



Evaluating Results of Local Elections: Challenging Assumptions

Thursday, March 19, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Huntwick Recreation Facility Clubhouse, 5300 Coral Gables Drive

Our March guest speaker is Dr. Keith Hamm, professor of political science at Rice University and head of the Harlan Program for Elections, Campaigns, and Politics. He will present a retrospective view of the elections of 2008, including some of the assumptions that we make, and leading us through the implications for Harris County.

Dr. Hamm was awarded a Fulbright scholarship in 2006 to study campaign financing in Canada and the United States. He has co-authored a book with Peverill Squire entitled *101 Chambers: Congress, State Legislatures, and the Future of Legislative Studies*.

As a college professor, Dr. Hamm is comfortable with the lively discussions of classrooms. He encourages questions and comments from the audience. Let's think about questions as he presents his PowerPoint discussion. He'll be ready.

This event is free and open to the public, so invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Susan Gardner, Program VP
281-583-7990, segpedi@gmail.com

Extra Special Events

On Thursday, March 5, there will be a one night showing of the documentary, *A Powerful Noise*, at the AMC Willowbrook at 6:30 p.m. This acclaimed documentary follows three extraordinary women in Vietnam, Bosnia, and Mali. There are plans for branch members to meet for dinner before the show. For more information, read the President's Message on page 3.

On Saturday, March 7, the Interbranch speaker will be *Her Royal Highness UgoEze Chinyere Obichuku*. All AAUW members are invited to attend. For more information, including a biography of the speaker, read the Interbranch article on page 4. Carpooling to the Freed-Montrose Library is available.

On Thursday, April 2, the author of *Summer of Fire*, Linda Jacobs, will be at the Barnes and Noble located in the Champions Village Shopping Center for a book signing and Q&A session. This is also the April book and meeting for Daytime Lit. For more information, read the article on page 8.

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President	Mary Gubert
VP Programs	Susan Gardner
Co-VP Membership	Laura Barousse Peggy Majors
VP Ed Foundation	Catherine Dunn
Treasurer	Phyllis Dillard
Secretary	Linda Massie
Past President	Patricia Fraske

Officer Elections

Please attend the Thursday, March 19, annual branch meeting at the Huntwick Recreational Facility Clubhouse. We will be electing three new officers for 2009-2011. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the March program featured on this page. See the officer candidates on page 2.

Upcoming Events



→ RSVP— See article for contact information ←

- Mar 2, Mon **Evening Great Decisions:** 7:00 p.m. at the home of Megan and Bill Franks. See page 5.
- Mar 5, Thr **Daytime Literature:** 9:30 a.m. The *Yellow Group* will meet in the home of Margaret Penny and the *Pink Group* will meet at the home of Anais Watsky. See page 7 for details.
- Mar 5, Thr **Board Meeting:** 4:30 p.m. at the Macaroni Grill. **Please call Mary Gubert if you will be attending.** See the President's Message on page 3 for information regarding meeting on this date.
- Mar 5, Thr **Special Event, A Powerful Noise:** 6:30 p.m. at the AMC Willowbrook. **Please call Mary Gubert if you want to join a group for dinner at 5:00 p.m.** Read the President's Message on page 3.
- Mar 7, Sat **Interbranch Special Event:** 10:00 a.m. at Freed-Montrose Library. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the John Wesley United Methodist Church to carpool. See page 4.
- Mar 10, Tue **Daytime Bridge:** 9:30 a.m. at the home of Anne Grace. **RSVP by March 7.** See page 8.
- Mar 10, Tue **Computerniks:** 7:00 p.m. in the Earl Elliot room at the Barbara Bush Library. See page 7.
- Mar 12, Thr **Daytime Great Decisions:** 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jan Cornell. See page 5.
- Mar 13, Fri **Original Gourmet:** 9:00 a.m. Leave John Wesley United Methodist Church on the Precinct 4 bus to the Heights. **Reservations are required. Call Jane Egner by Monday, March 9.** See page 6.
- Mar 16, Mon **Evening Great Decisions:** 7:00 p.m. Call Mary Jane Petrick for the location. See page 5.
- Mar 17, Tue **Travelmania:** 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Tongberg. See article on page 6.
- Mar 19, Thr **Branch Monthly Event:** 7:00 p.m. at Huntwick Recreation Facility Clubhouse. See page 1.
- Mar 23, Mon **Prime Time Literature:** 6:30 p.m. for dinner, 7:00 p.m. for discussion, at Café Express on FM 1960. See article on page 7 for details.
- Mar 26, Thr **Member Social:** 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on Highway 249. See page 3.
- Mar 27, Fri **Out & About:** 10:00 a.m. at The National Museum of Funeral History. See article on page 6.
- Apr 2, Thr **Daytime Lit:** 10:00 a.m. at Barnes & Noble in Champions Village Shopping Center. See page 8.
- June 26 - 28 **2009 AAUW National Convention** in St. Louis. For more information, go to www.aauw.org.

