



empowering women since 1881

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



January Edition 2021

## President's Message - Shirley Selz

The holidays have passed quickly, as always, and in many ways we are pleased that 2020 is now history. With the COVID vaccine on the horizon we can look forward to a return to normal or near normal, rather soon. I hope that means we can safely hold in-person meetings and resume all our committee and interest group activities as in past years.

Reflecting on this year, we can be very proud to have safely continued important programs and interest group meetings. Janet and her committee have navigated holding STEM events for girls at West Oso Junior High School. Although field trips have been postponed, there is the possibility of scheduling an event by the end of the school year. Kelly and the Community Outreach Committee have found creative ways to recognize the achievements of senior girls at Moody High School last May and in December, to provide a fun way for YWTeen girls to have a variation of the usual shopping experience to obtain gifts for family members. Dottie played Santa again by shopping for the gifts, and the YWCA staff partnered with us in preparing and distributing the bags to the girls. While our primary project of conducting book sales at Neyland Library has been suspended temporarily until the City allows our team to work on the Book Nook inventory and hold public sales again, Debbie and Kris have successfully conducted online sales. Interest groups have met virtually and have kept members engaged. Keeping our eye on the AAUW mission and the practicality of pursuing it, we have found new ways to do so. Many thanks to all.

Thanks again to Sylvia for planning programs that allowed us to continue to hear excellent speakers and to participate virtually. Then there was the December program when we had both a serious update on the YWTeen program and a really fun time created by Sylvia and Vickie. Whoever thought we could conduct a treasure hunt while everyone stayed home and showed their treasures to each other using the cameras on their computers – but we did it. Some were clever enough to draw a picture of an item they couldn't otherwise produce to show the others. Not only was the fun aspect an outstanding result, but so was the parallel purpose of raising money. Vickie reported just over \$1,200 raised for the raffle. Altogether a great time for all.



President 2020-2021

**Next Branch Meeting  
on  
February 6, 2021  
For more information, see  
the next  
newsletter and  
watch your email.**



## AAUW Community Outreach Committee

from Kelly Gonzalez

Our Holiday Shopping Event for the Y Teens was a bit different this year. The event was held on Sunday, December 13, and we provided wrapped gifts for 25 girls. Catherine Cox and Alice Berecka made the bracelets pictured below, and we gave them to the girls separate from their gifts so they would know this was a special gift for them. Thanks to the Y staffers and branch members who made this event possible.

*Set up and bag stuffing crew from the Y.*



*Y staff visited with the girls as they picked up their bags.*

# Congratulations to Kelly Gonzalez

from Catherine Cox



Congratulations, Kelly, for being nominated to receive a 2021 Y Women in Careers Award. These awards celebrate professional women who are outstanding in their field and who support the YWCA's core mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Following positions in the petroleum industry and with Texas Special Olympics, Kelly turned to the field of banking and steadily rose through the ranks of banking administration to become ValueBank's Chief Operations Officer. Kelly's impressive career is augmented by her work with our branch of AAUW, especially as Finance Officer and as Chair of the Outreach Committee. Most impressive has been Kelly's leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. She has seen to it that important activities, like our scholarship celebration of graduating Miller High School girls and our YTeens holiday gift-wrapping event went forward despite the virus. Thank you, Kelly, for all of your contributions and congratulations on this nomination.

The date for the YWomen in Careers Awards Dinner is Wednesday, March 3, from 6-9:30 at the Solomon Ortiz Center. If you wish to reserve your place at the dinner, go to the YWCA website.



## STEM



**Members:** Be sure to check your emails and the February newsletter for news about upcoming activities of the Interest Groups and Special Committees. As our president said in her opening message, "We look forward to a return to normal, or near normal."



*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

### CHERYL G. SANDERS



Cheryl G. Sanders is currently the Dean of Student Engagement and Retention at Del Mar College. She is responsible for providing administrative support for student success through student engagement and support services. The departments she oversees encourage and complement student learning by providing quality services and programs that enrich students' growth. Cheryl received both her Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology and her Master of Science degree in Counselor Education with an Emphasis in Higher Education Student Development from Mississippi State University. She has over 22 years of progressively responsible experience and leadership working in post-secondary education.

When she is not helping students, staff and faculty at Del Mar, she enjoys being in the community doing whatever is needed to provide opportunities for others to grow and succeed. She has been involved in several local organizations as a volunteer and board member: the Junior League of Corpus Christi, the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education Corpus Christi and Dress for Success Corpus Christi.

Cheryl is very passionate about being involved with organizations that empower women and at the same time strengthen the community of Corpus Christi. She is excited to be spearheading the project to found an AAUW student organization at Del Mar College. Cheryl is a Corpus Christi transplant, originally from Mississippi. She has resided here since 2011, and proudly and quickly made Corpus her home. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and being outdoors. Cheryl is happily married to Deputy Chief Anthony Sanders of the Corpus Christi Police Department.



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