

## Table Talk

### Past Conversationalists

#### 2007

Constance Adams- NASA, Space Architect  
Debra Alsup- Partner, Thompson & Knight LLP  
Nancy Ames- Creative Director, Ward and Ames Special Events, and former singer and TV star  
Dr. Nancy Ayres- Pediatric Cardiologist, Texas Children's Hospital  
Rogene Gee Calvert- Director of Personnel and Volunteer Initiatives Program, Mayor's Office  
Gracie Cavnar- Founder, Recipe for Success  
Janet Clark- CFO, Marathon Oil  
Ellen Cohen- Texas State Representative  
Dr. Yvonne Cormier- Anesthesiologist, UT Medical School  
Chloe Dao- Fashion Designer, Project Runway Season 2 Winner  
Marian Davenport- President and CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Houston  
Dr. Judith Feigin- Chief of the Clinics for Attention Problems and Autism, Texas Children's Hospital  
Fena Garza, Ph.D.- President, Southeast College Houston Community College  
Gina Gaston- Elie Channel 13 Eyewitness News Anchor  
Melanie Gray- Partner, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Mary Margaret Hansen- President, Greater East End Management District  
Glenda Harris- Katrina Coordinator, Children's Defense Fund  
Rachel Hecker- Painter and Associate Director of the UH School of Art  
Winell Herron- HEB Group Vice President of Public Affairs  
Gigi Huang- Restaurateur, Hunan Downtown  
Jackie Ingram- CFA Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch  
Chinhui Juhn- Economist, University of Houston  
Nathelyne Kennedy, P.E.- Founder and President, Nathalie A. Kennedy and Associates, civil and structural consulting engineering firm  
Nancy Levicki- CEO and Executive Director, Dress of Success  
Kristen Loden- Executive Director, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft  
Janeice Longoria- Port of Houston Commissioner  
Aurora Losada- Spanish Language Editor, *Houston Chronicle*  
Sue Lovell- City Council Member, At Large Position 2  
Sultana Mangalji- Board Member, U.S. Fund for UNICEF  
Diana Marshall- Partner, Marshall and Lewis LLP  
Su Marshman- Founder, Kid Yoga  
Rebecca McDonald- President, Gas and Power, BHP Billiton Petroleum  
Sister Jane Meyer- Head of School, St. Agnes Academy  
Nicky Mondellini- Actress  
Rosanna Moreno- Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of International Business Development, Memorial Hermann Hospital  
Georgianna Nichols- President & COO, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric  
Suzanne Nimocks- Director, McKinsey & Co.  
Sarah Peterson- Senior Vice President, Corporate and Investor Communications, Amegy Bank  
Belinda Phelps- Director, Citigroup Private Bank  
Dr. Michele Pola- Executive Director, A+ Challenge  
Jeanne Scheper, Ph.D.- Post-Doctoral Fellow, UH Women's Studies  
Beth Schneider- Education Director, MFAH  
Doreen Stoller- Executive Director, Hermann Park Conservancy  
Cecelia Tsai- President, North American Taiwanese Women's Association  
Laura Viada- Handweaver and Fiber Artist  
Dancie Perugini- Ware President, Dancie Perugini Ware Public Relations  
Rabbi Amy Weiss- Rabbi and Director of the Initiative for Jewish Women

