



Nutshell

North Harris County

November/December 2011 • Volume 40, Issue 3



White Elephant Auction and Salad Luncheon Annual LAF Fundraiser

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.

Come eat, drink, and be merry at our annual LAF white elephant auction and salad luncheon. This lively event helps raise funds for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), a source of financial aid for women seeking judicial redress from sexual discrimination in academia. It's a time to donate and a time to buy. And we have lots of fun!

Bring something you've never used that someone else would enjoy having, such as a gift that's just not you, a nice party favor you received, seasonal tickets you can't use, a good book, baked goods, or that unique something that you bought on impulse. No need to wrap your contribution and be prepared to join the lively bidding.

The event begins with a refreshing cuppa and ends with a potluck salad luncheon. Please bring one or two items for the auction and a salad or other dish that does not need to be heated, with a serving utensil.

At the home of Dianne Sharr, 16603 Southern Oaks Dr. (Northgate Forest)

RSVP to Dianne Sharr at 281-397-0688 or ngatefirst@aol.com

Letter From the Nutshell Editor

My Dear Friends:

In January of 2011, I announced that I will be retiring as the *Nutshell* newsletter editor effective January 2012. I have served as the editor since August 2003, for eight and a half wonderful years of friendships and proud accomplishments. It is now time for me to transition to a life of more free time for me and my family.

Although articles have appeared in the *Nutshell* since March 2011, no one has come forward to volunteer to become the next *Nutshell* newsletter editor. My encore will be three final issues of the *Nutshell*: January 2012, February/March 2012, and April/May 2012. These will consist of a calendar of events, our business card ads, the monthly member meeting programs, and information about our fundraising event and the awarding of these funds. To receive details of interest group meetings, make sure you contact the group coordinators and ask to be added to their distribution lists.

What next? Starting in August 2012, emails will be the communication method used for sending a calendar of events and information about our branch activities to all members. I plan to continue to be a member of the AAUW North Harris County branch and will assist with some emails to all members.

Yours truly, Catherine Robichaux

Nutshell Newsletter Editor, catherine-aauw@swbell.net

November Branch Program – Cypress Creek EMS Station & Dispatch Center

Thursday, November 17, 2011 ~ 10:00 a.m.

For our November member meeting, we are going on a field trip! We'll meet at the new Cypress Creek EMS station and dispatching center. They are going to give us a power point presentation about our area, show us the new CPR method, and take us to the dispatching center next door to watch actual emergencies being handled. It is amazing how much of Harris County they cover with their dispatch services. Afterwards we'll go to lunch and chat. We will be learning a lot and it may save a life some day. Hope to see you there!

Cypress Creek EMS is located at 7111 Five Forks Drive in Spring, Texas. Five Forks is just one block north of Theisswood Road, on the east side Stuebner Airline.

