



Nutshell

North Harris County

October 2011 • Volume 40, Issue 2

Be Part of the Action Vote for Our Two Outstanding Women

Nominations for the two outstanding women we will recognize at our February 2012 North Harris County Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon had to be submitted by September 30, and now it is time for you to vote. All members will be emailed the nominees' biographies. You will each vote for one woman as the *Education Honoree* and one woman for the *Community Supporter Honoree*. Your votes must be emailed to Mary Gubert by October 29. Please mark October 29 on your calendars. We want everyone to be able to have a voice in the selection and we want to be able to inform each winner before Thanksgiving. Our luncheon will be on *Saturday, February 25, 2012* in the Garden Room at Shirley Acres.

Our basic criteria for nominations are the same as last year. The nominee must be a resident of North Harris County and must have received awards for activities that benefitted North Harris County.

Each nominee's biography should include paid and/or non-paid positions and also one or more of the following AAUW areas of interest:

leadership ★ equity ★ philanthropy ★ culture ★ advocacy ★ research ★ legal rights

Please contact me if you have any questions. *Thank you for your participation.*

Mary Gubert, Fundraising Chair
marygubert-aauw@sbcglobal.net

Save the Date ~ Saturday, February 25, 2012 2012 North Harris County Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon

Mark your calendars now for our second North Harris County Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon, which will be held in the Garden Room at Shirley Acres with the doors opening at 11:00 a.m. for vendor shopping.

We are looking for some exceptional items that can be part of a silent auction or a special raffle. If any of you have a special item or know of a possible donor, please contact Mary Gubert. Items that typically sell well include:

theatre tickets ❖ major holiday décor ❖ airplane mileage
gift certificates from businesses ❖ wine ❖ vacation home rental

All proceeds of this February fundraiser will be used for our Educational Foundation Programs, which provide grants to local educational projects and contribute to scholarships for higher education. In November members will receive more information about purchasing tickets to attend this luncheon.

October Branch Program - Cypress Creek Greenway Project

Thursday, October 20, 2011

7:00 p.m. Northwoods Presbyterian Church

Dr. Jim Robertson, Chairman of the Cypress Creek Greenway Project, will be our speaker. This project is developing plans for a linear park to stretch along Cypress Creek for about 40 miles from west of 290 to north of the Bush Intercontinental Airport. The park will offer opportunities for many activities, including walking and bike trails. This will be a very interesting program! Guests are welcome. Come at 7:00 p.m. to socialize. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Northwoods Presbyterian Church is located at 3320 FM 1960 West, at T.C. Jester. Enter the lighted church parking lot from T.C. Jester. Room 211 is in the office area on the first floor of the building.

Calendar of Events

Oct 3, Mon	Deadline for reservation to attend Interbranch Event on October 15: All branch members are invited. See page 5 for details and reservation form.
Oct 4, Tue	Cypress Lakes High School Sophomore Summit: Contact Kati Woodward for details and to volunteer.
Oct 5, Wed 4:00 p.m.	Member Social: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mia Bella in Vintage Park. Email Darlene Veltri if you plan to attend. Guests and drop-ins are welcome. See page 7.
Oct 6, Thr 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Literature: The Purple group at the home of Mary Cooley and the Red group at the home of Mary Quinn to discuss <i>Empire of the Summer Moon</i> by S. C. Gwynne. See page 7.
Oct 11, Tue 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Bridge: at the home of Betty Tongberg. Call by October 7 to make your reservation to play. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks and salad are provided. See page 6.
Oct 13, Thr 1:30 p.m.	The World Today: at the home of Jean Fauntleroy to discuss <i>The Amendments to the Texas Constitution</i> . Contact Celeste Sater if you plan to attend. See page 6.
Oct 13, Thr 7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting: at the Barbara Bush Library. Please contact Kati Woodward if you do not receive the minutes of the September board meeting before the October meeting.
Oct 15, Sat 10:00 a.m.	Interbranch Event – Bringing the Convention Home: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Carmelo's Ristorante Italiano. See page 5 for details and reservation form. Contact Kati Woodward for carpooling.
Oct 18, Tue 1:00 p.m.	Travelmania –Royal Weddings - Arab Style: at the home of Darlene Veltri. Contact Darlene if you plan to attend. Program starts at 1:30 p.m. See article on page 6.
Oct 20, Thr 7:00 p.m.	Branch Member Event – Cypress Creek Greenway Project: at Northwoods Presbyterian Church. See article on page 1.
Oct 21, Fri 7:00 p.m.	Gourmet: Wine and hors d’oeuvres at the home of Betty and Carl Tongberg. Send check to Betty - \$25 per couple; \$12.50 for single. See article on page 6 for details.
Oct 22, Sat 10:00 a.m.	Just the Facts, Ma’am: Read <i>In the Garden of the Beats</i> by Erik Larson. Contact Donna Ohlson for the location of the meeting. See page 7.
Oct 24, Mon 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time Literature: at Café Express in Champions Village on FM 1960. 6:30 p.m. for dinner, discussion at 7:00 p.m. of <i>Room</i> by Emma Donoghue. See page 7.
Oct 25, Tue 3:00 p.m.	Islam and Muslim Women – What is Real?? At Lone Star College-North Harris in Academic building, room 126. See Student Affiliates article on page 4.
Oct 29, Sat	Voting Deadline for North Harris County Outstanding Women Honorees: See article on page 1.
Nov 3, Thr 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Literature: Read <i>Cutting for Stone</i> by Abraham Verghese.
<i>Save the Dates in 2012</i>	
Jan 28, Sat 11:00 a.m.	January Interbranch Luncheon: Hosted by West Harris County Branch at Lakeside Country Club, 100 Wilcrest Drive, Houston, TX 77042.
Feb 25, Sat 11:00 a.m.	2012 North Harris County Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon: North Harris County Branch fundraising event in the Garden Room of the Shirley Acres event and banquet facility. See page 1.



