karen Harris	Mar 06	Susan Thompson	Mar 17
Janice McNeil	Mar 07	Ann Sanders	Mar 24
Margo Johnson	Mar 10	Rebecca French	Mar 27
Dorothy Lauterbach	Mar 10	Maria Straus	Mar 29
Sue Phipps	Mar 14		

Please add the following to your directory:

Becky French: New Address

14703 Eagle Vista Dr.
PT 331
Houston, TX 7707

Beryl Hogshead: New email address

bhogshead@att.net