Calendar of Events

Nov 2, Wed	Member Social: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mia Bella in Vintage Park. See page 4.
Nov 3, Thr 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Literature: <i>Cutting for Stone</i> by Abraham Verghese. The Purple group at the home of Fran Breton and the Red group at the home of Jane Egner. See article on page 7.
Nov 8, Tue	Election Day: at your precinct polling location. See page 3 for helpful websites and phone numbers.
Nov 8, Tue 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Bridge: at the home of Joan Gould. Call Joan to make your reservation to play. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks and salad are provided. See page 6.
Nov 10, 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 October board meeting before the meeting. <i>No December board meeting.</i>
Nov 11, Fri 11:30 a.m.	Gourmet: Lunch at America's restaurant in The Woodlands. Contact Ann Thorn before November 7 to make your reservation. See article on page 6 for details.
Nov 15, Tue 1:00 p.m.	Travelmania: <i>European Coastal Civilizations & Their Culinary Traditions</i> , at the home of Jane Egner. Contact Jane if you plan to attend. Program starts at 1:30 p.m. See page 6. <i>No December meeting.</i>
Nov 17, Thr 10:00 a.m.	Special Branch Member Event: at the new Cypress Creek EMS station and dispatching center, located at 7111 Five Forks (off of Steubner Airline). See article on page 1.
Nov 17, Thr 1:30 p.m.	The World Today: at the home of Marjorie Rice to discuss the United States presidential candidates. Contact Celeste Sater if you plan to attend. See page 7. <i>No meeting in December or January.</i>
Nov 28, Mon 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time Literature: at Café Express on FM 1960. 6:30 p.m. for dinner, discussion at 7:00 p.m. of <i>The Master Butchers Singing Club</i> by Louise Erdrich. See page 7. <i>No December meeting.</i>
Dec 1, Thr 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Literature: Both groups will meet at the home of Anais Watsky to discuss <i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i> by Muriel Barbery and for a holiday luncheon. Please contact Anais by November 25 if you plan to attend and let her know if you will bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert. See page 7.
Dec 3, Sat 10:00 a.m.	LAF Fundraiser White Elephant Auction and Salad Luncheon: at the home of Dianne Sharr. Bring a salad to share and one or two items for auction. See page 1. Call Dianne if you plan to attend.
Dec 11, Sun 6:00 p.m.	Gourmet: Member/Couples Annual Christmas Dinner at Strata Restaurant and Bar. Contact Barbara Hine if you would like to attend, to get the menu choices and make your reservation. See page 6.
Dec 13, Tue 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Bridge: at Raveneaux Country Club, with lunch afterwards. Call Barbara Hine to make your reservation for the luncheon. Each person will pay for her own meal at the event. See article page 6.
Save the Dates in 2012	
Jan 20, Fri	Cypress Falls High School Sophomore Summit: Contact Kati Woodward for details and to volunteer.
Jan 28, Sat 11:00 a.m.	January Interbranch Luncheon: Hosted by West Harris County Branch at Lakeside Country Club. See page 5. A reservation form will be in the January 2012 <i>Nutshell</i> .
Jan 28, Sat 10:00 a.m.	Just the Facts, Ma'am: <i>The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris</i> by David McCullough. Contact Donna Ohlson for the location of the meeting. See page 7. <i>No meeting in November or December.</i>
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 5.

Barbara Alcamo
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President's Message

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

Where has the year gone? It is almost 2012 and I haven't gotten everything done yet, but I hear I'm not alone. At the national convention in June, AAUW public policy was lobbied on Capitol Hill. The national legislators always welcome the AAUW volunteer lobbyists since they are well prepared. The issues that they concentrated on were:

- (1) Social Security to continue since it helps so many older women especially,
- (2) giving approval for building of the National Women's Historical Museum to be located on government property, which is already financed without tax money, and
- (3) passage of a bill about women's safety on college campuses.

Wouldn't it be nice to take our daughters and granddaughters to a museum about women's significant contributions in the US!

Enjoy your new directory thanks to Karen Stahl's hard work. We really use them Karen and think of you often!

We are preparing for our Outstanding Women of North Harris County Luncheon on February 25, 2012, at Shirley Acres. Think about inviting friends when you see them over the holidays. Contact Mary Gubert to help out on the committee.

This is a combined November and December *Nutshell* issue and several groups have fantastic food events with reservation deadlines, so make your reservations now and mark your calendars. Events and meetings of all groups are open to all branch members.

Interesting Fact: "In 1885, AAUW's foremothers sent a detailed survey to every woman college graduate in the United States. They were seeking an answer to the insidious question that had discouraged women's progress in the classroom. Does education hurt a woman's health? The report, *Health Statistics of Women College Graduates*, confirmed the researchers' hypothesis that educating women's minds had no negative effects on their physical or mental well-being."

Source: AAUW Outlook magazine, Fall 2011 issue, page 20

I wish you happy holidays, lots of snow, beautiful music, safe travels and family fun!

Kati Woodward, President

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2011

In addition to ten proposed Texas constitutional amendments, this election also includes voting for:

- City of Houston Mayor
- Council Members for Districts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K
- Council Member-At-Large Positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Many School District Trustees and some ISD propositions

Helpful websites and phone numbers:

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.cfisd.net/newsmedia/press/2011/0919trustee.htm
www.harrisvotes.org (713-755-6965); www.co.montgomery.tx.us/election (936-539-7843)

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Educational Foundation

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

AAUW provides many educational and professional development experiences for you to improve your personal and leadership skills as well as opportunities for educational advancement through fellowship, grants, and awards.

You may be interested in applying for one of the Fellowships and Grants below. For more detail go to the AAUW website, www.aauw.org, click on the **purple LEARN bar**, and select **Leadership Programs** or **Fellowships and Grants**.

For more than a century, AAUW has helped more than 10,000 women from more than 130 countries break through barriers and pursue their dreams of obtaining graduate degrees or making an impact in their communities.

Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect, dedication, imagination, and effort promise to forge new paths in scholarship, improve the quality of life for all, and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women in the United States and around the globe.

Fellowship and grant recipients undergo a highly competitive selection process. Academic excellence, commitment to improving the human condition, and the promise of continued impact are cornerstones of the rigorous criteria.

American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations or scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave from accredited institutions. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Application deadline: November 15, 2011. (for Fellowship year: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

Career Development Grants support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force.

Application deadline: December 15, 2011 (for Grant year: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

Community Action grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Application deadline: January 15, 2012

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate study at accredited institutions are supported. Several fellowships are available for study outside of the U.S.

Application deadline: December 1, 2011 (for Fellowship year: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013).

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low (see list below). Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Application deadline: January 10, 2012 (for Fellowship year: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

Grant Applications for Local Grant Program are Now Available

The North Harris County Branch AAUW, a non-profit educational association, is accepting applications from local organizations and groups (not individuals) interested in applying for any educational project that benefits the community and "advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research" according to AAUW's Mission Statement. Funds are generated from our AAUW branch fundraisers. The grant applications are available at the Barbara Bush Library and Northwest Library beginning November 15, 2011, and must be completed and received by February 15, 2012.

Look for the publicity in your local Sun newspaper and subdivision newsletters. For additional information, contact Karen Stahl, karndav@sbcglobal.net, or visit our AAUW branch homepage: www.aauwtexas.org/branches/northharriscounty/index.html and click on **Grants, Scholarship** in the menu bar on the left side.

Membership

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

November Member Social ~ A Cool Way to Celebrate Our Cool Weather

We met at Mia Bella in Vintage Park on *Wednesday, November 2*, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Make plans to join us at our next member social for \$3.00 drinks and appetizers, as well as good conversation. Feel free to bring a friend. For more information, contact Darlene Veltri at daveltri@sbcglobal.net or 281-251-4060.

*Our 2012 North Harris County Outstanding Women
Save the Date ~ Saturday, February 25, 2012*

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.

I am delighted to present the two outstanding women we will be honoring at our February luncheon.

★ Educator Honoree: Lynn Dozier

★ Community Support Volunteer Honoree: Barbara Schlattman

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

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

Student Affiliates

Lone Star College System~North Harris

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

The North Harris College AAUW student affiliates are off to a great start. Our goal was to increase our membership by a minimum of 10% and we have increased from five to eleven members. We are ordering new T-shirts with the AAUW logo and Lone Star College logo. This semester we have already held our three-day voter registration drive and have handed out a web address to register www.rockthevote.org. This does not allow us to count these new voters, however paper copies of the forms are not "the way" with most young people. The students attend meetings and complete volunteer hours for Student Life to maintain our status as a student organization. On October 25, we hosted Pink Iftar, a discussion about Muslim women and women's rights. Planned Parenthood will be presenting to our students on Tuesday November 15 at 11:45 a.m.

If you would like to attend any event or want more information, please email our student affiliate president, Erica Zamarripa, at ericazamarripa@rocketmail.com or Megan Franks at megan.d.franks@lonestar.edu.

Students are now applying for the two-\$500 scholarships that will be offered this year through North Harris County branch contributions!

Thank for your support,
Megan Franks

Interbranch

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



**January Interbranch Luncheon
January 28, 2012, 11:00 a.m.**

Hosted by West Harris County AAUW

**Lakeside Country Club
100 Wilcrest Drive, Houston, Texas**

A reservation form will be in the January Nutshell.

2011-2012 Interbranch Officers:

President

Margo Johnson

Secretary/ Treasurer

Marietta Hostak

Daytime Bridge

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

On *Tuesday, November 8*, we will meet in the home of Joan Gould, 5307 Westminister Court (Huntwick). Come enjoy coffee and socializing at 9:30 a.m. Play starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Please call Joan (281-583-6389) or her co-hostess, Millie Jude (281-251-3140) to inform them if you can play. Please bring a sandwich. Salad and drinks will be provided.

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On *Tuesday, December 13*, we will gather at Raveneaux Country Club for our Christmas bridge and luncheon meeting. We will play in the lounge area and have coffee and conversation there starting at 9:30 a.m. Play starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Each lady will pay for her own lunch. Please call Barbara Hine (281-376-3365) if you can play bridge in December. Reservations are definitely needed for this luncheon!