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President's Message

Kati Woodward, President
713-515-5093, KatiWoodwardaauw@aol.com

It's already October, but still feels like summer. Fall is here now - you can tell since there are November school board elections right around the corner! The elections will be included on the November 8 election ballot, along with the ten Texas constitution amendments. After the slashing of the education budget by the Texas legislature last May, our school districts have had to continue to cut their budgets. The school districts web sites will give you the sad numbers. Cy Fair ISD has cut its budget by another \$47 million. As you can see, these school board elections will be very important for our districts as well as our home values. You will be able to support candidates who will continue to work for excellence in our educational system. Go to your district web site to see information on the candidates. Then, get involved with those who support your goals. We must keep our excellent schools for America's continued and future success!

Many thanks to Shahnaz Kureshy for stepping up to be our Program VP!

Be sure to vote for the Outstanding Woman of North Harris County award when you get the ballot. And save the date of our awards luncheon: February 25, 2012. See you at Northwoods Presbyterian for our next branch meeting on Thursday, October 20.

Kati Woodward, President

Three Sophomore Summits – Volunteers Needed

Cypress Lakes High School – Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Klein Forest High School – Thursday, November 3, 2011

Cypress Falls High School – Friday, January 20, 2012

For more information and to volunteer, contact Kati Woodward,
713-515-5093, KatiWoodwardaauw@aol.com.

Cy Fair ISD – www.cfishd.net

Click on these links under District News:
State of the District 2011
Inside CFISD Legislative Special Edition

Spring ISD – www.springisd.org

Click on these links under General Information:
2011-2012 Budget; Five Year Plan

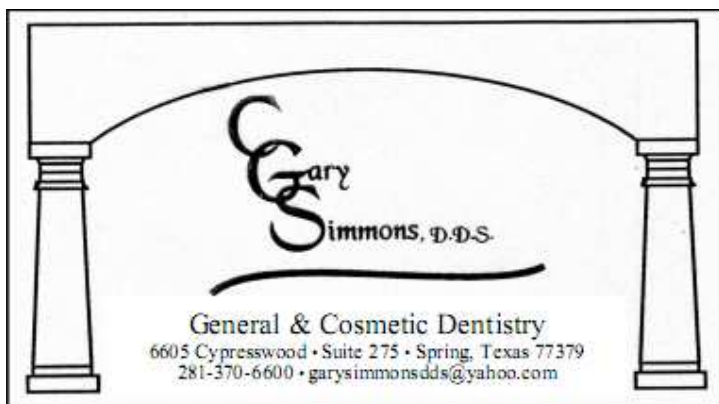
Looking for New Nutshell Newsletter Editor!

In January 2012 Catherine Robichaux is retiring as *Nutshell* editor. She has been the editor since August 2003.

