



November 2019

## President's Message - Dottie Ewing

Those of you who could not make the last branch meeting missed a real treat. Dr. Szczerbinska's presentation on STEM was so interesting we had a difficult time rescuing her from the many questions our members had for her. We are happy to say that before she left, she had joined as a new member. Welcome, Barbara.

I know our next program will be equally educational. Kimberley Moore was one of four people (and the only woman) selected by Citgo and Ocean Exploration Trust, to be a Nautilus Ambassador. She will tell us about her experiences in ocean research on this exciting venture. Join us Saturday at the YWCA.

We have some busy times coming up. We will have our Christmas luncheon at the Mirador on December 7, and will continue our tradition of silent auction and gift card raffle. We will once again provide gifts for the YWTeens so that they can select Christmas gifts for members of their families. We will help them wrap the gifts after they have made their selections. Please consider volunteering for this fun afternoon.



November 11  
Honoring All Who Served



**President 2018-2019**

**Branch Meeting:**  
**Saturday, November 2**  
**10:30 a.m.**

YWCA, 4601 Corona Drive  
Activity Room, 2nd Floor  
Chairs: Sylvia Rendon, Ph.D.  
Dottie Ewing

**Speaker:**  
Kimberly Moore, STEM &  
Advanced Academics  
Coordinator, West Oso ISD Office  
of Curriculum & Instruction.

## WE MISS

**Mary Ann Williams** (8/4/19). President of AAUW Corpus Christi Branch, 1986-88, Mary used her teacher organizational skills to produce the profitable *Sesquicentennial Cookbook* and assisted in directing two style shows.

**Elvira Wendl** (9/7/19). Look up “gracious hostess” in any dictionary and a picture of Elvira should appear. Several AAUW branch meetings were held in her lovely home.

**Judy Sykes** (9/14/19). Stellar book reviewer and avid bridge player, Judy was often the life of any gathering.

## OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

A meeting of the AAUW Corpus Christi Branch was held on Saturday, October 5, at 10:30 am. in the Del Mar College William F. White Library. President Dottie Ewing welcomed everyone and asked for introduction of new members and guests. Program Vice President Dr. Sylvia Rendon introduced our speaker, Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska, Physics Program Coordinator and Professor at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

Dr. Szczerbinska regaled the group with spirited stories about growing up in Poland and initially thinking that she would pursue a law degree. Although she gained an impressive background in Latin, Russian, German, and history, she eventually decided her dream was physics. With the support of her parents and various teachers, she finished a master’s degree in physics in Poland, then decided to pursue a doctoral degree in the United States – even while having only weeks to get indoctrinated to another language, English.

Dr. Szczerbinska discussed how physics is a female-underrepresented field and that women must frequently put forth additional effort to demonstrate they are as capable as men in science-related fields. Dr. Szczerbinska emphasized that it is important for us to focus on getting parents to support their children in STEM programs and that we must start mentoring at an early age.

Program Vice President Dr. Sylvia Rendon thanked Dr. Szczerbinska for her enjoyable program and presented her with a couple of children’s books to share with her family.



*President Dottie Ewing welcomed members and guests.*



Excerpt above taken from full article by Vickie Natale which may be found on Branch website [corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net](http://corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net)

# News from Bridge Group



During the summer months and in October, participation has been limited to one table but the playing has been fun, interesting, and at times exciting. Look at October 11 examples sent in by Annie Huckabee.

**This is what we drew to determine who would deal.**



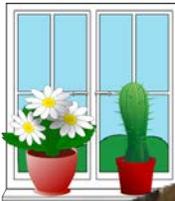
**What would you bid on this unusual hand?**

Annie Huckabee played 5 clubs and went down 1 because she couldn't wrestle the King away from wily Janis Wood.



Congratulations to High Scorers

- September 27 winner: Deenie Tillman
- October 11 winner: Sandra Heatherley
- October 25 winner: Janis Wood



## from The Gardening Divas

by Joanie Whitmire

On October 16, our guest speaker was Kathie Fernandez, who is a Nueces County Master Gardener and an expert on succulents. She presented information on how to successfully grow succulents in our area and make a pumpkin centerpiece with succulents.



