



empowering women since 1881



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



February Edition 2021

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Events keep us busy and engaged despite COVID restrictions. Two major events – a change of leadership in Washington occurred on January 20 and Audrey Jones' 100th birthday celebration on February 1. The latter may garner less national press coverage but is very significant to us. Please see the article about Audrey elsewhere in this newsletter.

The board of directors met on January 16, and I am happy to report that committees and interest groups are busily planning and pursuing their missions. Despite inability to conduct our traditional book sales at Neyland Library, Debbie Wilkins and Kris Conlan keep our book sales on ebay quite active to generate revenue for the Branch and enhancing contact with informed readers. Thus, Branch finances continue to remain strong.

Sylvia Rendon explained the need for a change in speaker for our February meeting. February is when the Branch awards the Sue Stanford Scholarship of \$1,500 to a Texan A&M student. Generally the prior year's scholarship winner is scheduled to present a program at the February meeting to inform the members of her research and plans. However, the 2020 winner is not available and Sylvia has scheduled a substitute speaker for next month. The board discussed the timing problem of expecting a scholarship winner in February 2021 of being available to present a program in February 2022; i.e. during the year after receiving a scholarship, the winner may complete her studies, take a job in another location, or for many other reasons be unable to commit to make a presentation a year in advance. It was decided to ask the scholarship winner to inform us in writing of her research findings or other accomplishments rather than commit to a future program.

Catherine Cox reported on new members joining AAUW. Even during these months of having virtual rather than in-person meetings, Catherine has been successful in keeping our membership growing and enthusiastic. Thank you Catherine and welcome all new members!



President 2020-2021

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



AUDREY BEYER JONES – CENTURY MILESTONE by Shirley Selz



November 4, 2017
Receiving her Quilt of Valor

February 1, 1921 – who could have predicted that Audrey Beyer, born in Madison, Wisconsin, would celebrate her **100th birthday** in Corpus Christi, with well wishes from countless friends and family. Her AAUW family enthusiastically joins in a rousing **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**, and reflects on her journey that mirrors AAUW's mission.

When Audrey graduated from Milwaukee-Downer College in 1941, STEM had not entered the language as an acronym, but she could have been the poster girl for STEM, having majored in Foods and Nutrition and Chemistry. While jobs for young women at that time were mostly limited to secretarial, nursing, and teaching, Audrey headed to Christmas Island off the coast of Maine to work for the summer with her chemistry professor, followed an internship at Colorado General Hospital in Denver. Then she was off to New Orleans to work at Charity Hospital, while living in the French Quarter with its restaurants, beignets, and exciting life.

Fun times gave way to serious duty as World War II raged. The army needed hospital dietitians and Audrey rose to the occasion by enlisting. She reported to the 12th

Evacuation Hospital in England which, at the time, had been located in Wales but had been moved to southern England where it operated as a 750 bed tent hospital ready for D-Day. On June 5, 1944, an armada of planes began flying over her location, continuing for hours as the invasion of June 6 was beginning. Audrey crossed the channel on July 31 where her group anchored at Utah Beach, one of the prime invasion locations by that time liberated from the Nazi Army. Imagine riding inland in trucks where they were cheered by the liberated French, and then following the Third Army, sometimes taking over a hospital or barracks or tents in cities in France, Luxembourg, and Germany. Morale was surely boosted by visits from Generals Eisenhower and Patton, and also by Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. The war finally ended in May, 1945, and Audrey completed her Army career on December 28, 1945. The term "Greatest Generation" had not yet been coined by Tom Brokaw, but Audrey is surely one of the greatest of those who lived through the great depression, served in World War II, established careers and families while incorporating the work ethic, frugality, sacrifice, and honor forged through dedication and experiences.

The G.I. Bill supported Audrey's further education as she returned to Wisconsin and earned a B.A. with a major in English. Later, she earned a teaching certificate at the University of Corpus Christi (prior to its becoming A&M Corpus Christi). Between those educational endeavors, she worked at the V.A. Hospital in Wood, Wisconsin; as Chief Dietitian at Kuakini Hospital in Honolulu; married Frank Jones; and moved to Corpus Christi. She became mother to three sons and cherishes her extended family. Her travels include Europe, China, Australia, and New Zealand.

