



empowering women since 1881



Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



November Edition 2020

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Fall is in the air – cooler air, that is, along with Halloween, pumpkins, and the election just prior to our Branch meeting on November 7. By the time you receive this newsletter, many members will have avoided long lines and voted by mail or at early voting locations. There will be no waiting lines for our meeting on November 7, of course, and we hope everyone will participate. The procedure to meet virtually by Zoom has become familiar, and Annie will send the invitation to remind everyone when and how to participate.

Love of reading is in the DNA of our members. Of the eleven interest groups, nearly half focus on literature and writing – Classics, Evening Contemporary Literature, Poetry, Reader's Round Table, and Writers. And yet, so many Corpus Christi residents cannot access these sources of knowledge, intellectual challenge, and fun because they cannot read. We will learn more about the efforts of the Corpus Christi Literacy Council to meet the needs of non-readers at our meeting on November 7. Please join us to hear from Dr. Criselda Leal about the program and opportunity to volunteer.

Coincidentally not long after Amy Aldridge's presentation in September on the Black Lives Matter Movement, we received a specific request to encourage the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team players who have taken a public stand against racial injustice. Please respond to the Community Outreach Committee's project by writing a note or letter as detailed by Kelly in "Calling All AAUW Members" explanation.

AAUW and the YWCA have each been requested by KRIS-TV to provide two very short videos providing positive messages to "seasoned" (i.e. senior) viewers about ways to create opportunities that invigorate and enlighten in this time of social restrictions. We plan to highlight opportunities for creativity through crafts and artistry hosted by Agnes Hamilton, and through using resources of Neyland Library hosted by Michelle Balis, Betty Maroney, and Dottie Ewing. Janet Blanke will video the presentations. What a great way to inspire seniors while also informing viewers about AAUW and the YWCA. One video will be aired each Wednesday in November. Look for more information later for the time and schedule.



President 2020-2021

Virtual Branch Meeting
November 7
10:30 am

See Page 2
for more
information.

Check email
for invitation.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

November 7, 2020

from Sylvia Rendon



Learn about one of Corpus Christi's most vital service organizations at our November 7 virtual branch meeting. Dr. Criselda Leal of the Corpus Christi Literacy Council will speak to us via Zoom about the Council's role in expanding the literacy of our citizens. Join us on November 7 at 10:30 a.m. for Dr. Leal's talk.



To Join the Meeting:

- If you do not have a Zoom account, access zoom.us and click *Sign Up for Free*.
- You will need to enter your email address when prompted to do so.
- Before the meeting day, you will receive an emailed Invitation. The hyperlink will allow you to join the meeting.
- On the day of the meeting click the hyperlink.
- If for some reason the link does not work, you can access Zoom and click *Join a Meeting*. You can then enter the unique Meeting ID and the Passcode provided on the Invitation.
- If you are joining via telephone, you will need the teleconferencing number provided in the Invitation.
- Don't forget to click *permit audio and video* when prompted.
- The host will let you in the meeting.
- During the presentation your audio will be muted, but the Chat feature will allow you to send AAUW CC Host a message if you have a question, concern and/or epiphany.
- I would be happy to conduct a practice meeting with anyone who wishes to try it out before the meeting.

See you soon!

Annie Huckabee, Branch Meeting Zoom Host

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 Members



CALLIE THERESA WALKER

Originally from the Coastal Bend, I earned a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Texas State University. Upon graduating, I worked in Texas State's Advancement office before moving to Korea for five years. I came back stateside in 2017 to begin studying for an MA in English Literature from TAMU-CC. I graduated from the program in December 2019, by which time I was already working full time in the Development office doing foundation and corporate relations. In addition to working, I'm working toward a second master's degree in technical communication and rhetoric, and I want to eventually do doctoral research on philanthropic giving from a social justice framework. I spend my free time with my very rambunctious four-year-old daughter.