The entire *Nutshell* has been simplified and converted to Microsoft Word 2007. It really is easy to edit the new format! The working knowledge needed is easy to learn: tables, borders, headers and footers, and page breaks.

We are looking for a member to become the new editor starting in January 2012 (or sooner). Catherine will mentor the new editor through the May 2012 issue, and then as needed to answer questions.

If no one volunteers by May 2012, the *Nutshell* will be reduced to just the calendar of events and the monthly program. If you are interested and/or have any questions, please call Catherine Robichaux at 281-931-9091.



We have an open space for a business card ad.

The pro-rated cost is \$75 for the remaining six (6) issues of the *Nutshell*, November 2011 – May 2012. December/January is a combined issue. Contact the *Nutshell* editor, Catherine Robichaux, if you are interested or to refer someone who wants to be a business card sponsor. She will scan the business card and put it in this space. Deadline is October 14.

Contact information: catherine-aauw@swbell.net;
281-931-9091

Many thanks to our business card sponsors. Please consider using their services.

Educational Foundation

Karen Stahl, EF Programs Vice President
281-379-7333, karndav@sbcglobal.net

AAUW is the community that breaks through educational and economic barriers. National AAUW recognized AAUW branches who were the recipients of the AAUW Breaking through Barriers Award at the 2011 AAUW National Convention. Four outstanding awardees received a \$3,000 cash prize for their programs. Our North Harris County AAUW branch received honorable mention for the High School Sophomore Summits.

The AAUW awards monies each school year in support of scholars, research projects, and programs promoting education and equity for women and girls. Since awarding its first fellowship in 1888, AAUW has provided more than \$90 million to more than 11,000 fellows and grantees from around the globe.

“AAUW’s tradition of awarding monetary support to worthy candidates dates back to a time when institutions blatantly discriminated against women and the prevailing thought was that women did not belong in the nation’s colleges and universities. Our founding leaders rejected that notion and vowed to help those who would follow them. The end result is one of our nation’s greatest success stories of women helping women,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE.

The 2011 fellows and grantees join a prestigious circle that includes trailblazers such as Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie and novelist Susan Sontag. It also includes many of today’s leading thinkers and innovators, such as youth expert and author Rosalind Wiseman, economist Heather Boushey, and social entrepreneur Jane Chen. To find out more about this year’s exceptional class of awardees, view the online directory of 2011-12 fellows and grantees on the AAUW website.

Details on the criteria, application process, and deadlines for each of AAUW’s five fellowship and grant programs are on the AAUW website, www.aauw.org. The programs are American Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Community Action Grants, International Fellowships, and Selected Professions Fellowships to which our AAUW branch members can apply. Details will be listed in the November *Nutshell* issue.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2011

✓ **An informed voter is a powerful voter.**

✓ **Educate yourself and others.**

Helpful websites and phone numbers:

Vote TX –Connecting voters and candidates <http://vote-tx.org>

Texas Constitutional Amendments www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/sampleballot2011.pdf

Klein ISD School Board of Trustees' Election - www.kleinisd.net/default.aspx?name=board.election2011

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD School Board of Trustees' Election www.cfid.net/newsmedia/press/2011/0919trustee.htm

www.harrisvotes.org (713-755-6965); www.co.montgomery.tx.us/election (936-539-7843)

Student Affiliates

Lone Star College System~North Harris

Megan Franks, Megan.D.Franks@lonestar.edu
Faculty Sponsor, AAUW Student Affiliates

The AAUW student affiliates sponsored a three-day voter registration event at Lone Star College-North Harris.

Islam and Muslim Women – What is Real??

Lone Star College-North Harris ~ October 25, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Join Kafah Bachari Manna and Ruffi Natarajan in a discussion of the role of women in the Islamic religion. Ms. Manna was born in Iran and raised in Texas. She is the director for Houston Palestinian Film Festival and founding member of Pink Iftar. Ms. Natarajan was born in Pakistan and resides in Houston. She is a local business owner and actively involved in programs for women in education. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in Academic room 126. If you have any questions, contact Megan Franks.