Audrey is also a cherished member of her AAUW family. In recent years she served as Friendship Chairman and volunteered for years with Book Finders. We especially recognize her service to the Branch as President in 1994-96. Audrey is a role model whose experiences should be shared not only with our members, but also with others the Branch reaches through its Community Outreach and STEM projects and its interest groups. In particular, the YWTeens, Miller High School Girls, and West Oso Junior High School STEM students can learn so much and become motivated by our beloved Audrey's intellectual excellence, scientific and administrative achievements, dedicated service, good humor, family love, and great friendship. Audrey – you are a real treasure and we are privileged to know you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



AUDREY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DETAILS

Audrey's 100th birthday recognition has been shared with the public by a very nice article published by the Caller Times on January 27.* Other media have been notified and TV cameramen and a Caller-Times photographer will be present at the event on Monday. Birthday cards should be sent in time for her to receive them by February 1 – we hope they will number 100 or more!

Please plan to join our COVID-safe drive-by parade to wish Audrey a Happy Birthday as mentioned in the newspaper article and as detailed in an email sent to members last week. As a reminder: Gather on Monday, February 1, no later than 4:15 p.m. in the parking lot of Southside Community Church, 3346 Airline Road (entrance faces Brooke Road perpendicular to Airline). Signs, balloons, American flags, etc. are welcome car decorations. Upon notification by The Viera Senior Living (expected to be at 4:30), we will drive from the church to The Viera, enter at the south driveway and circle around the complex where Audrey will be waiting at the side door on the north side. Let's help Audrey celebrate her 100th birthday in a special festive way with her AAUW friends as well as with her family and others.

*Read here for article about Audrey:

https://callertimes-tx.newsmemory.com?publink=34c5f31dd_1345bf3



Irene O'Connor is smiling behind her mask because she just got her first dose of COVID vaccine!!

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



JENA DUNN

Dr. Jena Dunn has served in various roles at Stark College & Seminary in Corpus Christi, TX for 12 years. She is currently the Provost and oversees faculty and curriculum at the college. She received her Master of Divinity from Logsdon Seminary in 2011 and her Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Texas A&M University - Commerce in 2018. Throughout her career, Dr. Dunn has shown a dedication to student services, curriculum, faculty development, and creating the best possible student and faculty experience in Christian higher education. She has been married to her husband,

LCDR Tyler Dunn, US Navy, for 9 years and they have a nine year old Great Dane, Amy Farrah Fowler.



Interest Group News

CLASSICS 2021

from Annie Huckabee

Nothing for February, but Classics is back in March with a 2 for 1 special at Katz 21. We will be discussing *A Room with a View* on Wednesday, March 3. On Wednesday, March 31, we tackle Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, a wonderful complimentary piece to last year's *Orlando*.

Remember that you must wear a mask when entering the restaurant and any time you leave the table.

Won't it be great to be back!

WINE & CHEESE

from Janet Blanke

AAUW Wine & Cheese will meet on Sunday, Feb 14 at 5pm with some good wine and good fellowship focused on the season of Love. If you would like to join us and are not currently a member of wine and cheese, please contact Janet Blanke.



AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

February 6, 2021

from Sylvia Rendon



Fellow Pandemic Shut-Ins, are you up to here with being isolated?!! Have you been vegging on the couch watching *The Crown* while enjoying your favorite adult beverage and cheese puffs? Well, stop that and come join us for a practical and fun look at **Wellness for Women During the Pandemic & Forever After**. Our February speaker, Luby Garza Abijaoude, will offer us tips for a nutritious diet and lifestyle that will keep us healthy now and later. Luby was a high school home economics teacher before she earned her Masters in Nutrition from Texas Tech. Most recently she has worked as Diabetes Nutrition Consultant with the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin. Her passion has always been in providing training and speaking to different audiences.

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.
- Please **MUTE** during all presentations. 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

Special Committee News

Book Finders

from Betty Maroney

I talked with Michelle and there's no hope getting back in the library for Book Finders for a few more months. I hope everybody will be ready to go to work as soon as they let us in. Kris Conlan and Debbie Wilkins have done a good job selling books over the internet. I will have a full report on the amount we have earned for the next newsletter. Thank you ladies for working so diligently to earn us some money for the chapter projects.



from Kris Conlan

The AAUW Bookfinders group has qualified for Top Rated Seller status on eBay by consistently meeting US seller performance standards. On average, we sell several books per week, producing about \$400 per month in income for our branch. Deborah Wilkins has worked diligently to maintain the online site, updating it on a regular basis. She also packages and mails out the purchased books, assisted frequently by Kristin Conlan. Both are looking forward to the time when the Book Finders can once again meet at the library on Tuesdays and get ready for our next public, in-person book sale.

AAUW STEM

from Janet Blanke

AAUW STEM Committee is providing judges for the West Oso Jr High School Science Fair. Judging will be held "virtually" this year and will be on Friday, January 29.

January 2021

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"	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
"	31						

A red arrow points from the bottom right towards the date 29 in the calendar grid.

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