

June/July Edition 2020

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Welcome all renewing members and new members of our active, interesting, and creative Branch of AAUW. Many thanks to Dottie and her Board of Directors for their leadership of the term ending June 30. The new Board for 2020-21 has met and plans are underway for another great year. "Met" has a new format as we continue safety measures during this period of concern about COVID-19. The Board met virtually on June 13 using the computer application Zoom. For the time being, all meetings will be virtual until further notice. For those unfamiliar with Zoom or needing assistance setting it up on their electronic devices, please let Vickie know and she will provide assistance.



President 2020-2021

Sylvia Rendon, as Program Vice President, has planned very interesting speakers for our general meetings. You will not want to miss any of them. Although the September meeting has traditionally been a membership recruitment session, that format is not practical this year. More informal, smaller gatherings by Zoom are encouraged to welcome new members and inform them of the opportunities and activities of the Branch. Catherine Cox has initiated such meetings and will provide more information for everyone. Perhaps early next year or sometime during the spring, we will be able to have an in-person membership reception – let's hope so.

Debby Wilkins has been appointed as Interest Group Coordinator and is very enthusiastic. Until further notice, Interest Groups will meet virtually. Interest Group Chairs will provide the schedules to Annie Huckabee for inclusion in the yearbook, but the yearbook will probably be published slightly later this year due to the circumstances of non-standard meetings and the desire to include the names and contact information for as many new members as possible. In the meantime, please check with the individual group chair or Debby.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and support for the intellectual, literary, scientific, community involvement, and just plain fun activities that keep our academic histories alive and beneficial to our community and to ourselves.



Enjoy a Safe 4th of July

Recognition to College-bound Seniors from Miller High School

Story by Vickie Natale; Photos by Kelly Gonzalez and Nelda Garcia

This year, the Community Outreach Committee provided a much-welcomed recognition and support to 20 graduating seniors from Miller High School during the difficult pandemic time of canceled end-of-the-year events and social distancing. Miller High School Counselor Nelda Garcia helped select the 20 recipients and mailed invitations to the young graduating female seniors, each of whom are planning to attend college. Given the inability to host an in-person reception under current social restrictions, Community Outreach Committee Co-chair Kelly Gonzalez organized a drive-through distribution event at ValueBank Texas on Thursday, May 7, 2020, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ValueBank Texas is located close to Miller High School and was determined to be the best location for pick-up.

Kelly and her staff at the Bank assembled a package for each recipient, consisting of a long-stemmed red rose, an individually packaged cupcake, a congratulatory sign wrapped in ribbons, and the envelope containing \$100 with an individually addressed letter from AAUW and a flyer describing the organization's mission and goals. The young women were congratulated on their high school graduation and encouraged to continue with their educational pursuits.



We recognize these young women as members of our future generation of female leaders.



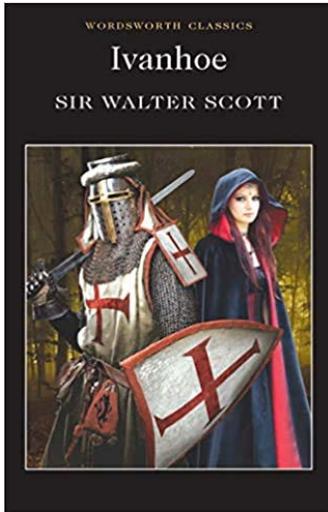
At our business meeting held via Zoom, on Saturday, May 9, Kelly described the event to members. Many of the young women arrived at the Bank's drive through with their parents, and all were surprised and deeply touched by the gifts – some even shed tears. Incoming president Shirley Selz also attended and assisted Kelly with the distribution.



Kelly laughed when she told us that a few adjustments had to be made, such as cutting the stems on the roses to fit inside the Bank's tube.

The AAUW branch extends a hearty THANK YOU to Kelly Gonzalez and her staff at ValueBank Texas for allowing us to use their facility to make the event happen this year and for helping with the organization and distribution of gifts. We managed to host an inspiring event, even under COVID-19 restrictions!

CLASSICS VIA ZOOM *by Joanna Huckabee*



Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* is no easy task, but Classics eagerly took up the gauntlet and accepted the challenge on June 24, 2020. Discussion leader Catherine Cox masterfully guided members as they examined several of the book's themes including leadership, duty, societal class and, of course, the chivalric code.

Attendees included Susan Birchfield, Dottie Ewing, Mary Gleason (new member –hooray!), Dorothy Hoban, Lessie Hoffman, Annie Huckabee, Vickie Natale, Irene O'Connor, and Sylvia Rendon

We hope to see you at future gatherings. Do not hesitate to participate even if you have not read the selection. Our discussion leaders always stimulate a lively exchange.

Open to all branch members, Classic meetings are held via Zoom on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30.

