



Nutshell

North Harris County

February 2012 • Volume 40, Issue 4

Our 2012 North Harris County Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon

Saturday, February 25, 2012 ~ 11:00 a.m.

*The bugle has sounded and now it is time to rally the troops
as we charge into our second AAUW Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon.*

We have the privilege of honoring two outstanding women who have given exceptional service and made significant contributions to their communities at our second Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon on February 25th in the Garden Room at Shirley Acres. The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. for conversation and vendor shopping. The luncheon will be served at 12:30. We need the assistance of each of you to make this luncheon the huge success that we had last year. Invitations and reply cards will be delivered to each branch member the last week of January 2012.

Our annual Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon follows a long tradition of our commitment to our community. Proceeds from our previous fundraisers have initiated Sophomore Summit programs in two local school districts. Our branch helped form Friends of the Library, develop Mercer Arboretum, and establish Cypress Creek Emergency Ambulance Services. Many local programs in schools and other nonprofits, such as the Pearl Museum of Fine Arts, have been recipients of our AAUW branch's community grants. It is our hope that our Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon will make our branch more visible in the community and encourage the community to become more involved in our fundraisers. Your support is very important!

Reservations for this fundraising luncheon are \$50 per person. The invitation reply cards contain all the information you need to make reservations. Last year we had 165 attendees, and we all had a wonderful time. This year with some experience behind us, we want to expand our numbers. We will have a silent auction and several raffle items. For your shopping pleasure there will be ten chosen vendors, which are listed on page 5.

We are so fortunate to have so many exceptional women in our community and with your assistance we are honored to recognize Lynne Dozier as our Education Honoree and Barbara Schlattman as our Community Service Honoree for 2012. Both women have made, and continue to make, substantial contributions of their time and talents to our community.



Lynne Dozier
Our Education Honoree



Melanie Lawson
Our Keynote Speaker



Barbara Schlattman
Our Community Service Honoree

This year we welcome Melanie Lawson from Channel 13 as our keynote speaker. I know all of you are as thrilled as I am to have someone of her stature donate her time and bountiful energy to us. Journalism has always been in Melanie's blood. She started as a full-time general assignments reporter at Channel 13, and then went on to become the co-anchor of *Live at 5* and Channel 13's midday show, *Eyewitness News at 11am*. Melanie also hosts a weekly Community Affairs program called *Crossroads*, focusing on issues and events around our city.

Come join us for a time of fun and celebration!
Mary Gubert, Fundraising Chairman

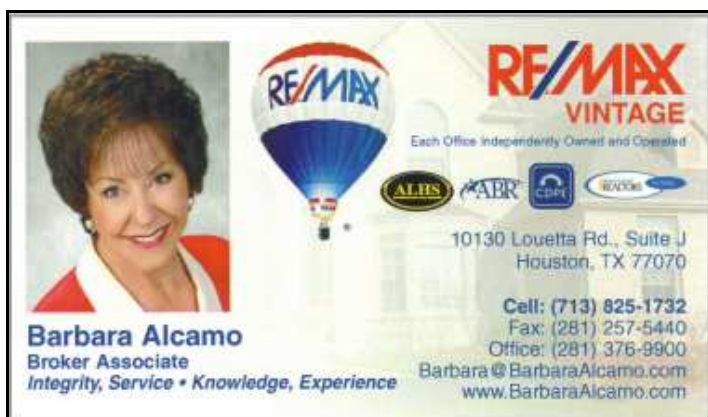
See page 6 for more about
our honorees and speaker.

