



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



MARCH is . . .

Women's
History Month

March Edition 2021

President's Message-Shirley Selz



Does March really come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Maybe sometimes, but this year the lion came early bringing freezing temperatures, power outages, and low water pressure. I hope everyone was able to keep warm and get through the cold spell with minimal difficulty. Spring is on the way!

The weather lion was peacefully in her den on February 1 when we celebrated Audrey Jones's 100th birthday on a warm sunny day. Many members participated in the festive drive-by, along with other friends, as we wished Audrey Happy Birthday at The Viera Senior Living. The COVID restrictions did not diminish the excitement and fun for Audrey, her family, and all the participants. The news traveled well beyond Corpus Christi through interviews, news articles, and TV coverage. See our website, corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net, where Vickie Natale reported the details along with pictures and links to various media articles in Corpus Christi, North Carolina, and Florida. AAUW Texas also featured an article about Audrey in its February newsletter. Many thanks to the Branch members who sent birthday cards to Audrey and who planned the event; to Todd Hunter who procured a House of Representatives Resolution and Texas flag for Audrey; to the Nueces County Veterans Service for its Certificate of Recognition and gift; and to Paulette Guajardo who signed a City Proclamation declaring February 1 as "Audrey Jones 100th Birthday Celebration Day."

Also regarding AAUW Texas, Catherine Cox participated in a state membership meeting and Sylvia Rendon's article about Branch programs 2020-2021 was published in the February state newsletter. Be assured that our Branch is recognized at the state level for our programs, recruitment and retention of members, community projects, and interest groups. One of the new exciting developments is the forming of an AAUW student group at Del Mar College. More about that initiative as the group becomes established. Thanks to everyone who keeps our Branch mission oriented and active!

Scholarships directly promote AAUW's mission of advancing gender equality through research, education, and advocacy. The ability to fund scholarships is due to the years of diligent work of volunteers with the Book Finders' Committee. Our current budget provides for \$2,500 in direct scholarships. In addition to annual fundraising revenue, the Branch has invested past Book Finders' profits in a certificate of deposit. Other than seed money for the STEM Committee, the money in the CD has not been withdrawn for other projects. The Board determined the money in the CD that was raised for AAUW special projects should be put to work to further its mission. **Please review carefully the article in this newsletter entitled "Mission Targeted New Project Proposal."** The Board is excited about the possibility for two additional scholarships and will submit the proposal to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting on April 3.

Officers for 2021-23 will be elected at the annual meeting on April 3. Please see the report of the Nominating Committee in this newsletter.

The March 6 meeting will again be virtual using zoom. Please plan to attend. Of course we look forward to meeting in-person as soon as it is safe to do so. Now that the COVID vaccine is becoming more available, reliance on zoom will expire while we are grateful to the virtual system to keep in touch in the meantime.

MISSION TARGETED NEW PROJECT PROPOSAL

This Branch has a long history of inspiring learning through reading and has achieved this goal through the Book Finders Committee which raises money for the Branch and its projects through book sales. From the first book sale in 1960 to the quarterly Book Nook sales at Neyland Library to the current online sales, the Branch and our community have benefitted greatly. Many thanks to the Branch members who volunteer countless hours sorting and categorizing donated books, along with the myriad tasks of operating a thriving book sale enterprise.

Current annual profits from book sales fund our scholarship grants consisting of the Sue Stanford Scholarship of \$1,500 awarded to a Texas A & M Corpus Christi history student and two \$500 scholarships awarded to Del Mar College students.

Educational costs have risen greatly in recent years. Although annual book sale revenue does not provide extra funds to increase scholarship awards, the Branch has the ability to do so through wise application of unspent past book sale profits. These funds have been preserved by investment in a certificate of deposit now worth nearly \$22,300. The entire CD has been renewed each maturity date except in 2019 when \$2,000 was retained to fund the newly established STEM Committee.

The Board has considered other methods to use the preserved funds for a special project that advances AAUW's mission, that will align with Branch history and commitment to education, that will honor the dedication of Book Finders' volunteers, and that will have stability for continuing in future years. At its meeting on February 13, the Board voted to propose to the membership a special project that meets all these criteria. Upon approval of the membership, the Finance Officer will not renew the CD when it matures on August 29, 2021, and the funds will be used as described in the proposal outlined as follows:

Proposal:

Endow one scholarship for an award to a student at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

Endow one scholarship for an award to a student at Del Mar College.

The minimum requirement to establish an endowment fund is \$10,000. Each fund will be established with \$10,000 from the funds now held in the certificate of deposit.

Each fund will be professionally managed by the respective fund manager. Such managers have fiduciary duties.

A Branch committee will develop eligibility criteria for scholarship applicants and recommend the annual amount to be awarded for each scholarship. The Branch will not have the authority to select the recipients, but its control is exercised through creating eligibility criteria as approved by the Branch. The endowment fund scholarship officials will select award recipients from applicants who meet the Branch-determined eligibility criteria.