Interbranch

Contact: Kati Woodward for carpooling to this event
713-515-5093, KatiWoodwardaauw@aol.com

AAUW TEXAS & GREATER HOUSTON AREA INTERBRANCH COUNCIL
Bringing Branches Together

Interbranch member branches include: Alvin + Fort Bend + Galveston + Houston + Huntsville
Montgomery County + North Harris County + Orange + Southeast Harris County + West Harris County

BRINGING THE CONVENTION HOME

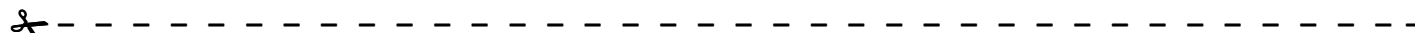
Saturday, October 15, 2011 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Carmelo’s Restaurant, 14795 Memorial Drive, Houston 77079

All Branch Members Are Invited

AAUW Texas will pay a \$50 stipend (to defray gasoline costs) to each branch
that sends four (4) or more members to this event.

- 10:15 Welcome & Introductions – Enny Schissler, AAUW Texas – South District Representative
10:30 OUR BIG TEAL MACHINE IN ACTION – A PERFECT STORM
A Report on AAUW’s National Convention and the Results of “One Member- One Vote”
Diana Guarniere, AAUW West Harris Branch President
11:15 REAP the Benefits of AAUW — Jackie Littleton, AAUW Texas Branch Services Officer
12:00 Lunch and Social Hour
1:00 Invitation to 2012 AAUW Texas Convention in Austin
Austin’s Convention Local Arrangements Committee Chair
1:15 Report from AAUW Texas — Jeannie Best, AAUW Texas President
1:30 Town Hall Q & A (with hands-on web work opportunity available)

Copy and complete the following or print the reservation form, which is linked to the
Interbranch homepage at: www.aauwtexas.org/branches/greaterhoustonarea/index.html



Reservation Form for Interbranch October 15, 2011 - Deadline October 3
Fee of \$25 for gourmet Italian lunch and program materials must accompany reservation form.
Please print or type clearly. One person per reservation form.

Name _____ Badge Name _____
Address _____ City, State Zip _____
Home phone _____ Daytime phone (work/cell) _____
Email _____
Branch Name _____ Position in Branch _____
AAUW Texas State Office _____

Indicate Lunch Choice: (dessert and non-alcoholic beverage provided)
[] Green salad with sliced, grilled chicken breast
[] Eggplant filled with seafood. Served with Spaghetti Marinara
[] Pollo Liana – grilled chicken breast with sautéed mushrooms and Fettuccine Alfredo

Please indicate any special needs: _____

Make \$25 check payable to: GHAIC (Greater Houston Area Interbranch Council)
Mail reservation form and check to: Marietta Hostak, Finance Officer
12510 Shepherds Ridge Drive, Houston, TX 77077
mhostak@sbcglobal.net 281-497-5858

Daytime Bridge

Barbara Hine & Shirley Ada, Daytime Bridge Co-Chairs
Barbara: 281-376-3365, BarbHi@sbcglobal.net

On *Tuesday, October 11*, we will meet in the home of Betty Tongberg, 22 Champions Bend Circle (Champions Bend Estates). Come enjoy coffee and socializing at 9:30 a.m. Play starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Please call Betty (281-583-7418) or her co-hostess, Beckie Massie (281-370-3286) by October 7 to reserve a place at the tables. This greatly helps the hostess plan the number of tables that will play.

Please bring a sandwich for lunch. Drinks and salad will be provided. Hope to see you at the tables!

Travelmania

Sue Mason, Travelmania Chair
281-376-3699, Sue-Mason@sbcglobal.net

Royal Weddings – Arab Style



Betsy and Carl Calabro lived in Saudi Arabia and this spring returned to attend a Royal Wedding Arab style. Betsy is going to tell us about the history of engagement and marriage traditions in the Middle East. We'll see how these traditions have changed and what happens at a "small" wedding for 1,500 guests – ladies only! Betsy will serve cookies she bought in Saudi Arabia and has a special gift for everyone attending.

Join us on *Tuesday, October 18*, at the home of Darlene Veltri, 20810 Bending Pines Lane in WindRose, just two homes down the street from Betsy's home. Come at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and social time. We'll start the program at 1:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Darlene at 281-251-4060 or email her at daveltri@sbcglobal.net so she knows how many to expect.

The World Today

Celeste Sater, The World Today Chair
281-440-6668, rcsat@flash.net

We will meet on *Thursday, October 13*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jean Fautleroy, 5802 Bermuda Dunes Dr. (Champions). We are a small current events discussion group that meets seven months of the year. We welcome all members to our lively current events discussions on topics chosen by the group.