Officer Elections for 2009 – 2011

The nominating committee submits the following slate of candidates as officers of the North Harris County Branch AAUW for 2008-2010:

Vice President Programs — TBA Treasurer — Judy Van Horn
 Vice President, Educational Foundation — Virginia McGriggs

Annual new officer elections will be held at the branch meeting on *Thursday, March 19*. 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.

2010 Nominating Committee:	Patricia Fraske, Chair	Laura Barousse	Kathe Behrend, Alternate
	Nancy Kaye	Kati Woodward	Sue Ann Lurcott, Alternate

President's Message

Mary Gubert, President
281-376-1663, MaryGubert-aauw@sbcglobal.net

On *Thursday, March 5*, there is to be a one night showing of the documentary, *A Powerful Noise* to be held at the AMC Willowbrook at 6:30 p.m. AAUW is joining with CARE to bring this information to you. CARE is a program that tries to address the causes of poverty so that people can become more self-sufficient while placing special emphasis on working with women and girls to create lasting social change.

This acclaimed documentary follows three extraordinary women in Vietnam, Bosnia, and Mali – Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline educates girls in Mali.

Following the film there will be a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York. It features renowned activists and experts, including Nicholas Kristof and Christy Turlington Burns, who will discuss how we can help empower women around the world. Also on the panel are Dr. Helene Gayle and Madeleine K. Albright. Check the AAUW website to send in your own questions.

International Woman's Day takes place on March 8th each year. *A Powerful Noise* provides an opportunity for women to unite and advocate for changes to the policies that marginalize women and girls and continue the cycle of poverty.

Tickets for this showing are \$19.00 which includes a \$1.00 service charge. To learn more about the film, or for tickets, visit www.apowerfulnoise.org. Please encourage a friend or spouse to come with you.

For those that are interested, join us at 5:00 p.m. at Macaroni Grill for dinner. Then we can go together to the AMC theatre. Please send me an email if you are planning to attend the dinner before the movie so I can make the appropriate reservations.

A short board meeting will be held at the Macaroni Grill at 4:30 p.m. before the 5:00 p.m. dinner.

We have another social coming up on *Thursday, March 26*, at the Hilton Garden Inn at 4:00 p.m. This is a good way to just come and socialize with your AAUW friends. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining AAUW, please encourage them to join you.

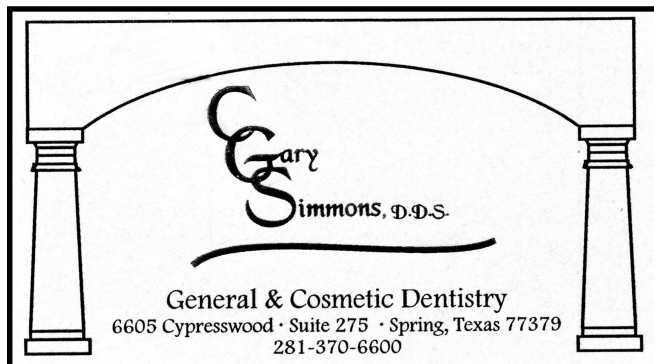
Mary Gubert,
President

March: A Perfect Month for New Members

Help us to revitalize our branch. New members are essential to our growth and to continue to spread our influence in the community.

March is a perfect time to introduce your friends to AAUW. Not only will a new member pay reduced dues by joining at our March 19 branch event or our March 26 membership social, they will be given membership through June 2010. **Reduced dues of \$57.50 plus a 15 month membership!** Add to that the enjoyment of Keith Hamm of Rice University, our speaker for March 19, or a congenial get together on March 26 at the Hilton Garden Inn, and you have the ideal recipe for recruiting friends and neighbors. You are the essential key to our branch's future.

The reduced dues are for new members only, not early renewals. Current members will receive a renewal notice in April 2009.



Champion-Spring Flexible Hours
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Rid yourself of unwanted hair forever!
Robin Gobel
281-376-1702
Located inside Spring Salons
7805 Louetta Road, Suite 105
Spring, Texas 77379
FREE Consultation We also have amazing candles!

We have a very special speaker for the Interbranch meeting on *Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.* at the Freed-Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose, Houston 77006. ***Her Royal Highness UgoEze Chinyere Obichuku*** is a woman of many accomplishments and a great inspiration to her community. Come hear her story. All members of AAUW are invited to attend.