Issue: May the criteria include a requirement that the scholarships are restricted to women students? Educational institutions must comply with anti-discrimination laws.

News from the AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Board of Directors

--New Project Proposal continued

Currently, we cannot specify only women recipients of our two Del Mar College scholarships. However, because an AAUW student group at Del Mar is being organized, when that group is in operation, we may be able to restrict scholarships to members of that group. The group must be open to male students to join but, in all probability, membership is likely to include mostly women students which will greatly increase the likelihood that our Del Mar scholarships will be awarded to women.

There are two foundations in which we can establish an endowment for A&M CC students, one of which is separate from the university. We understand we can specify that only women are eligible for an award from the separate foundation. We will obtain more information to confirm the extent of our authority to restrict eligibility to women applicants.

The earnings on the invested funds, but not the principal, will be available for distribution as scholarships. This will preserve the principal so that it may continue to produce earnings for future scholarships. It is anticipated that it will take at least a year or two of investment before earnings in each fund are sufficient to support distribution as scholarships.

The principal can be increased at any time by donations from the Branch, from individuals, and/or groups. Donations are tax deductible.

The amount of each scholarship can be changed later by the Branch if the funds' earnings and/or donations differ significantly from expectations.

The Finance Officer will work with the applicable officials at Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Del Mar College to meet the relevant requirements for establishing the endowed funds.

The Finance Officer will obtain periodic reports and will inform Branch members of the activity in each fund – earnings, expenses, and award recipients.

Summary:

Putting the past profits from book sales to work to create earnings to support two annual scholarships advances the goals of AAUW, the specific emphasis of the Branch on supporting education, harnesses the expertise of professional fund managers, and ensures preservation of the principal into perpetuity.

Important: The two new proposed endowed scholarships are in addition to our current scholarships. Instead of three annual scholarships, the Branch would be supporting five – three from current budgeted earnings and two from endowment fund earnings: (a) Sue Stanford scholarship for an A&M CC student at \$1,500; (b) two Del Mar College scholarships at \$500 each; (c) one A&M CC scholarship from endowment fund earnings, and (d) one Del Mar College scholarship from endowment fund earnings.

The Board enthusiastically supports this proposal. Please consider it carefully and provide your comments to any board member. The proposal will be on the agenda at the annual meeting on April 3.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

March 6, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

from Sylvia Rendon



Join us for our March virtual meeting featuring the South Texas USO. Since 1941 the United Service Organizations/ USO has served active-duty military men and women and their families. Sarah Banta, Executive Director of South Texas USO, will share the mission and programs of this nonprofit-charitable organization.

Board Nominees for 2021-2023 Announced

The Board Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following nominees for the three open Board of Directors positions:

Vice-President Programs **Mary Sherwood**

Vice-President Membership **Brenda Harris**

Finance Officer **Vickie Natale**

This slate will be presented to the membership at the March 6, 2021 meeting.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Leadership - 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Elected

President - Shirley Selz
Vice-President Programs - Sylvia Rendon
Vice-President Funds - Dottie Ewing
Vice-President Membership - Catherine Cox
Finance Officer - Vickie Natale
Secretary - Susan Birchfield

Appointed

Parliamentarian - Diana Cardenas
Book Finders - Betty Maroney
Community Outreach - Kelly Gonzalez
STEM - Janet Blanke

BOOK FINDERS:

Please let me know if anyone needs assistance during this very trying time. We will get through this if we can help each other.

Still no word when we can go to work at the Library. I will let you know when I know something.

Betty Maromey

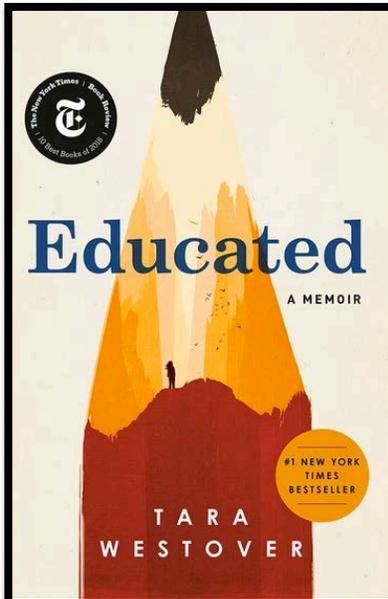
Interest Group News

CLASSICS - 2021



Meets at Katz 21 Steak and Spirits on the last Wednesday of the month, 6:15 pm. Titles and dates listed in the yearbook.

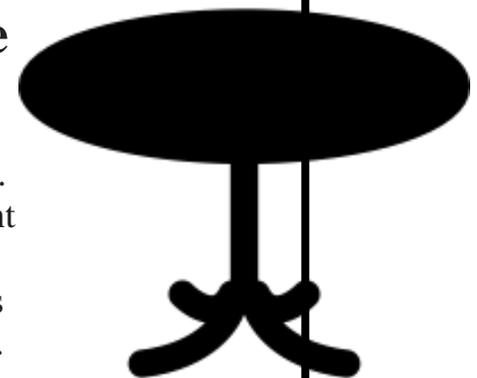
To reserve a seat contact Annie Huckabee.