Toni Whitaker- Fashion Designer

## 2006

Saba Abashawl Chief Economic Development Officer - Houston Airport System  
Sofia Adroque Attorney (Business Litigation) - Epstein Becker Green Wickliff & Hall P.C.  
Hitaji Aziz Talk Show host, Earth 101 KPFT  
Elizabeth Baxter Producer, News Dept., KTRK Channel 13  
Alison Ayres Bell Breast Cancer Survivor  
Patricia Bernstein Author (*The First Waco Horror: The Lynching of Jesse Washington and the Rise of the NAACP*)  
Christina Cabral Director of Boards & Commissions - City of Houston  
Dr. Debra Chernosky Dermatologist  
Lynn Elsenhans Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing - Shell Downstream  
Diedra Fontaine Director of Sales Development - Continental Airlines  
Beatrice Garza Executive General Manager, Human Resources - Houston Independent School District  
Kellye Gray Musician (Jazz Singer)  
Ellen Elkins Grimes Attorney (Family Law)  
Dr. Gail Gross Family and child development specialist, real estate developer, radio and TV host (*Let's Talk*)  
Bettie Hankamer Director of Admissions - Kinkaid School  
Sherri Hickman Maritime Captain - Houston Pilot's Association  
Pauline Higgins  
Debra Innes Executive VP for Retail Banking and Treasury Management - Amegy Bank of Texas  
Laura Jaramillo VP of Community Development - Wells Fargo Bank  
Dianne Johnson Board President - Houston Independent School District  
Judy Gray Johnson Director of Finance & Administration - City of Houston  
Chelby King Executive Director - Lawndale Art Center  
Susan Lieberman Author and founder of Collaborative for Intentional Leadership  
Dr. Elizabeth MacNaughton Psychologist  
Patricia Mercer President - Houston SPCA  
Vickie Milazzo President/CEO - Vickie Milazzo Institute, Inc.  
Dr. Laura Murillo Sr. Executive Director - Memorial Hermann Foundation  
Sharon Murphy Partner - McConnell, Jones, & Murphy, LLP  
Kyrie O'Connor Deputy Managing Editor/Features - *Houston Chronicle*  
Ann Owens Interim General Director - Houston Grand Opera  
Lynn Randolph Artist (Painting)  
Claudia Rankine Poet (*Don't Let Me Be Lonely: An American Lyric*) and UH Creative Writing Professor  
Olga Rodriguez  
Barrie Scardino Executive Director, Houston Chapter - American Institute of Architects  
Cindy Siegel Mayor - City of Bellaire  
Nancy Sims Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at Pierpont Communications  
Margaret Cooke Skidmore philanthropic strategic planning consultant  
Anita Weber Smith Interior Designer - Webb Design Interiors  
Dayna Steele Executive Producer and host of *The Art of Doing Business, with Dayna Steele* - (BizRadio Network)  
Ellen Susman  
Rev. Cheryl Thompson-Draper Commissioner –Port of Houston Authority  
Toby Topek Artist (Jewelry Design)  
Martha Turner President - Martha Turner Properties  
Connie Tuthill Chief Financial Officer - American Red Cross, Greater Houston Chapter  
Dr. Cecilia Valdes Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility Specialist - Fertility Specialists of Houston  
Helen Vollmer CEO - Vollmer Public Relations  
Naomi Warren Holocaust Survivor  
Nicole West Private Investigator - NCA Investigations

Dr. Jody Williams Nobel Peace Prize Laureate & Distinguished Visiting Professor - UH Graduate School of Social Work

Dr. Huda Zoghbi Professor of Pediatric Neurology - Baylor College of Medicine

## **2005**

Alice Aanstoos General Manager of External Affairs

Yolanda Black-Navarro

Dr. Camille Cash Plastic surgeon

Jacqueline Baly Chaumette President and CEO

Iris Correa Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Franci Neely Crane Attorney

Cheryl Cruzot President and CEO

Dr. Gladys Inez Forde Professor Emerita, Fisk University

Irma Galvan Founder

Andrea Georgsson Editorial Writer

Gaelyn Godwin Zen Specialist

Susie Gogue First Lady of UH

Dr. Jean Goodwin

Irene Guenther Professor of History

Janet Gurwitch CEO and founder

Hon. Eva Guzman Justice

Judy Hollinger League of Women Voters

Ann James

Jill Jewett Mayor's Assistant for Cultural Affairs

Kathryn Kase Attorney

Sara Kellner Executive Director

Yolanda Londono Senior Vice President

M.G. Lord author

Dr. Michelle Lyn Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Medical Director of Pediatric Emergency Center, Ben Taub Hospital

