



empowering women since 1881

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



October Edition 2020

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Our first membership meeting for 2020-21 welcomed new members, as is our tradition for the September meeting. But this year, the format was different and perhaps to some members, it was a new experience. Did it work to meet by Zoom? Yes, it worked quite well. With Annie's expertise in hosting the meeting on September 5 and with participants joining electronically by computer, tablet, and phone, we were able to start the year with enthusiasm. We conducted business including adoption of revised bylaws, heard reports and exciting plans from committee chairpersons and others, and had the privilege of hearing Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford's analytical presentation on social justice focused on the history and development of Black Lives Matter.

Please participate in the next Branch meeting on October 3. Remember – if you do not have access by an electronic device or if you would feel more comfortable joining with another member more familiar with the process of meeting by Zoom, you are encouraged to pair with someone. It is important to stay connected. While we miss the personal camaraderie of in-person meetings and miss the yummy snacks provided by the Hospitality Committee, we remain creative in carrying out the programs, projects, and fun of the Branch.

As one of the sponsors of the Centennial Celebration of Women's Right to Vote held electronically on August 26, the Branch achieved additional recognition and we are especially proud of Amy as one of the organizers and of Janet Blanke as one of the presenters. Amy sent a very nice note of appreciation for our support, noting that it helped the Centennial Committee reach thousands of viewers who learned about suffragists and celebrated their achievements.

You should have received a special package in your mailbox - the Branch yearbooks. Annie worked hard getting them mailed out to all members. Our Communications Committee deserves extra credit for keeping members informed through the newsletter, website, yearbook, and publicity. Many thanks!



President 2020-2021

Virtual Branch
Meeting
October 3
10:30 am

See Page 2
for more
information.

Check email
for invitation.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

October 3, 2020

from Sylvia Rendon



Let's visit the Art Museum of South Texas via Zoom on October 3 at 10:30 a.m. Our speaker, Deborah Fullerton, is Curator of Exhibits at the Museum, and she will treat us to an overview of current and upcoming exhibitions. In addition, she will share short bios of the artists whose work is exhibited. Since 2005 Deborah has played a vital role in outreach programs that have expanded the arts culture in South Texas. The COVID 19 pandemic has not slowed Deborah down from planning and installing exhibitions and learning new technology such as Zoom and WebEx. And in her down time (!) she has designed a butterfly garden that she and husband Jim can enjoy. Zoom with us for a fun time at the Art Museum of South Texas brought to us by one of the outstanding art experts in South Texas.

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

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



Kim Moore

“In my 30th year as an educator, I have taught all subjects and all age levels, from kindergarten to college. Currently I am the Interim Executive Director of Academics at West Oso ISD. I am passionate about providing equitable learning opportunities to all students, with a focus on STEM education. In my spare time, I love to hike. My husband and I have been working on hiking the Texas Gulf Coast.”

Kay Pluta

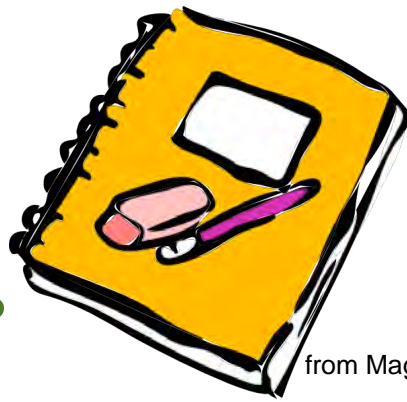
“I’m Kay Pluta, also known as Lill or Lillian Pluta. I am a former middle school English teacher, a published author (mostly of stuff for young people), and "mom" to five rescued animals (two dogs and three cats). Currently I work online as a freelance writer, editor, and tutor. I enjoy sumo wrestling (as a spectator not a participant) and learning to play my collection of neglected string instruments. At last count, I own two ukuleles, a dulcimer, a classical guitar, and a banjolele. My favorite is the guitar. I have called Corpus Christi home since December 2009.”



Elizabeth “Betsy” Calabro



“I live in Spring, Texas with my husband Carl and my youngest daughter Blaire. My older daughter, Victoria, is an artist working and teaching in New York City. Originally from Pennsylvania, I have lived in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Irvine, Ca., Plano, Texas, and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I have been a teacher for many years and have taught every age from pre-school to college. In 1972 I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and in 1978 my Masters’ degree from Drexel University in Human Behavior and Development with a minor in Reading Specialty. Retired now, I feel that I can continue to give back to my community through AAUW. An active member of the North Harris County Branch, I held board positions of Membership, President, and Secretary.”