Calendar of Events

Jan 21, Sat 10:00 a.m.	Just the Facts, Ma'am: <i>The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris</i> by David McCullough - at the home of Rufi Natarajan. The new date for February meeting is Saturday, February 18. See page 6.
Jan 28, Sat 11:00 a.m.	January Interbranch Luncheon: Hosted by West Harris County Branch at Lakeside Country Club. Reservation deadline is Jan 21. Contact Mary Gubert if you want to carpool to this event. Download the reservation form at www.aauwtexas.org/branches/greaterhoustonarea/index.html
Feb 1, Wed 4:00 p.m.	Member Social: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mia Bella in Vintage Park. Please contact Darlene Veltri if you plan to attend. It helps in making table reservations. See page 6.
Feb 2, Thr 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Literature: <i>Cleopatra: A Life</i> by Stacy Schiff. Purple group at the home of Kathe Behrend; Red group at the home of Ginny Robertson. Contact your hostess if you plan to attend. See page 7.
Feb 6, Mon 7:00 p.m.	Great Decisions 2012: Middle East Realignment - at the home of Rufi and Raj Natarajan. AAUW spouses and guests are invited to attend. See details on page 7.
Feb 9, Thr 1:30 p.m.	The World Today: <i>The Pros and Cons of the Remaining Presidential Candidates</i> - at the home of Celeste Sater. Call Celeste if you plan to attend. See page 7.
Feb 9, 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 January board meeting.
Feb 10, Fri 11:30 a.m.	Gourmet: Let's make peanut butter for the Houston Food Bank! - at the Cannery, 16333 Hafer Road. Please call Jane Egner if you would like to participate. See article on page 6 for details.
Feb 14, Tue 9:30 a.m.	Daytime Bridge: at the home of Anne Grace. Call Ann or co-hostess Margaret Penny to make your reservation to play. Please bring a sandwich. Drinks and salad are provided. See page 7.
Feb 15, Wed	Deadline for Fellowship Fund Community Grant Applications: See page 4 for details.
Feb 20, Mon 7:00 p.m.	Great Decisions 2012: Mexico - at the home of Pari and Norm Rosen. AAUW spouses and guests are invited to attend. The March dates are March 5 and March 19. See details on page 7.
Feb 21, Tue 1:00 p.m.	Travelmania: <i>South Africa – Wildlife, Historic Towns, & Beautiful Scenery</i> , at the home of Sylvia Tucker. Contact Sylvia if you plan to attend. The program starts at 1:30 p.m. See page 6.
Feb 25, Sat 11:00 a.m.	North Harris County 2012 Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon: North Harris County Branch fundraising event in the Garden Room of the Shirley Acres. See pages 1, 4 and 5.
Feb 27, Mon 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time Literature: <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot - at Café Express in Champions Village on FM 1960. 6:30 p.m. for dinner, book discussion at 7:00 p.m. See page 7.

Our 2011 White Elephant Auction Raised \$220 for AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

The White Elephant Auction and Salad Luncheon at Dianne Sharr's home on December 3, 2011, raised \$220 for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) which works to combat sex discrimination in the workplace and in higher education. We all enjoyed the good food, fun, and camaraderie at this annual event. Many thanks to our hostess, Dianne Sharr.



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

President's Message

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

This past year our Summit program has grown! We had three Summits: Klein Forest, Cypress Lakes, and Cypress Falls. Each of them was successful and greatly appreciated by the students as well as the administration. Klein Forest used its grant to give the girls a pink T shirt with a cute girl picture and "Sponsored by AAUW" on the front. Cypress Lakes had its first Summit and sent thank you notes from students for our involvement. Cypress Falls had an outstanding science presentation with surprise experiments that entertained and educated the students. As of February, our branch has influenced 5,400 students! Listening to the television news, we know that education is undergoing great changes now. We are contributing in an important way that is recommended by the experts in getting the students to consider their futures now. By taking strong academic classes now, they will be better prepared for college or further education needed to achieve their dream careers.

Invitations will be sent out during the week of January 23 for our Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon. We are already getting inquiries on how to get tickets to the luncheon. So be sure to send your reply card back soon, since we may reach the maximum limit of attendance. Won't that be a wonderful problem to have! Mary Gubert and her committee have spent countless hours on this fundraiser so we can enjoy another outstanding luncheon this year. Hope to see YOU there!

