



empowering women since 1881

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



December Edition 2020

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Holiday season has arrived although celebrations look a bit different this year. Large gatherings have been altered to observe COVID-19 precautions, but we hope everyone stays in contact with family and friends while staying safe and healthy. Branch members certainly find new and varied ways to be thankful, to enjoy blessings, and to have some fun.

Sylvia Rendon and Vickie Natale became honorary members of Santa's crew to challenge our members to a holiday zoom-based scavenger hunt during our meeting on December 5. Curious? Of course, so just be sure to join us for the members meeting. And don't forget about the raffle for three gift cards. By this time, I hope everyone who wants a chance to win a gift card has bought one or more tickets (\$20.00 each) by sending the purchase money to Vickie.

Other examples of members' creativity: Remember Catherine Cox's crossword puzzle earlier this year demonstrating our members resourcefulness. Also, segments of the Coastal Living program on CBS Channel 10 have featured Branch members on three shows in November. We anticipate more opportunities to showcase AAUW members demonstrating activities for viewers to keep active and engaged. The YWCA also plans to submit videos. Our starring performers so far include Agnes Hamilton, Janet Blanke, Michelle Balis, and Catherine Cox. Although our videos are planned to be shown on Wednesday mornings, we are not informed in advance of the exact dates. Just make a note to watch Channel 10 on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Celebrate the fact that our members are not only scholars but creative and inspirational.

Several members responded to the request in the November newsletter to send notes of encouragement to the A&M University Women's Basketball team. The team has expressed appreciation for our support. Let's continue our support as the basketball season progresses.

An exciting new opportunity is in the development stage. Del Mar College is interested in establishing a student AAUW group. Preliminary discussions have been held with Del Mar representatives and we look forward to further information for attracting students to AAUW – possible coordinating with TAMU as well. We hope for mutual benefit and that the students will continue membership after graduation in our Branch or wherever they settle.

While looking to expand AAUW to college students, we continue to reach out to younger girls. The STEM committee has already sponsored two events for West Oso Middle School girls, with a view to schedule additional sessions later in the school year. The Community Outreach Committee will again provide for a group of YWTeen girls to obtain gifts for family members, although the method of providing the shopping experience is necessarily different this year.

I hope everyone will join us for the virtual meeting on December 5. Note the time is 11:00 a.m. Thanks again to Annie Huckabee for hosting the zoom meeting and for providing information on how to participate.



President 2020-2021

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

December 5, 2020

11:00 am



- Business Meeting
- Guest Speakers
- Holiday Scavenger Hunt
- Gift Card Drawing

For more details, see page 3.



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.

See you soon!

Annie Huckabee, Branch Meeting Zoom Host



Branch Program for December

from Sylvia Rendon



Holiday Scavenger Hunt



And the fun never lets up at our December 5 meeting! Our first ever **Zoom Holiday Scavenger Hunt** will be conducted by Sylvia Rendon and Vickie Natale. This timed hunt will have you scurrying to locate items on the list in order to win a prize in one of three categories. Prizes will be delivered to your home within 48 hours (by Sylvia, not Santa). Did you notice the title of this event (hint, hint)?

Gift Card Drawing



Our December meeting is usually a festive occasion with a luncheon, a silent auction and drawings for Gift Card Baskets. This year, due to Covid-19, we will not be having our luncheon or the silent auction or the drawings for the Gift Card baskets that we usually have.

However, our December 5th meeting will still be festive and we will have a drawing for three HEB gift cards. One gift card is worth \$100, one is worth \$75, and one is worth \$50.

Tickets for the drawing are for sale for \$20 each.

1 Ticket = 1 chance to win. More tickets = more chances to win. All proceeds go to fund our AAUW projects!

To purchase tickets for the drawing please send a check, made payable to AAUW, to

Vickie Natale. When Vickie receives your check, she will email you a receipt with your ticket(s) number(s).

Make sure Vickie receives your check **by Thursday, December 3.**

Guest Speakers



Our December 5 Zoom meeting promises to be fun and inspirational. In addition to the gift card drawing and scavenger hunt, we will be treated to a presentation by **Nancy Wesson-Dodd**, President/CEO of the YWCA and **Alma Gomez**, YW Teen Program Director. They will share a video created by **Yesenia Villarreal**, a former YW Teen intern and group leader.





from Maggie Gibson

At our last meeting, The Writers' Group responded to prompts about food memories. One of the prompts was: *Can you remember a "first time" tasting a specific food or dish that seemed exotic or strange to you? Think about how it felt on the tongue, whether or not you liked it, and who gave it to you. Describe the location--you might have been someplace different (on a vacation) or the food might have been from a neighbor or at a friend's house or at a relative's house.* I read my response to this prompt and the group urged me to submit it to the newsletter since it describes a restaurant that once stood on North Beach (in the 1960s). Some of our members may remember...



Lahala House

by Maggie Gibson

North Beach in Corpus Christi once was home to Lahala House, a Polynesian-themed restaurant. When I was ten or eleven years old, my family discovered this treasure trove of exotic seafood delicacies, and would make the trek from Sinton on special occasions to enjoy its culinary adventures. This was back in the early 1960s, when most restaurants in Texas were either steakhouses, drive-ins, or diners, without much variety to be found.