I am pictured with Adelita, my 6 year old Norwich terrier. She is my companion and keeps me busy during this time of staying home. I completed 43 years in the public school system. Starting in Corpus Christi ISD and retiring from Austin ISD in January 2004. My last assignment of 17 years was as an assistant high school principal. Upon retiring, I downsized from a Class A motor home to a Class C. Traveling the Southern and Prairie states and as far north as Winnipeg, Manitoba. I was a member of Cen Tex Sams RV Chapter. Once a month we had campouts, meeting at different campgrounds in Central Texas. I returned to live in Corpus Christi after 40 years in 2016. Besides reconnecting with family and friends, one of the great joys of being back is former students who come up to me and greet me, recognizing me after so many years of not seeing each other. I live in a gated community where I ride my red adult tricycle, with Adelita in the rear basket. She enjoys the ride as much as I do. I am happy to be back in my hometown of Corpus Christi.

ANDREA G. VILLARREAL





ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Christmas Past – we

Mailed gift cards to our dear Kris Conlan Kringle so that her creative hands could design one of a kind baskets for our Gift Card Raffle.

Donated our slightly used treasures for the Silent Auction tables.

Bid on and, if we were lucky, took home eclectic goodies from the exciting Silent Auction.

Purchased raffle tickets for chances at winning one of Kris's beautiful baskets.

Gathered together for a delicious meal, meaningful moments, and spirited conversation.



Christmas Present – we

Invite you to be as generous as you have always been by purchasing virtual tickets for our Gift Card Raffle. Each \$20 ticket buys a chance to win one of 3 Gift Cards valued at \$100, \$75, and \$50.

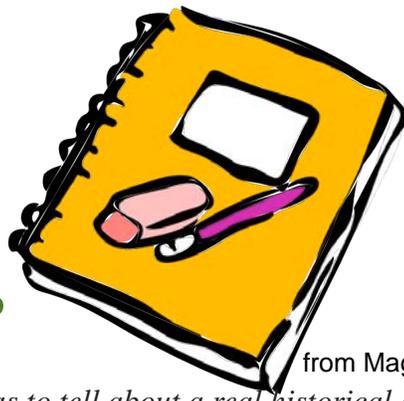
Send your check to Vickie Natale no later than December 1st. Via email, Vickie will confirm the number of tickets you have purchased in a receipt of your transaction.

Drawing will be held during our branch meeting on Saturday, December 5, 2020.

As our sage like President Shirley Selz says, this is a no-calorie-way of fulfilling our commitment to keeping alive both the Community Outreach programs and the tradition of our Silent Auction and Gift Card Raffle.

Checks should be made out to AAUW and sent to Vickie Natale.





WRITERS' GROUP

from Maggie Gibson

One of our assignments this month was to tell about a real historical event and how it impacted our lives. Below is Dottie Ewing's contribution and we encouraged her to share with our members.



Thank You, RBG!
By Dottie Ewing

After my second child was born, I wanted very much to be an at-home mom. We couldn't afford for me not to have an income. As most young couples find, one income doesn't always suffice. So, I started a secretarial service, working out of my house. All I had was a manual portable typewriter, but it was adequate to get started. After I had built up a sufficient customer and income base, I went searching for an electric typewriter. I found a new one in an office supply place, but I didn't have enough money to pay cash for it. I went to the bank to take out a loan. No biggie--good credit, reasonable source of income, etc. I definitely qualified for the loan.

The bank officer and I went through all the paper work and I was getting ready to sign the agreement when the banker says, "Of course, your husband will have to come in and sign the papers before we can give you the money." I was stunned. My immediate response was, "My husband is not going to pay for this; I am!" His response, "Sorry, we have to have his signature."

I can't really describe how angry I was. I had been earning my own living since I was 17 years old. And have a stuffed shirt tell me my husband would have to sign that before I could get the money! (In fairness to the banker, he knew that was the law; I didn't.) I stood up and said, "In that case, no thank you." It wasn't that I was concerned about my husband signing; I knew he would. It was that I could not legally take out a loan in my own name without my husband's signature.