Kati Woodward, President

Donations in Memory of AAUW North Harris County Members – Virginia Lyon and Amy Hook

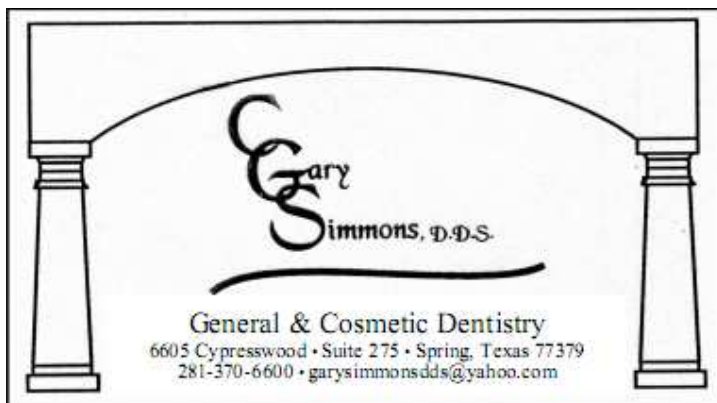
In memory of two of our members, Virginia Lyon who passed away on November 23, 2011 and Amy Hook who passed away on November 29, 2011, our branch sent \$50 (\$25 for each) to AAUW for the Virginia R. Lyon American Fellowship.

Virginia was president of our branch from 1979 to 1980 and was a major leader during our 34 years of home tour fundraisers from 1974 to 2007. She was the Texas Educational Foundation (EF) VP, regional EF Trainer, and on the AAUW EF Board of Directors.

Our branch completed the \$100,000 endowment for the Virginia R. Lyon AAUW American Fellowship in 2004. The AAUW American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations or scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research from accredited institutions. The Virginia R. Lyon American Fellowship has had eight recipients since our branch completed the endowment, so Virginia's legacy will go on.

Individual contributions from our branch raised an additional \$1,415 in memory of Virginia. She touched the lives of so many of us. We sent \$500 from our March 5, 2011 Outstanding Women Luncheon bringing the total donation to the AAUW – Virginia R. Lyon American Fellowship to \$1,965 for the year 2011.

We also received a \$500 donation in memory of Amy Hook who joined our branch in August 2011. The donor requested that the deciding decision on who receives these funds should be "a girl with a kind heart, as Amy was so special," and we look forward to meeting that challenge.



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<p>Residential / Commercial / Health</p>	

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

February 15, 2012 – Deadline for NHC Local Grant Program Grant Applications

The North Harris County Branch AAUW, a non-profit educational association, is accepting applications from local organizations and groups 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 application and grant information letter are available at the Barbara Bush Library and Northwest Library. Also go to our AAUW branch homepage: www.aauwtexas.org/branches/northharriscounty/index.html and click on the **Grants, Scholarship** option in the menu bar on the left side.

It is very important that applicants read and follow all of the stipulations listed in the grant information letter and complete all parts of the grant application. The grant applications must be received by the Educational Foundation Programs VP, Karen Stahl, at the address on the grant information letter by February 15, 2012. If you have any questions, contact Karen Stahl at karndav@sbcglobal.net.

The funds for these community grants are directly impacted by the funds raised at our second Outstanding Women Awards luncheon on February 25, 2012. See the feature article in this *Nutshell* on page 1. The community grants will be awarded at a special member event in April 2012.

Call for Officer Nominations for 2012-2014

The following officer positions of North Harris County Branch AAUW are open for nominations for the 2012-2014 term:

President • Membership-VP • Secretary

The offices of President and Membership VP may be filled with two-person teams. The duties of the branch officers are on page 51 to 55 in your purple membership directory.

The nominating chairperson is Mary Gubert.

Annual officer elections will be held at the branch meeting on *Thursday, March 15*. Members must be present to vote. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election with written consent of the nominee.