On our first visit there, we were surprised to see Lahala House perched on wooden stilts right on the water's edge, and looking like a castaway's hut, thatched in palm fronds and decorated with lots of bamboo. Outside and inside, it was the embodiment of atmosphere! Even its location, North Beach, with its salt air and sounds of waves lapping on the shore, enhanced its island ambiance. To my child's mind, this conjured seafaring adventures, luaus, hula dancers, and grass skirts. Inside the restaurant, unfamiliar aromas of spices and seafood enticed the senses. I wasn't sure what was being cooked, but I wanted to find out what flavors went with these tantalizing smells.

Looking at the menu, I couldn't figure out which dish to order, but I settled on something the waiter said was served in a coconut shell. This made up my mind. I would have the "shrimp curry with chutney." I knew what shrimp was, and I liked it, but "curry"? "Chutney"? I had no idea, but I was willing to take a chance, just to get that coconut shell. While we waited for the food to be served, the waiter brought our beverages. I was astonished to see little paper umbrellas sticking out of the top of my sisters' and my glasses. Overcome with amusement, we began to play with the umbrellas and pretty much forgot the drink itself.

Soon, our food was served. The coconut shell did not disappoint, and for the first time, I tasted the delectable flavors of shrimp curry with chutney. The tender shrimp was swimming in a bright golden sauce with the most mouth-watering tang, and the chutney was a sweet balance to the spiciness of the curry sauce. Also on the plate was a little mound of shredded coconut that lent a mild flavor and crunchy texture that deepened the dish's delight. From that night on, every time my family went to Lahala House, this was the only dish I would order.

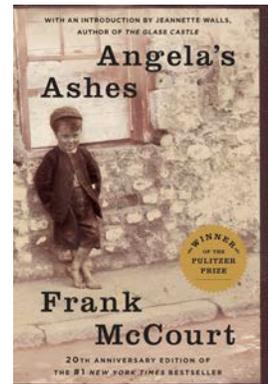
The year 1967 came along and with it, in September of that year, came Hurricane Beulah. Alas, Lahala House, with its beach-hut architecture, could not withstand the forces of wind and water that Hurricane Beulah brought to North Beach. Along with the unique dining experience Lahala House offered, went my hopes of ever tasting that delicious shrimp curry again...

READERS' ROUND TABLE

from Dottie Ewing



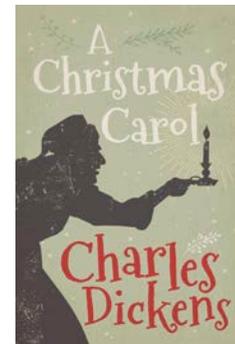
Readers' Round Table will meet by Zoom on to hear Nancy Horsley's review of *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt at 7pm on Monday, December 7.



CLASSICS 2020

December Meeting via Zoom
Contact: Annie Huckabee
for more information.

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



WINE & CHEESE

from Janet Blanke

Our November Wine and Cheese was hosted by Sylvia Rendon and Susan Birchfield and the theme was wines for Thanksgiving. It was a wonderful evening of good wine and great conversation. We have so much to be thankful for!

December Wine and Cheese will be on December 13 at 5pm and our hostesses, Debby Wilkins and Agnes Hamilton have a fun evening planned including speciality cocktails and the opportunity to share fond memories of Christmas Past.



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

AAUW STEM Committee Update

from Janet Blanke

The STEM Committee has had two events with the West Oso Jr High School STEM girls. On Oct 30, Melissa Huffman and Haley Adams, both Meteorologists from the National Weather Service in Corpus Christi spoke with the girls about our very active hurricane season and about their careers. Ryan Shoptaugh joined the girls on Nov 5 and talked with the girls about how his job as a Broadcast Meteorologist differs from the jobs that Melissa and Haley have as Operational Meteorologists. Ryan also gave his perspective on the 2020 Hurricane Season which is the most active season ever. We are taking a break for the Holidays and we will continue with more events after school resumes in January, 2021.

For more information on these two events, visit the branch website at corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net.



AAUW Community Outreach Committee

from Kelly Gonzalez

We are moving forward with our Holiday Shopping event for the Y Teens. It will be a bit different this year but we will provide wrapped gifts for 25 girls this year. The event will be held on Sunday, December 13. AAUW members will meet at the Y on Saturday, December 12 to put the bags together.

A special thanks to all members for participating in the raffle this year. We do rely on the funds raised to support the Outreach projects.

No December meeting. The next meeting will be held January 11, 2021.



FOR
SALE

AAUW Shirts

We have a few AAUW shirts for sale at \$20 each. If you would like one, please reach out to Janet Blanke.

Here are the sizes and colors that we have:

Blue (1) Large (2) X Large

Black (1) Large (1) X Large (1) XX Large

If we don't have your size right now, we will be placing another order sometime in 2021 and you will have an opportunity to order one (or more) then.