- July 1 *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey, led by Sylvia Rendon
- July 8 *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf, led by Irene O'Connor
- July 22 *Shadows on the Rock* by Willa Cather, led by Susan Birchfield
- July 29 *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque led by Michelle Balis

The Story Behind the Photo



The photo of Shirley Selz, used in the president's message column, has the best background story I have ever heard. Here it is in her own words. -Ann

“It was taken January 29 and appears to have an unusual background. In fact, it was taken when Dottie and I were on a tour to South Africa, and I took an optional tour to view elephants up close in Zimbabwe near Victoria Falls. The closeup was taken by one of the guides using my phone. A photographer with the group also took pictures, and here is an uncropped photo taken by him which shows the full context of the moment. As you can see, the dark gray wrinkled background is actually the skin of the elephant that I am touching.”

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

by Vickie Natale

Brenda Moss, who served as our 2018-2020 AAUW Texas representative for the South District, has joined our branch again for 2020-21 year as a dual member, even though her term as a District representative has ended. She is a member from the Fort Bend County Branch outside of Houston. You may remember that Brenda attended our May 2019 meeting and officiated the installation of officers. Brenda also has made a donation to the Branch and requested that it be used for community outreach activities. In addition, our new 2020-22 South Texas District representative, Betsy Calabro, has joined our branch as a dual member for 2020-21. Betsy is a member of the North Harris County Branch. We welcome both Brenda and Betsy, and we are delighted to have such a strong connection with two sister Branches in Texas!

Membership renewals for 2020-21 have been steadily coming in during the past two months. We thank everyone who has already joined for the year. If you have not yet done so, please send your check (\$84 made out to AAUW-CC Branch) to Vickie Natale. Or, if you prefer to use a credit card, use the online link that has been sent to you via the national database system, under the sender ID of memberinfo@aauw.org.

In order to be included in the yearbook's Membership Directory, membership renewals must be received no later than **August 14, 2020**. Yearbook distribution will occur by the end of October. If in-person meetings are authorized before October 30, yearbooks will be distributed to Interest Group chairpersons who will assist in distributing the books to interest group participants. However, if it is not possible to conduct face-to-face meetings, yearbooks will be mailed to the members by October 30, 2020.

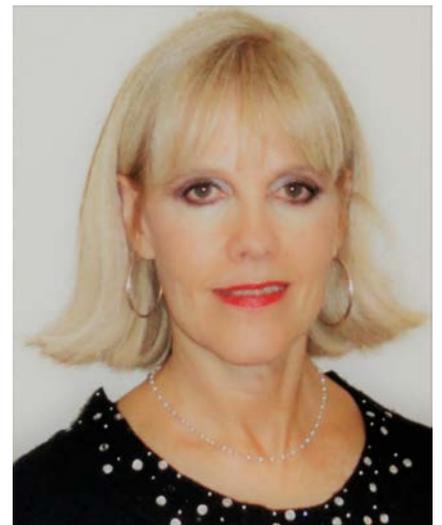
In the past, at our September Branch meetings new members have introduced themselves to our group. In these unusual times, Catherine Cox, Membership VP, thought of a way to continue this tradition.

WELCOME New Member

KayLynn Lyon

“My husband, Rick, and I decided to slow down a bit, leave the north Dallas suburb that I grew up in and go on our own little adventure. So... we moved full time to our condo on the beach here in Corpus Christi. The first thing I did (one week after arriving) was to transfer my AAUW membership to this Chapter!

I've been married to Rick for 21 years and have enjoyed making my living teaching Dance and Fitness for over 40 years. I really appreciate receiving a warm welcome from Officers and others and look forward to meeting everyone in person - some day!?”



BOOK FINDER SALES ON EBAY

by Vickie Natale

As members are aware, our quarterly Book Finders Sale in May had to be cancelled, and we are unsure about when we will be able to return to work at the library to prepare for and hold our next sale. In the meantime, our eBay Team – Debby Wilkins and Kris Conlan – has been very busy the past several months listing and selling collectible and antique books and on the website. Debby explains that each book is examined for its current condition, and its value is established after researching other book websites for price comparison. Books that are valued at \$15 or more are listed on our eBay site. With the recent pandemic environment forcing long hours at home, Debby has managed to list over 400 books on eBay. This requires snapshots to show the outside and inside condition of the book and a synopsis of the product, with key features, dimensions, and product identifiers included. It also requires daily monitoring of the website to negotiate offers and to pack and post sold items, which Kris has been handling.

It has been a huge task, and we send a hearty THANK YOU to the ladies for their diligent work and dedication to our Branch. So far, more than \$1,300 from eBay sales have been transferred to our bank account, and we have an additional \$200 in the PayPal reserves. There are eBay and PayPal fees associated with the sales that are taken from the gross amount (about 18%), but that is considered the cost of doing business. The buyers pay applicable taxes and the shipping fees, and all books are shipped USPS Media Mail.

If you are interested in viewing the 400+ books listed by our Book Finders eBay team, go to the link below. After the page opens, scroll down to the bottom to the section labeled “Sellers.” Click on the small box labeled “Only show items from.” Then, click into the text box, enter our seller ID: **bookfi-88**, and hit your enter key. Perhaps you will find a book you can’t live without!

eBay link: <https://www.ebay.com/sch/ebayadvsearch?sofindtype=0&by seller=1#by seller>