Vendors for Our 2012 Outstanding Women Awards Luncheon

Waheed Shaikh’s Jewelry

Waheed Shaikh 281-787-0079
waheedshaijks@sbcglobal.net

Silpada Jewelry

Sally Burgett Sallyb1@sbcglobal.net

On-The-Go-Boutique

Sandy Lewis www.sandylewisbiz.com
830-285-5600
sandylewisbiz@gmail.com

Beijo Handbags

Cindy Ems 832-651-8325
cindyems@comcast.net

Miche Bag

Diane Edwards 832-465-1791
dpoitzedwards@aol.com
Gayle Myers 702-772-7720
gylmyer4906@hotmail.com

Reach Unlimited

Colleen Gilbert www.reachunlimited.org
281-213-8223 Ext 309
cgilbert@reachunlimited.com

Scentsy Wickless Candles

Lee Ann Otto 361-594-3255
greatscents@hughes.net

Shannie Girl

Shannon Palmer 713-202-1044
sales@shanniegirl.com

ASHMEERA’s

Shireen Thakore 10712 Beinhorn Rd
Houston, TX 77024

Tastefully Simple

Judy Roberts Judy_roberts@sbcglobal.net

Lynne Dozier ★ Outstanding Education Honoree

Lynne is a teacher who has worked “in the trenches,” i.e., the classroom, and who at the same time has made significant contributions outside the classroom. In short, Lynne’s work in the field of education for the past 30 years has greatly benefited our community.

In 1980 Lynne began teaching in the English/Language Arts Department at Klein Forest High School. Early on, it became apparent that Lynne was an inspirational teacher of uncommon ability and dedication. She served as chairperson of the English/Language Arts Department for 13 years. Lynne has led numerous Professional Development In-Service sessions in Klein ISD. To help the growing number of economically disadvantaged students, she has been instrumental in obtaining more than \$960,000.00 in grants to develop and expand programs at Klein Forest and in the school district.

But if there is one thing that best exemplifies Lynne’s unique talent and skill as a teacher, it is her personal passion for writing and the teaching of writing. Lynne’s work has appeared in textbooks, magazines and academic journals, on both the local and the national level. She has transmitted her passion to her students, who have repeatedly won county, regional, state and national awards for their prose, poetry, nonfiction, and general writing portfolios. The school literary magazine has been recognized not only for its content, but also for the fact that more than 300 students participate in its publication and more than 300 copies are sold each year to students, patrons, parents and faculty.

Lynne retired from classroom teaching in June 2011, but, not surprisingly, she continues to serve the District and the community on the board of directors of the Klein Education Foundation and will coordinate and work with the *Friends of the Forest*, a highly active group of community volunteers.

Barbara Schlattman ★ Outstanding Community Service Honoree

Barbara co-founded the Green Medians Committee to landscape nine miles of medians on their main roadway when she found out that the Texas Department of Transportation decided seven years ago to build medians along FM 1960. Her vision: “Planting grass, ground covers, and trees on the FM 1960 medians would make the 1960 area much more aesthetically pleasing and landscaped medians would increase property values, entice new businesses and homeowners to the area, and add scenic beauty and pride.” Barbara volunteered tirelessly on this project and never wavered from her goal. She and her team of volunteers solicited businesses and community members raised over \$500,000 in contributions to cover the costs of a general contractor, irrigation installation, and tree and plant installation.

The seven-year Green Medians vision has been transformed from a dream to a reality. On August 2, 2011, the FM 1960 Green Medians Joint Powers Board (fourteen water districts) received the letter of transfer. Today all who travel on FM 1960 enjoy the green medians. As a result of this project, Barbara received a number of awards: Houston NW Chamber of Commerce 2010 Citizen of the Year, Community Leader of the Year 2010, Community Development Award, finalist for the Small Business of the Year Award from the Lone Star College System, 2009 Volunteer of the Year from *We Win! Women Empowering Women, and Inspiring Now*, and the *Gutsy Gal* award from *Houston Woman Magazine*.

Barbara and Rusty Schlattman’s innovative home was part of our AAUW branch’s fundraising 2005 Holiday Home Tour. Barbara is the owner of an award winning residential and commercial interior design firm and is a frequent speaker for interior designers, design students, and community organizations – in Texas, New York, Louisiana, and Chicago. She has also been interviewed by Radio America on how interior designers can be of greater service to their clients.