## Interest Groups: November Meeting Dates



**Bridge:** Friday, Nov 8 and Nov 22 at 1pm in the activity room at 4600 Ocean Drive. Chair: Sandra Heatherley. RSVP required to chair.



**Classics:** Wednesday, Nov 20 at 6pm at Annie Huckabee's house.\* Chair: Irene O'Connor. Selection for November: *Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes* (1879). RSVP required to Joanna Huckabee.



**Poetry:** Group meets throughout year the second Wednesday of month. See notice elsewhere in newsletter.



**Out to Lunch Bunch:** Third Friday of the month, 11:30pm. Chair: Margaret DeVille. For locations contact Margaret. RSVP appreciated.



**Playgoers:** Group meets on various weekend dates to enjoy the variety of live plays offered in Corpus Christi. Let Michelle Balis know if interested. Updates through email and newsletter.



**Writers:** Tuesday, Nov 12 7:00 pm at the home of Janis Wood.\* Co-chairs Alice Berecka and Maggie Gibson. RSVP appreciated.



**Readers' Round Table:** Group meets first Monday of month, October through December; February through May. See notice elsewhere in newsletter.



**The Gardening Divas:** Third Wednesday of the month, 3pm. Contact co-chairs Agnes Hamilton and Joanie Whitmire for locations.



**Wine & Cheese:** Sunday, Nov 10, 5-7pm at the home of Susan Birchfield.\* RSVP required to hostess Susan Birchfield or to Chair Agness Hamilton.

*\*Email hostess or group chair for address or refer to yearbook for address or phone number.*

---

## Appointed Committees: November Meeting Dates



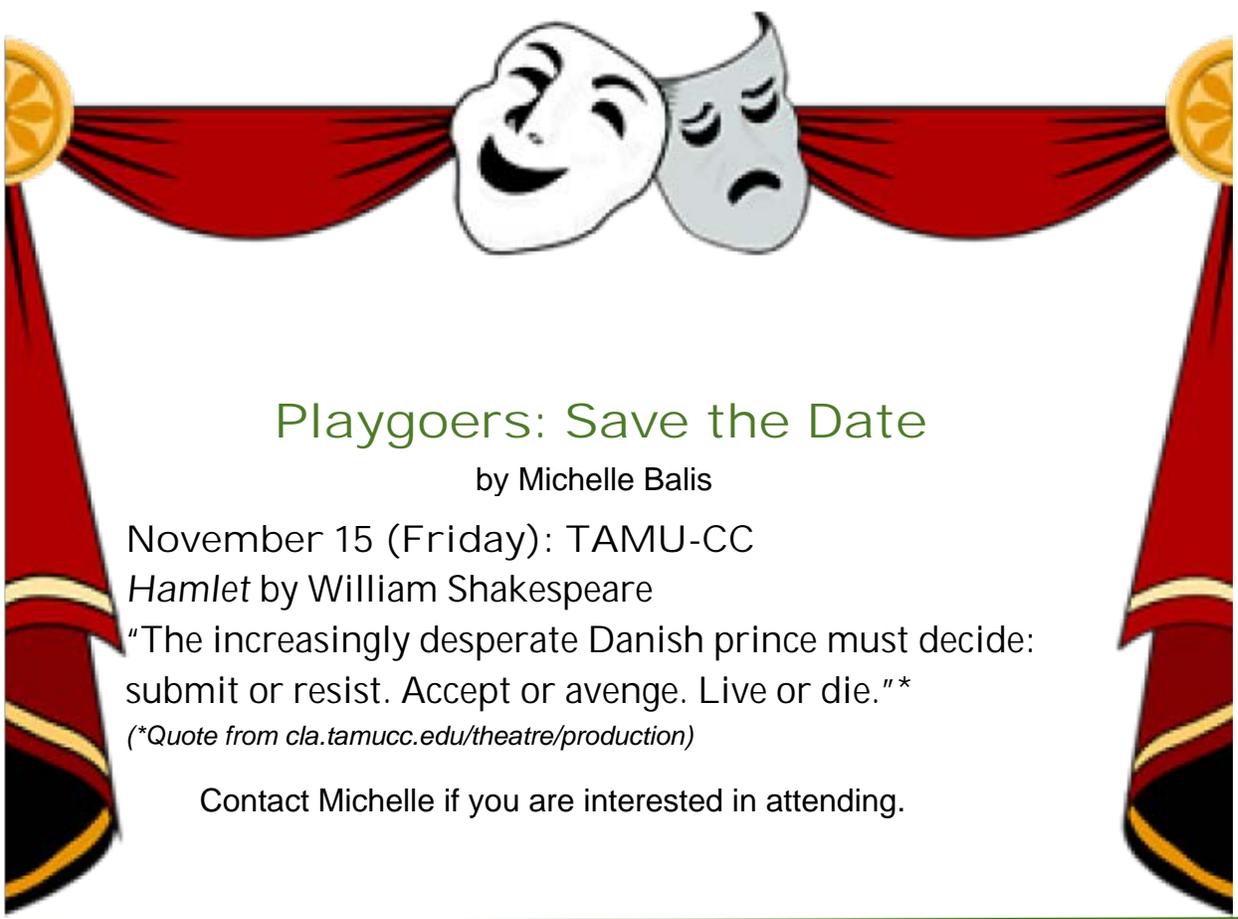
**Book Finders:** Tuesdays, 1:30pm at Book Nook in Neyland Library, 1230 Carmel Parkway. Chair: Betty Maroney.