Travelmania

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



European Coastal Civilizations and Their Culinary Traditions Portugal, Spain, France, and Isle of Guernsey

Jane and Paul Egner cruised aboard the *Le Boréal* along the coast of Western Europe from Lisbon, Portugal to Paris, France stopping at various UNESCO World Heritage sites. They visited Oporto, Portugal, the hub of the port wine trade; toured Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; and experienced the beauty of Belle-Ile-en-Mer and charming Guernsey Island. They enjoyed lectures on board about the culinary traditions across the coastal regions of Portugal, Spain, France, and the Channel Islands.

Jane will tell us about her trip on *Tuesday, November 15*, in her home at 54 Champions Bend Circle in Champion Bend Estates. Kathe Behrend will co-host. Join us 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 Jane at 281-444-1168 or email her at twoeggsjane2@msn.com so she knows how many to expect.

We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Gourmet

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

November Luncheon at Americas Restaurant

Join us on *Friday, November 11*, for a gourmet meal at America's in The Woodlands at 11:30 a.m. There will be a choice of three entrees: chicken, beef tenderloin, and slow roasted pork. We will order at the restaurant and there will be separate checks. Iced tea is included. We will carpool from Kroger's at Cypresswood, leaving at 10:45 a.m. Let Ann Thorn know if you are coming by Monday, November 7. Contact Ann Thorn: 281-893-1682 or atthorn@sbcglobal.net

December Gourmet Dinner at Strata Restaurant

Join us on *Sunday, December 11*, for a gourmet meal in a private room at Strata Restaurant and Bar at 6:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend. The cost is \$24.95 plus tax and 20% gratuity. Reservations and menu selections must be submitted to Barbara Hine by *Wednesday, December 7*. Contact Barbara Hine: 281-376-3365 or BarbHi@sbcglobal.net

First Course – Choose one: Caesar Salad **or** Tomato Poblano Soup

Second Course – Choose one: Petite New York Strip Steak **or** Grilled Salmon **or** Roasted Pork Tenderloin
or Vegetable Bow Tie Pasta **or** Sage Chicken Brest

(All entrees are served with different side dishes. Contact Barbara Hine for detailed descriptions.)

Dessert: White Chocolate Bread Pudding

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, November 3*, we will meet to discuss *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese. 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 Jane Egner, 54 Champions Bend Circle in Champions Bend Estates. Shirley Ada will lead the review. The Purple group will meet at the home of Fran Breton, 12114 Normmont Ave., in Lakewood Forest. Bonnie Flynn will lead the review. Please call your hostess if you plan to attend. Jane 281-444-1168; Fran 281-370-7717.

"Cutting For Stone is a riveting saga of twin brothers, Marion and Shiva Stone, born of a tragic union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance, and bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. But it's love, not politics -- their passion for the same woman -- that will tear them apart..."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Join us on *Thursday, December 1*, for a joint meeting of the Purple and Red groups at the home of Anais Watsky, 17814 Running Brook Lane, in Memorial Northwest. Come to socialize at 9:30 a.m. The review will start at 10:00 a.m. Mary Kimball will lead the discussion of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. The book follows events in the life of a concierge, whose deliberately concealed intelligence is uncovered by an unstable but intellectually precocious girl who lives in the upscale apartment building.

Please contact Anais by *Friday, November 25*, if you plan to attend and let her know if you will bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert. Her contact information is 281-370-4200 and awatsky@yahoo.com. Bring a wrapped gift worth around \$20 to take part in our traditional holiday "Chinese Auction".

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. We will not meet in November or December. Join us on *Saturday, January 28, 2012*, at 10:00 a.m. for a discussion of *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough. Friends are invited to join us to talk about what promises to be a fun and interesting book. For more information, please contact Donna Ohlson.

Prime Time Literature

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

On *Monday, November 28*, 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 *The Master Butchers Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich.

We will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 23, 2012. Read Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand.

The World Today

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

We will meet on *Thursday, November 17*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marjorie Rice, 6510 Glenn Lakes Drive (Champions West). The November topic will be the presidential candidates. Each member will research a candidate's qualifications and platform. Please call or email Celeste Sater if you plan to attend. We welcome interested members of all political persuasions for lively discussions of current events.

We will not meet in December or January. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 9, 2012.

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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