We will carpool from the John Wesley United Methodist Church on Bermuda Dunes. Meet there at 9:00 a.m. Please call or e-mail Val Sandham if you plan to participate in the carpooling, so she will know whom to expect. Her contact information is above.

Dear Branch Presidents and Representatives,

Please be sure to share information concerning the upcoming March Interbranch meeting with members of your branches. Please see the bio of the speaker below. I would really like to have a good turnout at this meeting. Also, please send nominations for Interbranch officers for 2009-2010 to the meeting.

Sincerely,

K. H. Matthie, President

AAUW Greater Houston Area Interagency Council (GHAIC)

Her Royal Highness UgoEze Chinyere Obichuku

Her Royal Highness UgoEze Chinyere Obichuku is the wife of His Royal Highness Eze Emeka Obichuku. They have been married for 40 years and are blessed with five children ranging from ages 33 to 25. All of their children are university graduates.

Her Royal Highness is the first UgoEze (Queen) to be also crowned in America by the Greater Owerri Community from Imo-State, Nigeria, West Africa. She holds both B.Sc. and M.A degrees in Nutritional Science. She has traveled quite extensively including going on medical missions with the Owerri Women Association of Houston. On these missions she served as a nutritionist, alongside medical doctors, nurses, pharmacist and other medical professionals. She has been assisting less fortunate children worldwide by donating clothing, shoes, books and backpacks to them.

Her Royal Highness UgoEze Chinyere Obichuku has received over thirty awards for being an outstanding role model, model citizen, and for outstanding community service. These awards were through the media, communities, churches and schools. Her goal is to have her own foundation to help needy children and schools.

VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEER CLASSES FOR 2009

Marty Morrison at the Volunteer Deputy Registrar Service Center, 1155 West Loop North, has offered to conduct small voter registration classes for us at the center if we can organize a group and come to her office. The class takes 60-90 minutes and will cover some changes in voter registration policies and procedures.

If you are interested in taking a class at the center, please me know. Once I know how many are interested and set up a time (either before or after lunch) with Marty, we can carpool to the center.

Bobbie Lupa, BobbieL25@comcast.net, 281-893-1601

In spite of the economy and change in fund-raising projects, our branch will still be awarding grants again this year. We have received applications from a variety of organizations. The committee is meeting this month to make the best decisions possible as to the projects to be funded. The committee's final choices for the grant awards will be presented to the branch in March.

Great Decisions 2009

You have a choice of joining a daytime group or evening group.

Great Decisions, the centerpiece of the longest-running civic education program in the United States devoted to foreign affairs, empowers readers to discuss global issues shaping U.S. foreign policy and the world. It is not too late to join one of the groups. If you need the Great Decisions 2009 briefing book, it can be obtained through:

- Brazos Books, 2421 Bissonnet St., Houston, TX 77005, 713-523-0701
- On the web at www.fpa.org. Click on Bookstore at the top of the page.

Daytime Great Decisions will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jan Cornell, 6215 Coral Ridge Road (Champions). Bobbie Lupa will lead the discussion of *Afghanistan and Pakistan*. The group will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month through May. Other topics that will be discussed are *U.S. and Rising Powers*, *Energy and the Global Economy*, and *Cuba after Castro*. If you are interested in this discussion group, or have questions, contact the Daytime Great Decisions Chair, Mary Quinn, at 281-586-9465 or michael.c.quinn@sbcglobal.net.

Evening Great Decisions will meet every other Monday starting February 2 and concluding March 16 at the homes shown below. Meetings begin with dessert at 7:00 p.m. followed by discussion from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Spouses are encouraged to attend. If you would like to host one of the lively discussions or have questions, call Mary Jane Petrick at 281-376-6093.

Date	Topic	Host and Location
Mon, March 2	Energy and the Global Economy	Megan and Bill Franks 281-440-5873 3607 Highfalls (Olde Oaks)
Mon, March 16	Cuba after Castro	Need host home - Call Mary Jane at 281-376-6093

AAUW Press Releases & Announcements

<http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/index.cfm>

AAUW Applauds Senate HELP Committee Vote on Hilda Solis' Nomination 02/12/09

AAUW calls on the full Senate to confirm Hilda Solis' nomination for secretary of labor without delay.