The October topic will be the amendments to the Texas constitution, which will be on the November 8, 2011 statewide voting ballot. Sylvia Tucker will lead the discussion. Before the meeting, you will receive an email containing these amendments. Please call or email Celeste Sater if you plan to attend.

Gourmet

Anne Grace, Gourmet Chair
281-444-8408, CGrace3537@sbcglobal.net

An Evening of Wine Tasting and Hors d'oeuvres

All members and couples are invited to join us on *Friday, October 21*, at 7:00 p.m. Come taste some wines from Australia and New Zealand at the home of Betty and Carl Tongberg, 22 Champions Bend Circle, Houston, TX 77069, in Champions Bend (281-583-7418). Send a check in the amount of \$25.00 per couple or \$12.50 single made out to Betty Tongberg for your reservation, by *Wednesday, October 19*. All guests are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres. Hope to see you.

Daytime Literature

Kathe Behrend, Purple Group Chair, 281-320-9343, ksbehrend@yahoo.com
Jane Egner, Red Group Chair, 281-444-1168, twoeggsjane2@msn.com

On *Thursday, October 6*, we will meet to discuss *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S. C. Gwynne. Come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee. The book discussion starts at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will follow at a central location for both groups.

The Red group will meet at the home of Mary Quinn, 5215 Westminister Court in Huntwick. Dawn Shull will lead the review. The Purple group will meet at the home of Mary Cooley, 11723 Parkriver Drive, in Lakewood Forest. Joan Gould will lead the review. Please call your hostess if you plan to attend.

In *Empire of the Summer Moon*, journalist Gwynne tracks one of the United States' longest-running military conflicts in this gripping history of the war against the Comanche Indians on the high plains of Texas and Colorado.

Just the Facts, Ma'am

Donna Ohlson, Just the Facts, Ma'am Chair
281-537-6051, djointex@yahoo.com

We are a nonfiction book group. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on *Saturday, October 22*, for a discussion of *In the Garden of the Beats* by Erik Larson. Contact Donna Ohlson if you would like to host the October meeting in your home.

Prime Time Literature

Bonnie Flynn, Prime Time Lit Chair
281-444-7791, BFly5@earthlink.net

On *Monday, September 26*, we will meet at Café Express on FM 1960, next to Barnes & Noble in Champions Village. Come at 6:30 p.m. if you want to join us for dinner. At 7:00 p.m. the discussion begins on *Room* by Emma Donoghue.

"Five-year-old Jack has never known anything of life beyond Room, the 11-square foot space he shares with his mother. Jack has learned to read, count, and process an imaginary world outside through television. At night he sleeps in a wardrobe in case Old Nick comes to visit, bringing supplies and frightening intrusion." *Booklist*

"For Jack, Room is the only world he knows, but for Ma, it is a prison in which she has tried to craft a normal life for her son. When their insular world suddenly expands beyond the confines of their four walls, the consequences are piercing and extraordinary. Despite its profoundly disturbing premise, Donoghue's *Room* is life with moments of hope and beauty, and the dogged determination to live, even in the most desolate circumstances." *Amazon.com*

Share your favorite internet sites for book reviews and summaries.

Send them to the *Nutshell* newsletter editor, Catherine Robichaux at catherine-aauw@swbell.net, to be published in the November issue of the *Nutshell*.

Membership

Betsy Calabro, Co-VP, 281-376-5960, eccalabro@yahoo.com
Darlene Veltri, Co-VP, 281-251-4060, daveltri@sbcglobal.net

Don't Let the October Member Social Date "Fall" Between the Cracks!

We will meet at Mia Bella in Vintage Park on *Wednesday, October 5*, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Make plans to join us for \$3.00 drinks and appetizers, as well as good conversation. Come early or come late, but come! Feel free to bring a friend. For more information, contact Darlene Veltri at daveltri@sbcglobal.net or 281-251-4060.

American Association of University Women
www.aauw.org

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

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Newsletter Editor:
 Catherine Robichaux
 Email: catherine-aauw@swbell.net
 Articles are due on the
 2nd Thursday of each month



Our branch was recognized at the 2010 AAUW Texas Convention for our outstanding accomplishments in all categories of the PEARL award.

○ Protect ○ Educate ○ Advocate ○ Research ○ Lead

View our newsletters in color through the AAUW Texas website: www.aauwTexas.org
 North Harris County's home page is: www.aauwTexas.org/branches/northharriscounty/index.html

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