I went back to my manual typewriter, saved some more money, and paid cash for a second-hand electric typewriter I found advertised in the newspaper.

It would be a few years before Ruth Bader Ginsburg started making inroads on the restrictions law and society placed on married women. And at that time, I was so busy being a working wife and mother I didn't even notice. But I am grateful to her and others like her who led the way. Thank you, RBG.

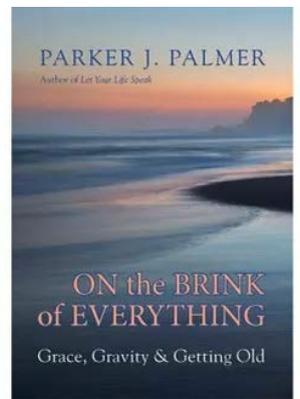


READERS' ROUND TABLE

from Dottie Ewing

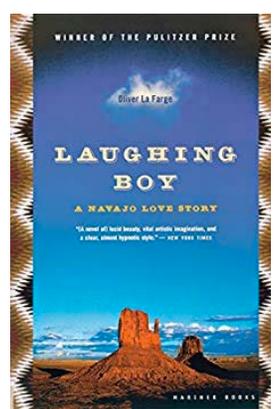


Readers' Round Table will meet by Zoom on Monday, November 2, at 7 p.m. Jan Hilton will review *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old* by Parker Palmer.



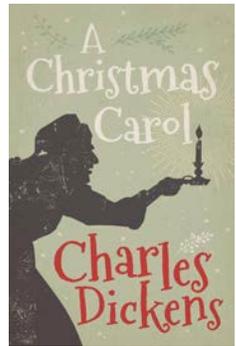
CLASSICS 2020

Nov-Dec Meetings via Zoom
Contact: Annie Huckabee for more information.



Nov. 18 - *Laughing Boy*
(1929) by Oliver La Farge

Dec. 16 - *A Christmas Carol*
(1843) by Charles Dickens



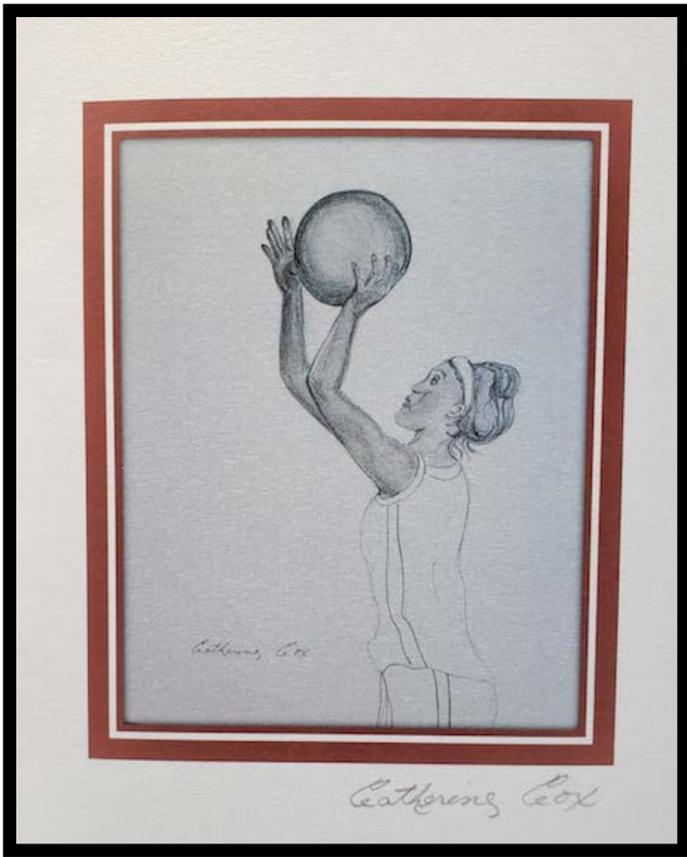
WINE & CHEESE

from Janet Blanke



AAUW Wine and Cheese met on October 11 via Zoom for a wonderful evening learning about and celebrating Dia de los Muertos! Vickie Natale and Judy Harral were the hostesses for the evening. They provided us with the names of some wines we could get that were appropriate for our theme and they gave us a better understanding of the history of Dia de los Muertos.