Cynthia MacDonald Poet

Sonny Messiah-Jiles Editor

Andrea Moore Production and Outreach Director

Laura Morris Senior VP & General Manager

Kim Ruth President, Houston Region

Sehba Sarwar Founding Director

Lynn Schroth Executive Vice President

Myrtle Alice Sims Director of Admissions

Claire Smith Co-Owner and Chef

Liz Conces Spencer Artist

Sally Sprout

Nadia Stein President

Karen Stokes Director

Linda Sylvan Executive Director

Helen Terry Mind and Body Fitness Specialist

Tina Thompson

Vu Thanh Thuy

Susannah Wong Director, Asia House Project

Rosie Zamora President

## **2004**

Carol Alvarado Houston City Council

Dr. Kristin Anderson QB Houston Energy; sport psychologist

Teresa Byrne-Dodge My Table Magazine, Publisher & Editor sent invitation  
Lisa Chenevert Project Manager, Dow Chemical Dow Chemical  
Dr. Christine Cocanour trauma surgeon, Hermann Hospital sent invitation  
Carolyn Dahl artist; Women in the Visual and Literary Arts  
Debra Danburg attorney, former Texas State Rep  
Sue Davis PR and TV and radio consultant  
Sue Gantz Yoga instructor  
Pam Gardner Astros, President of Business Operations  
Dixie Friend Gay Texas Sculptor of the Year  
Yolanda Green Reporter, Channel 39 EMCEE & Conversationalist  
Andrea Grover Aurora Picture Show, Executive Director  
Therese Hartwell Girls Inc, Executive Director  
Dai Huynh Food columnist, Houston Chronicle  
Gheed Itani Arab American Educational Foundation  
Anita Jaisinghani Indika Restaurant owner ( a restaurant featuring modern Indian cuisine)  
Argentina James Port of Houston, director of Public Relations  
Rev. Lucrecia Littlejohn Canon Priest, Christ Church Cathedral  
Susan Llanes-Meyers Holocaust Museum, Director  
Sushila Matthew Indian Flower Arranger  
Kathryn McNeil political consultant  
Nancy Middleton first woman president of the Houston Rotary  
Anna Nunez KPFT/ Latino Voices host sent invitation  
Roksan Okan-Vick Houston Parks Director  
Sandra Organ dancer, choreographer  
Lakshmy Parameswaran DAYA, Director  
Kate Pogue children's opera librettist  
Susan Rafte Founder, Pink Ribbons Project  
Varsha Shah poet; CPA sent preconfirm letter  
Josanna Smith WWWUnited President  
Terry Sultan Director-Blaffer Gallery and Chevalier  
Alice Valdez MECA, Director sent invitation  
Dr. Jennifer West Rice University Biologist  
Andrea White children's book author and Houston First Lady  
Lynn Wyatt socialite  
Gwendolyn Zepeda hiphop writer

## **2003**

Dr. Dina Alsowayel Adjunct Professor of Middle Eastern History; Assoc Dir Women's Studies  
Yolanda Alvarado Director, Brighter Futures Project, Planned Parenthood  
Dr. Tahirih Baker, MD Kelsey-Seybold Family Practice Physician & Women's Health Specialist  
Jacquie Brennan disability lawyer  
Carolyn Campbell Channel 11 reporter  
Dr. Rebecca Clearman, MD Medical Director, Personal Physician Group  
Laura Clements divorce consultant and mediator  
Rie Congelio yoga instructor  
Cynthia Cooper retired Houston Comets MVP and WNBA coach  
Tamarie Cooper actress, Infernal Bridegroom Productions  
Isabel Creixell artist and creator of icons  
H. Joan Erlich District Director, US EEOC Houston  
Patricia Gras KUHT reporter/producer  
Shirin Herman HISD refugee counselor works with Afghans, Bosnians, etc.  
Jolanda Jones activist, lawyer, consultant, scholar-athlete, national champ, mom  
Syd Kearney Chronicle travel writer  
Tina Knowles Fashion guru for Destiny's Child, owner "Headliners Hair Salon"

Elyse Lanier former Houston First Lady  
Vanessa Leggett writer/lecturer  
Sue Liska artist  
Dena Marks Associate Director, Anti Defamation League-Houston, former Ch. 2 producer, Holocaust Museum volunteer  
Rebecca McDonald President, Museum of Natural Science  
Terry Morales Vice President/ Small Business, JPMorgan Chase  
Janie Parker choreographer and retired prima ballerina  
Gabriela Rangel Wortham Curator of Latin American/Latino art, MFAH  
Zeba Shah co-founder, Developments in Literacy  
Laura Sheinkopf Associate Rabbi, Congregation Emmanu El  
Carrie Shoemake architect  
Iris Sizemore feminist activist  
Dr. Priscilla Slade President, Texas Southern University  
Mimi Swartz author, upcoming book on Enron  
Kim Szeto Director, Asian-American Family Counseling  
Cassandra Thomas Sr Vice President, Direct Services, Houston Area Women's Center  
Cheryl Thompson-Draper Port of Houston Commissioner and CEO, Thompson Real Estate , Texas Starmasters Dance Studio and T bar D Holding Company  
Becca Cason Thrash fundraiser and hostess  
Dorothy Weston CEO, The Rose  
Barbara Wilson amateur astronomer/ teacher Museum of Natural Science at the George Observatory