AAUW Members Now Eligible for World Medical Card under New Partnership 02/05/09

AAUW members receive critical patient information through the World Medical Card

AAUW, Women & Politics Institute at AU and Running Start Take Campaign College Candidate Training to Three Campuses 01/30/09

AAUW, Women & Politics Institute at AU, and Running Start launch Campaign College pilot

AAUW Celebrates First Blog Anniversary, Online Advocacy 02/06/09

Celebrate International Women's Day with AAUW and CARE through A POWERFUL NOISE Live (on March 5, 2009) 01/23/09

AAUW Gets Major Press Coverage in PARADE 01/23/09

AAUW and the Media: Listen to Audio from AAUW's Latest Press Event 01/15/09

We're taking a trip to the Heights and surrounding areas, exploring local businesses that provide many of the goods that we find in our kitchens and gardens.

On *Friday, March 13*, at 9:00 a.m. we will leave John Wesley United Methodist Church on Bermuda Dunes. We will take the County Precinct 4 bus to *Houston Avocado*, the largest distributor of avocados in the USA, where Steven Bell, the Buyer/Quality Manager, will take us on a tour of the produce warehouse and explain the origin and care of the produce that you find in the supermarket and at restaurants. Besides avocados, they also are a large supplier of tomatoes, onions, lettuce, cilantro, peppers, rice, beans, leafy vegetables, potatoes, mushrooms, fruits, berries, spices and seasonings. Their customer base includes nationally known grocery chains, government and educational entities, and well known restaurants.

Up the street from Houston Avocado we'll visit *Canino Produce* where we'll be able to select fresh produce to take home. You might want to bring a cooler. Then at *El Bolillo Panaderia*, a Mexican bakery, you'll be enticed by the smell of fresh baked breads and cookies.

We'll lunch at Ruffi Natarajan's, *Mardi Gras Grill* (crawfish are in season). Lunch will be about \$15.00. After lunch we'll visit *Penzey's Spices* where you can purchase a wonderful selection of dried herbs, spices and seasoning to enhance your gourmet cooking or just pick up a free catalogue and recipe cards.

Behind Penzey's Spices is *Joshua's Native Plants and Garden Antiques* an eclectic garden spot. To complete the day we will tour through The Heights seeing landmarks such as where Bonnie and Clyde lived!

Reservations are required by *Monday, March 9*. Call Jane Egner at 281-444-1168.

Sue Mason & Bobbie Lupa, Co-Chairs
281-376-3699, Sue-Mason@sbcglobal.net
281-893-1601, BobbieL25@comcast.net

Travelmania

Becky Massie will lead us on a Balkan adventure through Bulgaria and Romania, two countries that only recently have been open to tourists. We'll hear about the countries, people, and culture. As an example, the Orthodox church made the exteriors of the monasteries in these countries quite ornate by covering them with vivid, minutely-detailed frescoes of Bible stories to be enjoyed everyday by the common man who may not be able to read.

We'll meet at the home of Betty Tongberg, 22 Champions Bend Circle, on *Tuesday, March 17*, at 1:00 p.m. for coffee and 1:30 p.m. for the program. If you plan to attend, please call Betty Tongberg at 281.583.7418 or email her at CTongberg@comcast.net.

Co-chairs: Erma Ridge, 713-888-0005
Dianne Sharr, 281-397-0688, ngatefrst@aol.com

Out & About

On *Friday, March 27*, we'll tour the National Museum of Funeral History, located in the FM 1960 area. In addition to the hearses and funeral bus on display, we'll see:

- ♦ caskets and coffins (some glass, some hand-painted) ♦ the first electric embalming machine ♦
- ♦ a glass preparation table ♦ a life-size recreation of Dr. Thomas Holmes' Civil War embalming tent ♦
- ♦ a full-size replica of King Tut's sarcophagus ♦ memorabilia recalling the sendoffs of Elvis Presley, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Gandhi, Lindbergh, Jackie, Eva Gabor, Judy Garland, and John Denver ♦
- ♦ a changing-of-the-guard video from Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier ♦
- ♦ a funeral industry stamp collection ♦ one-of-a-kind gift items, including chocolate casket candy bars.

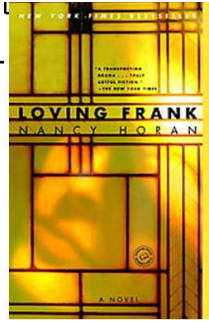
Admission is \$6. Afterwards, we'll lunch at Cafe Express in Champions Village shopping center.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the National Museum of Funeral History, 415 Barren Springs Drive, Houston, TX (281-876-3063).