Readers' Round Table

will meet Monday, March 1, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Vickie Natale will review *Educated* by Tara Westover. The sign-in information will be sent out over the weekend. If you have not been receiving the notifications and would like to attend, email me.

from Dottie Ewing





WRITERS' GROUP

from Alice Berecka

March Writing Prompts

Taken from the Family Tree Website

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/storytelling/writing/family-history-writing-prompts/>

Also, Pinterest is sponsoring a Family History Writing Challenge

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/384213411968124020/>

The prompts for this month are based on a recommendation from Kelly Gonzalez as her father's side of the family is Irish but she seems to remember that fact more during the month of March. HMMM!

-  Did you grow up with any family traditions? What is the history behind that tradition? Do you practice any family traditions today?
-  Write a thank you note to an ancestor. Who are you thanking? What did they contribute that you are thankful for?
-  What is the wackiest or most interesting story you have heard passed down in your family or have discovered in your research?
-  Are there any naming traditions in your family? Write the story of how that tradition has continued or a story of ancestors with that name. Has the tradition continued? How many members of your family currently share that name?
-  Ask a child, grandchild or sibling what one thing they would like to know or learn about their family history. Ask them why they want to know that information.
-  Select a family heirloom (quilt, watch, Bible) and write a narrative from its perspective. Where has it been? How did your ancestor acquire it and what would it have encountered throughout the years? What important family milestones might it have witnessed?
-  Record a memory of one of your ancestors that you want to pass down to future generations. A parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, cousin, etc. Set the scene. How old were you at the time? What happened? Why is this memory a treasure?
-  Imagine a typical day for a female ancestor. What time did she get up and what did she do throughout the day?

AAUW Community Outreach Committee



from Kelly Gonzalez

The next Community Outreach Meeting will be held Monday March 8 at 6:00 via Zoom. Invitations to the meeting will arrive by email soon. The committee is working with Miller High School to finalize a date for the Senior Girls Event. It will be held in May with plans in the works for a drive by event.

Also on our coming soon schedule is the *Peace of Mind Seminar*. We are exploring ways we can host this virtually if we cannot hold in person.

The committee can plan the events, but we need the help of the members to host them. We will be providing information on ways members can get involved.

MARCH IS . . .

Visit
womenshistorymonth.gov
for more information.



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

Website Scavenger Hunt

from Vickie Natale

**IT'S
GAME
TIME!**

Did you know that our AAUW Corpus Christi Branch website is now three years old? My, how time flies! The website includes stories and pictures about our monthly meetings, our scholarship recipients, our community outreach activities, and our STEM activities. General information on our branch history, our leadership, and our governance are also available, as well as a repository of our newsletters for the past six years.



To encourage our members to actively examine the wealth of information that is available on our website, we have developed a scavenger hunt for you to play. Janet Blanke is offering a gorgeous handmade pottery planter complete with succulents to the lucky winner of this contest. (See picture.) So, be sure to submit your entry to win this one-of-a-kind treasure, and even if you don't win, you will have fun learning more about our Branch activities!

How to play: Below are 15 questions for which the answers are readily available on the Branch's website (<https://corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net/>). Send your submission in an email (or regular mail) for as many answers as you can find to Vickie Natale by **March 15**. If there are multiple submissions with the same number of correct answers, a random drawing will be done among those finalists for the winner of Janet's prize. To encourage everyone to play and to increase your odds of winning, Board members have agreed that they are not eligible to win.

1. Name a TV channel outside the Corpus Christi area that ran the story about Audrey Jones's 100th birthday celebration.
2. For those who want to find the AAUW book listings on eBay, what is our seller ID?
3. In 2017, the Branch celebrated its 90th birthday and received a certificate of Honor from which two national representatives?
4. What does it say on the plaque in the Board room of the Corpus Christi Public Libraries, La Retama Central Library?
5. What were the names of the two meteorologists from NOAA who spoke to the West Oso Junior High School STEM class in 2020?
6. What was the name of the education director at the Texas State Aquarium who spoke to the West Oso girls in March 2019?
7. Who were the two female graduate students who gave demonstrations on "Conservation and Restoration" at the *Girls Discover STEM at the Harte Research Institute* in November 2019?
8. Who gave the inspirational speech to the college-bound Moody High School students receiving recognition from the Community Outreach committee of the Branch in 2018?
9. Name one of the two 2015 Sue Stanford Scholarship recipients.
10. Name one of the two 2019 Del Mar College scholarship recipients.
11. In March 2020, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote by joining in a rally and parade. What local official walked beside our group who held the AAUW banner?
12. Who were the two speakers at our November 2020 meeting?
13. Who are the two women in the *Coastal Living* video that aired on November 4, 2020, who talked about small groups gathering in outdoor spaces?
14. What four women are pictured at the 2019 Equal Pay Day Workshop and Luncheon?
15. In what year was AAUW founded?

Have fun, and good luck, ladies!