For more information on the next gathering, contact Janet Blanke. The remaining dates listed in the yearbook are Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. Watch your email for information on Zoom gatherings.



**“Black Women Matter”
A Sketch by Catherine Cox**

This is a photo of one of the cards, designed by Catherine Cox, inspired by the Texas A&M Basketball Team for their support of the Black Lives Matter movement. The pencil sketch is entitled “Black Women Matter!” Catherine, our Vice President Membership, sent each player a card with a note of support inside as part of our Community Outreach project to encourage and support these young women in their stand against racial injustice. Please read the instructions for participating in this project on the following page.

When I joined AAUW in 2017, I only knew a few people; I think actually two. The yearbook guided me through my first year, and when I became editor of the newsletter, it became indispensable.

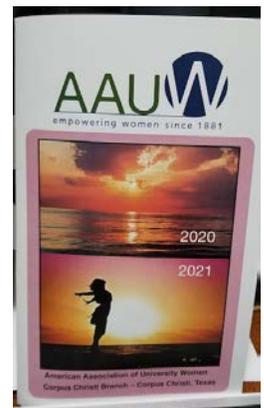
Last month the yearbook arrived in your mailboxes. This has not been the usual method used to distribute the yearbook. We usually give out the yearbooks at our meeting to greet new members in September, but like everything else in our lives, 2020 and a virus brought changes to even this.

The yearbook editor inputs and lays out the content, works with the printers, and either designs or works with someone to create a cover. This year our editor additionally took on the chore of mailing out the yearbooks to all members.

Joanna “Annie” Huckabee is the yearbook editor for the 2020-2021 issue, a job she has done on eight issues (seven alone and one with two other members). Thank you Annie for taking on this project for our branch so many times.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of previous yearbook editors listed below. Thank you.

Annie Huckabee 2008, 2009, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020	Alice Hartlaub 2010, 2011	Sheri Roussel 2014, 2015
	Janis Wood 2012, 2016	Jeanne Ferraro 2016



-Ann Hamilton, Newsletter Editor

**SPEAKING OUT
IS WORTH IT.**

CALLING ALL AAUW MEMBERS

Your help is needed to help the Texas A&M University's Basketball Team take a stand against racial injustice.

Ciera	Destiny	Jordan
Aaliyah	Kayla	Anna
Ella	Alexis	Zaay
N'dea	Maliyah	Sahara
KayKay	Kenyal	Mckinzie

These brave women are taking a public stand against racial injustice and are facing local and university criticism. Lynne Hagan, SHARE Coordinator for Texas AAUW board has contacted us for help since fighting racial injustice is a big part of the AAUW mission.

Count me in you say? How can I help you ask? Here's how and it's not hard!

What these students need most of all are notes of encouragement and support. Please take some time and send a letter or note of encouragement to help raise their morale and know they are not alone in their fight. Or you can write to each player individually if you have the time.

Letters may be sent to the team's assistant coach, Amy Wright. Please have **all letters mailed by November 9** to allow them time to receive before they break for Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your participation!



- Wear a face mask.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wash hands frequently.

AAUW Community Outreach Committee

from Kelly Gonzalez

AAUW Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The Community Outreach Committee strives to put the AAUW mission into action in the community through various community projects.

Meeting Schedule (Second Monday of the month at 6:00pm)

2020

November 9

December – No Meeting

2021

January 11

February 8

March 8

April 12

May 10

Link to the Monthly Meeting

Topic: Community Outreach Committee

Time: November 9, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Contact Kelly Gonzalez for more information.



**Veterans
Day**

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2020