Daytime Literature

Join us on *Thursday, March 5*. We will be discussing *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. Please come at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation. The review will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The *Pink Group* will meet at the home of Margaret Penny, 16930 Barretts Crossing Drive in Champions Woods Estates (281-376-0875) with Celeste Sater and Jane Egner doing the review. The *Yellow Group* will meet at the home of Anais Watsky, 17814 Running Brook Lane in Memorial



Donna Ohlson, Daytime Literature Chair
281-537-6051, djointex@yahoo.com

Northwest (281-370-4200). Susan Summers will do the review.

This is a novelized version of the love affair between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney. Although a novel, it follows the facts of their lives together quite faithfully. What are fictionalized are the conversations between them and their thoughts. It's a favorite with everyone who has an interest in the famous architect.

All new members are invited to join us for what promises to be a fun day. For more information, please call Donna Ohlson.

Computerniks

April 2009 will be the last meeting of Computerniks as a special interest group. We are planning to meet for dinner to socialize and thank Catherine and Frank Robichaux for their dedication to this group since it started six years ago in September 2003. Contact Peggy Majors or Karen Stahl (present and past Computerniks chairs) for more details of the where and when.

Join us on *Tuesday, March 10*, 7:00 p.m., in the Earl Elliot room at the Barbara Bush Library. *Back to the Basics* is the theme of the Computerniks meetings. We welcome all members who want to learn more about their computers.

There will be a presentation and handouts on keyboard shortcuts. Other topics are based on the interests of the participants and no question is too basic. Demonstrations and hands-on experience are available on a laptop computer, including the following programs: Word, Excel, Outlook, and Internet Explorer, as well as questions about email and the internet.

If you have any pre-meeting questions, feel free to email Catherine Robichaux at catherine-aauw@swbell.net. Please contact Computerniks Chair Peggy Majors if you plan to attend. However, walk-ins are also welcome.

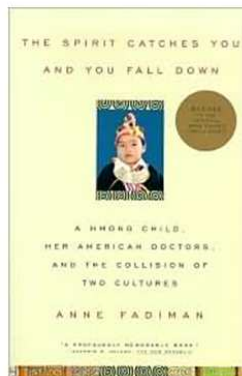
Peggy Majors, Computerniks Chair
281-587-8802, PMajors@gmail.com

Prime Time Literature

Join us on *Monday, March 23*, 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. The discussion starts at 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Non-Fiction in 1997, the book explores, as the subtitle states: *A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*.

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down "follows the clashes between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care



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

of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. Lia's parents and her doctors both wanted what was best for Lia, but the lack of understanding between them led to tragedy. Now required reading at numerous medical schools and in many anthropology, journalism, and writing classes, the book details Lia's treatment (anticonvulsant prescriptions changed twenty three times over four years) and the parent's strong belief that Lia's seizures stemmed from spiritual causes." *book cover and www.hmongnet.org*

Reminder to members. Save the Date!

We will meet on *Monday, March 30*, at the home of Rufi Natarajan to select books for next year. Details to follow.



**North Harris County
American Association
of University Women**

Return Address:
NHC AAUW
P.O. Box 12191
Spring, TX 77391-2191

www.aauw.org

Mission Statement

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

Newsletter Editor:
Catherine Robichaux

Email: catherine-aauw@swbell.net

Articles due:
2nd Friday of each month



We were awarded 9 Texas Stars for our extraordinary accomplishments in 2007 – 2008.

View our newsletters in color through the AAUW Texas website: www.aauwTexas.org

The North Harris County's home page address is: www.aauwTexas.org/NorthHarrisCounty/index.html

Book signing and Q&A

On Thursday, April 2, the Daytime Lit Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Barnes and Noble located in the Champions Village Shopping Center, which is located at FM 1960 and Champions Forest Drive.

The author is Linda Jacobs, who was born a 'university brat', trained at the Master's level in Geology and was one of Exxon Corporation's first woman field geologists. Before her 2004 move to New Mexico, she lived in Houston and Dallas and worked for a number of oil and gas companies on the front line where new fields are found.

Linda also writes romance novels under the pseudonym Christine Carol. Her series on the Yellowstone fires have been nominated and have won several writing awards. We will be reading the first book in the series, *Summer of Fire*.

Our meeting will be open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors and everyone who loves good books. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation and the review will begin at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Donna Ohlson at 281-537-6051 or djointex@yahoo.com.

Daytime Bridge

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

On Tuesday, March 11, we will meet in the home of Anne Grace, 13815 Hambleton Drive (Huntwick). Come enjoy socializing at 9:30 a.m. Play starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Reservations are a must. Please call Anne at 281-444-8408 or co-hostess Beckie Massie at 281-370-3286 by Saturday, March 7. Remember to bring a sandwich. Salad and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you at the tables!