WRITERS' GROUP

from Maggie Gibson

The Writers' Group will meet the second Tuesday in October, November, and December. Prompts will be mailed (snail-mailed) to group members before the meeting dates, so that participants can spend some time writing before each meeting. During the meetings, writers will share what they have written and give feedback to each other. Meetings will start at 7:00 p.m and will be held via Zoom. Dates for the fall meetings are: Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8. Spring dates will be announced later. Contact Alice Berecka or Maggie Gibson for more information or if you would like to join this lively and fun-loving group!

GARDENING DIVAS



from Agnes Hamilton

The Gardening Divas have been meeting in person observing social distancing. We have practiced painting with birdhouses placed on sticks for pot decoration. We have also played with clay thanks to Janet. The October 21st meeting is scheduled for 3 pm at Joanie Whitmire's home and our guest speaker will be a long time Master Gardener, Jessica Latimer. Her talk will be on the National Wildlife Federation's Certification for Wildlife Habitat applicable to your backyard. I'm hoping this will lead to conscientious planning and landscaping to sustain local wildlife.

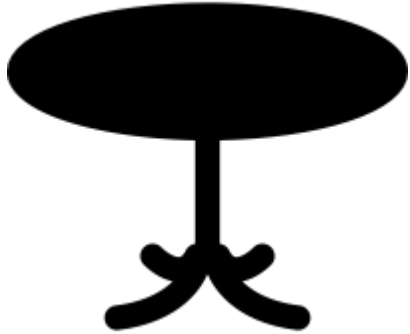
Gardening Divas meeting where we played with clay!



Agnes Hamilton



Janet Blanke



READERS' ROUND TABLE from Dottie Ewing

Readers' Round Table will meet by Zoom on Monday, October 5, at 7 p.m. Janis Wood will review *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. I will send out the Zoom info a few days before the meeting. If you have not signed up yet, let me know and I will add you to the list.



WINE & CHEESE

from Janet Blanke



On Sunday, Sept 13, the Wine and Cheese group met (via Zoom). Catherine Cox and KayLynn Lyon were our virtual hostesses, and they chose Wines of Chile as the theme for the evening. We each chose our own bottle of Chilean wine and after learning a bit about Chilean wines from Catherine and KayLynn, we shared our thoughts about the wines we had chosen. It was a great evening and we are looking forward to our next meeting on Oct 11 with Vickie Natalie and Judy Herral as our hostesses!



CLASSICS 2020

Sep-Oct Meetings via Zoom
Contact: Annie Huckabee



Sept. 30 *On the Road*, 6:30pm Presenter: Susan Birchfield
Oct. 28 *And Then There Were None*, 6:30pm Presenter: Sylvia Rendon

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.

Below is the meeting schedule along with a link to the October Meeting. I will send a reminder closer to the date. In the October meeting we will discuss a new Outreach Project plus discuss ideas for the December YWCA Teens Shopping project in the event we cannot be in person for the event.

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

2020: October 12, November 9
December – No Meeting

2021: January 11, February 8,
March 8, April 12, May 10,
June 14

Link to the Monthly Meeting

Topic: Community Outreach Committee

Time: Oct 12, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

To Join Zoom Meeting: See Kelly's upcoming reminder email.

Book Finders Committee

The CC Branch of AAUW has donated a collection of large print books to The Viera Assisted Living Retirement Center. Betty Maroney, chair of the Book Finders Committee, approved the gift.

Kris Conlan selected and delivered the books to The Viera. Thank you. Kris.



From Janet Blanke

The STEM Committee is working on ways to maintain our mission of encouraging young women in our Community to explore and pursue STEM careers. West Oso ISD is adapting well to continuing quality education for their students during this pandemic and they have identified some times that we can meet with the middle school STEM girls (either remotely or responsibly socially-distanced), so we are putting plans in place to continue to keep these girls excited about possible STEM careers.

Welcome Gifts for New Members



From Catherine Cox

And the Winner of the
September Crossword Puzzle
is . . .
Shirley Selz!
Enjoy your prize.



New members living in town received a basket with an AAUW t-shirt or an AAUW bag. Other items included hand sanitizers, bath products, stretchy bracelets, and personalized cards. Dottie Ewing, Catherine Cox, and Janet Blanke put the gift baskets and bags together and delivered the gifts. Thank you Sylvia Rendon for contribution to the project.



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

Thanks

A special thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the newsletter. Your help made this an informative and interesting newsletter to put together. Interest groups are creating innovative ways to come together, and I hope all groups will share stories and photos of their future adventures. Committees are working to carry out our mission and I hope to have more information (and photos!) in future editions of the newsletter. I want to send a special thank you to Catherine Cox for the new member section; it was her idea for the bios and she worked on getting them from our new members. And thank you to the new members for sharing with us. See you next month. — Ann Hamilton, Editor