## **2002**

Rev. Betty Adam Canon Theologian, Christ's Church Cathedral  
Dr. Selina Ahmed Prof of Food and Nutrition, TSU; activist for peace and against hunger  
Carol Alvarado City Councilwoman  
Yolanda Alvarado Brighter Futures/ Planned Parenthood  
Decie Autin Chemical engineer, Deep Water Offshore Project Manager, Exxon Mobil  
Shannon Buggs Houston Chronicle, financial columnist  
Dr. Joye Carter, MD Harris County Chief Medical Examiner  
Katherine Ciesinski Moores School of Music, professor of voice  
Hon. Cathy Cochran Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals  
Mimi Del Grande Co-owner, Cafe Annie ?  
Kathleen Douglass President, The Greensheet  
Dr. Neelofer Durrani, MD Gynecologist  
Juanita Elizondo Fiesta  
Leslie Elkins Architect  
Carolyn Farb Fundraiser and author  
Billie Gollnick Yoga teacher  
Deedee Guggenheim Corelli's  
Sara Hickman singer  
Jennifer Holmes Executive Director, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse  
Dr. Mae Jemison, MD Former astronaut; President, The Jemison Group, advanced technology co.  
Melanie Lawson Channel 13 news, anchor  
Gin-Ru Lee Community activist, Taiwanese Women's Association  
Mary Lee Attorney at law  
Marie Lenormand HGO, singer  
Marie LeNotre Culinary Director, LeNotre Culinary Institute  
Aimee McCrory President, McCrory Investments, and thespian  
Linda McIngvale Gallery Furniture, Westside Tennis Club  
Dr. Farnoosh Moshiri Novelist, author of The Bathhouse and At the Wall of the Almighty  
Niobe Ngozi Director of Art Education, Children's Museum, and performance artist  
Dr. Sarah Noorbaksh, MD Physican and Baylor professor

Marilyn Oshman Gart Sports  
Mary Lou Retton gymnast/  
Sarah Rothenberg Da Camera  
Dominique Sachse newsanchor  
Dr. Lisa Santos, MD Plastic surgeon  
Gail Seavey, ASAC FBI agent  
Cynthia Shepard-Perry former ambassador  
Gael Stack Artist and UH Professor of Painting  
Diane Stanley children's writer/novelist?  
Kaye Stripling HISD superintendent  
Dr. Louise Strong, MD Director, Human Cancer Genetics Research Program, MD Anderson  
Cheryl Thompson-Draper CEO, Warren Electric  
Ileana Trevino Vice Chancellor. Vice President for University Advancement, UH  
Anne Tucker MFA photography curator  
Becky Udden Founder and Executive Director, Main St Theatre  
Evelyn Velasquez President, Leadership Houston  
Margie Walker novelist  
Nancy Weems Piano Dept. Head, UH  
Francie Willis Author, fundraiser and CEO, Urban Retreat Day Spa and Franché Cosmetics  
Janice Windle author  
Beth Wolff CEO, Beth Wolff Realtors  
Martha Wong former city councilwoman

## **2001**

Elma Barrera Television Reporter  
Anna Barrett  
Kathleen Cambor Novelist, Former Director of UH Creative Writing Program  
Deborah Cannon Central Regional Small Business Banking Executive  
Anna Criswell Food Editor  
Nabila Drouby Former Director of Rothko Chapel  
Aba Edwards Community Affairs Director  
Deborah Gary Air Pilot  
Celina Garza-Ridge Director (CPA)  
Barbara Gubbin Director  
Uma Gupta Dean, College of Technology  
Rose Harris Visiting Scholar, African American Studies  
Jennifer Hays Director, Center for Women's Health  
Maria Jimenez Director  
Elouise Jones Founder  
Barbara Karkabi Features Reporter  
Vanessa Lacoss Executive Director  
Carol Lewis US Olympian, Track and Field (1980, 1984, 1988)  
Lydia Lum Freelance Journalist  
Jackie Martin President  
Annise Parker City Council Member  
Elizabeth Rockwell Executive Director, Private Client Division  
Gracie Saenz Houston politician  
Patty Salles President and Founder  
Betsy Schwartz Executive Director  
Sandy Sheehy writer  
Terrie Sultan Director  
Angela Thompson Marriage and Family Sociologist  
Wendy Watriss Co-Founder and Artistic Director  
Jane Weiner Artistic Director, former professional dancer