Barbara has served the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) as chapter president and held positions on the national board of directors, the national executive committee, and the leadership task force committee. ASID honored Barbara by naming her a fellow of the society.

Melanie Lawson ★ Our Keynote Speaker

Melanie has had a varied and exhilarating stint at Channel 13. She has covered virtually every city, state, and national election during her career. She has won numerous rewards for her reporting, including an Emmy for her coverage of President Clinton’s visit to South Africa, the only local reporter in the nation to make that trip. Melanie has interviewed a wide range of notables, including three U.S. Presidents, Henry Kissinger, the Dalai Lama, poet Maya Angelou, Grammy Award winner Destiny’s Child, former heavyweight champion George Foreman, director Spike Lee, legendary journalist Barbara Walters, Hall of Fame athlete Magic Johnson, and actors Lily Tomlin, Shirley McLaine and Denzel Washington.

But Melanie’s favorite stories are those about Houston’s rich multi-ethnic community, especially stories about children and those quietly working to make a difference in their lives, focusing on issues and events around our city.

Melanie’s involvement in the Houston community is far-reaching. She is on the board of numerous community organizations including the Houston Ballet, SHAPE Community Center, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Volunteer Houston, and the Houston Association of Black Journalists. She also belongs to the Houston Chapter of the Links, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and the American Leadership Forum.

The Future of the Nutshell Newsletter

and how members will stay informed of branch events and activities - by Catherine Robichaux

The last printed *Nutshell* to be sent by U.S. mail will be the April/May 2012 issue, which is also the end of my nine-year tenure as *Nutshell* newsletter editor. However, I will continue to be an active member of our branch. Many thanks to Jane and Paul Egner, who have handled the folding, postage, and mailing of the *Nutshell* for my nine years.

The position of *Nutshell* editor has not been filled. I will continue to collect and email a calendar of events and other announcements to all members and upload new information to our website. Special interest group coordinators will continue to email meeting details to all members who ask to be added to their distribution lists. If you need help with emails, ask a family member or friend to assist you.

I am very grateful for your support and friendship, Catherine

Membership

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

February Member Social ~ Start the New Year with Friends

We will meet at Mia Bella in Vintage Park on *Wednesday, February 1*, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Make plans to join us for \$3.00 drinks and appetizers, as well as good conversation. Feel free to bring a friend. For more information or if you plan to attend, contact Darlene Veltri at daveltri@sbcglobal.net or 281-251-4060. This helps her and Mia Bella with attendance expectations.

Just the Facts, Ma'am

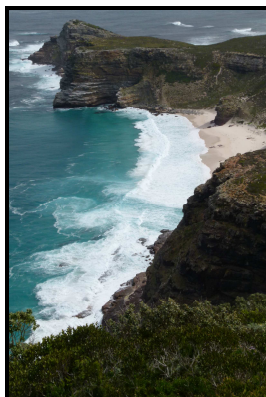
Donna Ohlson, Just the Facts, Ma'am Chair
281-537-6051, djointex@yahoo.com

On *Saturday, January 21*, we will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Rufi Natarajan, 3411 Blakewood Court (Olde Oaks). We will be discussing the non-fiction book *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough

Travelmania

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

South Africa – Wildlife, Historic Towns, and Beautiful Scenery



Laura and Howard Barousse spent three weeks in South Africa exploring cosmopolitan Cape Town's rich history, going wine tasting in the mountains of the Winelands, experiencing whale watching along breathtaking coasts, witnessing spectacular wildflowers on the wild Western Cape, taking a short safari on a private reserve, and finally, relaxing at an ecolodge in a rainforest reserve known for its bird watching and butterflies. See it all in Laura's DVD and hear about the special private trip that Laura planned.