**Community Outreach:** Nov 11, 6pm, YWCA on Corona. Co-Chairs: Kelly Gonzalez, and Janis Wood.

**STEM**

**STEM Committee** meets one Sunday per month at 2 pm. Contact chairman Janet Blanke for meeting location.



## Playgoers: Save the Date

by Michelle Balis

November 15 (Friday): TAMU-CC

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

"The increasingly desperate Danish prince must decide:  
submit or resist. Accept or avenge. Live or die."\*

(\*Quote from [cla.tamucc.edu/theatre/production](http://cla.tamucc.edu/theatre/production))

Contact Michelle if you are interested in attending.



### Readers' Round Table

Readers' Round Table will meet next Monday, November 4, at the home of Dottie Ewing at 7 p.m. Michelle Balis will review *Collared* by David Rosenfelt. Please join us for an enjoyable review and discussion. RSVP appreciated to Dottie Ewing. For contact information and address of hostess see yearbook.



### Poetry Appreciation

The Poetry Appreciation group will meet on November 13 at 6 pm at the Glass Pavilion at the Omni Hotel. We will be reading the poems of Octavio Paz. Join us for good food, good company, and great poetry.

—Deenie Roper Tillman

## AAUW STEM Committee Update

Our Fall 2019 program for West Oso Jr. High girls will be on Monday, November 18 at Texas A&M University Harte Research Institute. Contact Janet Blanke for more information.

## Have you heard?

Who is the Deviled Egg Queen of the Branch? Why Nancy Horsley, of course. She shares her talent at so many of our Branch functions.

*If asked, I cannot reveal my source.  
- Ann, Editor. P.S. - It's really not me.*

### December Branch Meeting

Corpus Christi Branch Luncheon & Silent Auction

Chair: Sylvia Rendon, Ph.D.

December 7, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Mirador  
5857 Timbergate Drive

Community Outreach fundraiser... the  
Basket of Delights ... to be raffled off at  
the Christmas Luncheon.

More information to  
follow by email.



**AAUW Members:** We need donations of gift cards to fill the baskets for the raffle at the Christmas luncheon. Kris Conlan is assembling the baskets.

The deadline for getting gift cards to Kris is December 1.