## **2000**

Michelle Barnes Director, Artist  
Gertrude Barnstone Artist and Activist  
Anita Bunkley Novelist and Motivational Speaker  
Meryl Cohen Vice President of Education  
Cath Conlon environmentalist  
Sarah Cortez Poet and Police Officer  
Ann Criswell Food Editor  
Eunice Drexler Owner and Chef  
Sissy Farenthold Human Rights Activist  
Betty Fitzpatrick Resident Company Actor  
Barbara Foorman Professor of Pediatrics  
Elizabeth Ghrist corporate Director; former Harris County Commissioner  
Vanessa Gilmore US Federal District Court Judge  
Patricia Gras Reporter/Producer  
Laura Groppe Chairman and CEO  
Cynthia Freeland Professor of Philosophy  
Elaine Kennedy Announcer/Producer  
Yani Keo Refugee Activist  
Sandy Reese-Kessler Executive Director  
Monica Lamb Professional Athlete  
Ninfa Lorenzo Founder and Chef  
Mariquita Masterson Jewelry Designer  
Linda May Executive Director  
Leonora Montgomery Minister Emerita  
Monica Pope Owner and Chef  
Bapsi Sidhwa Novelist  
Brenda Beust Smith Lazy Gardner columnist  
Carolyn Sumners Astronomer  
Suna Umari Executive Director  
Genevieve Vaughan Founder

## **1999**

Lauren Anderson Principal Dancer  
Hon. Mary Bacon State District Judge  
Susan Bischoff Assistant Managing Editor  
Karey Bresenhan CEO  
Sylvia Castaneda Health Beat Reporter  
Betty Chapman Local Historian and Preservationist  
Ellen Cohen President and CEO  
Gabrielle Casgriff writer  
Chitra Divakaruni writer and Creative Writing Professor  
Debra Duncan TV Host  
Sylvia Garcia Houston City Controller  
Debbie Gibson President, Personal Trust Department  
Dr. Nellie Grose Holistic Family Practitioner  
Rev. Helen Havens Rector  
Elizabeth Heflin Resident Company Actor  
Glenda Joe Executive Director, Houston's Asian American Festival  
Kay King Chair, Fashion and Interior Design Department  
Lisa Malosky Studio Host and Sideline Reporter  
Trinh Pham Architect and community volunteer  
Patricia Smith Prather Executive Director

Chris Rogers Writer  
Rev. Angela Shannon Pastor  
Gail Storey Novelist  
Lori Valencic Corporate Nutritionist  
Mitzi Vorachek Vice President, Community Education

**1998**

Katherine Ashby Feng Shui Consultant  
Lucia Bettler  
Susan Bischoff Assistant Managing Editor  
Shen-Min Chow Anchorwoman  
Jan Connolly  
Irene Cox Designer, Entrepreneur  
Jan Fox Attorney  
Carolyn Garcia State District Judge  
Diane Hall Associate Athletics Director  
Kathy Huber Garden Editor  
Marguerite Johnston Author, Historian  
Kay King Chair, Fashion and Interior Design Department  
Brenda Kirk Executive Director  
Lisa Malosky Studio Host and Sideline Reporter  
Dixie Melillo Co-Founder  
Trinh Pham Architect and community volunteer  
Carol Porter Founder  
Patricia Prather Executive Director  
Rosanne Rogers "The Buzz Lady"  
Elsa Rosborough first female president of the UH Student Body, first female to receive distinguished alumni award  
Sandy Stromberg Director of Brigid's Place  
Dianne Teas PR and Advertising Executive  
Sybil Todd Vice Chancellor and VP of Institutional Advancement  
Lori Valencic Corporate Nutritionist  
Lois Zamora Former Dean, College of Humanities, Fine Arts and Communications