Join us on *Tuesday, February 21*, at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and social time at the home of Sylvia Tucker, 5207 Lookout Mountain Drive in Huntwick. Mary Gubert will be co-hosting. We'll start the program at 1:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please contact Sylvia at 281-444-0462 or Sylvia.L.Tucker@gmail.com so she knows how many to expect.

Gourmet

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

Let's Make Peanut Butter!

Join us on *Friday, February 10, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*, at the Cannery, which is located at 16333 Hafer Road (77090), which is about one mile south of FM 1960. Hafer Road is across from Cali Drive. Pappas Barbeque is on the corner.

Sixteen (16) people are needed for the afternoon. We do not have the option of cancelling!

Your reward is knowing that we will feed needy people through the Houston Food Bank. Four thousand (4,000) jars of peanut butter will be produced that day. You will receive a jar of peanut butter in appreciation of your help. Instead of feeding ourselves, as we have done for so many years, let's feed the needy!

Please call or email Jane Egner 281-444-1168 or twoeggsjane2@msn.com to let her know you'd like to participate.

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, February 1*, we will meet to discuss *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff. Come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee. The book discussion starts at 10:00 a.m.

The Red group will meet at the home of Ginny Robertson, 12422 Normont Drive in Lakewood Forest. Ann Alexander will lead the review. Please contact Ginny if you plan to attend (jhrver@aol.com or 281-370-8243).

The Purple group will meet at the home of Kathe Behrend., 13111 Golden Rainbow in Lakewood Glen. Fran Breton will lead the review. Please contact Kathe if you plan to attend (kathrynbehrend@yahoo.com or 281-320-9343).

Daytime Bridge

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

On *Tuesday, February 14*, we will meet in the home of Anne Grace, 13815 Hambleton Drive (Huntwick). Come enjoy coffee and socializing at 9:30 a.m. Play starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Please call Ann (281-444-8408) or her co-hostess, Margaret Penny (832-452-7066) no later than Thursday, February 9, if you plan to play. Please bring a sandwich. Salad and drinks will be provided. See you at the tables!

Prime Time Literature

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

On *Monday, February 27*, 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 Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

The World Today

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

We will meet on *Thursday, February 9*, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Celeste Sater, 1806 Tucumcari Drive (Ponderosa Forest). The topic will be *The Pros and Cons of the Remaining Presidential Candidates*. Call or email Celeste Sater if you plan to attend. We welcome interested members of all political persuasions for lively discussions of current events.

Great Decisions 2012

Mary Jane Petrick, Great Decisions Chair
281-376-6093

If you are interested in everything from the Middle East to the world of energy, we have the group for you. We will meet every other Monday starting February 6 and concluding March 19 at the homes shown below. Meetings begin with dessert at 7:00 p.m. followed by discussion from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and are open to AAUW spouses and guests.

The Great Decisions 2012 briefing book can be purchased through:

- Brazos Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet Street, Houston, TX 77005, 713-523-0701
- On the web at www.fpa.org. Click on Bookstore at the top of the page.
- Foreign Policy Association, Attn: Programming Department
470 Park Ave. South; New York, NY 10016-6819, 212-481-8100

Date	Topic	Host and Location	
Mon, Feb 6	Middle East Realignment <i>by Augustus Richard Norton</i>	Rufi and Raj Natarajan 3411 Blakewood Court	281-440-1965 (Olde Oaks)
Mon, Feb 20	Mexico <i>by George Grayson</i>	Pari and Norm Rosen 2719 S. Southern Oaks Drive	281-893-6646 (Northgate Forest)
Mon, March 5	Indonesia <i>by James Castle</i>	Judith and Mike Peterson 3303 Chimney Brook Lane	281-537-7627 (Olde Oaks)
Mon, March 19	Energy Geopolitics <i>by William Sweet</i>	Mary Jane and Tom Petrick 9615 Enstone Circle	281-376-6093 (Champion Forest)

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

The Future of the Nutshell Newsletter and how members will stay informed of branch events and activities – See page 6

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Darlene Veltri |
| Educational Foundation Programs VP | Karen Stahl |
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