



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



April Edition 2021

President's Message - Shirley Selz



As many of us have noticed, time speeds up a bit every year. It is already time for the Branch's annual meeting. It is a time to conduct business and to reflect on the efforts of many members to keep the Branch informed, vital, and active. There is much to appreciate as branch committees and interest groups have flourished despite restrictions due to the pandemic. Temporary closure of Neyland Library caused a pause in Book Finders' quarterly Book Nook sales but online sales continued apace. STEM field trips hit a pause, but virtual sessions kept the mission current. Community Outreach sustained no pause in activities but flexed its creativity to alter the format as needed. Let's also remember fondly the collective celebration of Audrey Jones' 100th birthday; our former Branch president, member since 1970, and World War II veteran.

Our bylaws provide that the annual meeting is to conduct business such as electing officers, hearing officers' reports, and setting dues, and may include a speaker or other program. Of those four subjects, we will entertain three of them – elect officers, hear reports, and be treated to an excellent program. We need not address dues because there is no proposal to change local dues. The total amount of dues will change slightly, however, because AAUW raised national dues.

As Vice President for Programs, Sylvia Rendon has treated us to outstanding programs each month. April is no exception. We look forward to hearing from Andrea Morrison who will join in the zoom meeting from her location in Houston. Virtual meetings have the benefit of bringing out-of-town speakers right into our home electronic device screens.

The election process began with appointing a Nominating Committee last January. Sylvia and her committee proposed a slate of officers as announced in the March Newsletter (as corrected in the emailed edition) and announced at the March meeting. Methods of voting were expanded under the bylaws adopted in 2020, and as further summarized in a reminder sent to all members on March 25. At the April 3 meeting, election will be held for Vice President Programs, Vice President Membership, and Finance Officer for the 2021-2023 term. Be sure to vote!

Another important vote will be taken. The Board's proposal to establish two additional scholarships: (1) an endowed scholarship fund for a Del Mar College student, and (2) an endowed scholarship for a Texas A&M Corpus Christi student will be voted upon. The proposal was described at length in the March newsletter, was discussed at the March membership meeting, and is also addressed in the reminder sent to members on March 25.

It is not too soon to look ahead to September when, we hope, we can safely resume in-person meetings. This has been a year of learning to cope, altering procedures, and continuing to advance our mission. Time to celebrate!

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

April 3, 2021 - 10:30 a.m. from Sylvia Rendon



Speaker: Andrea Morrison

Topic: "Staying the Course: Women and Technology"

Andrea grew up in Riverside, CA and attended the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, one of only 13 women in the class. She graduated from Kings Point in 2010 with a BS in Maritime Operations and Technology and an Unlimited 3rd Mate License. She then went on to sail on American flagged oil tankers, working her way up to Captain. In July of 2017, Andrea started training with the Aransas-Corpus Christi Pilots Association. After training with the pilots for 2 years, she moved on to work for a major oil company in Houston, where she assists in incident investigations and maritime safety programs.

Important Agenda Items

Election of Officers: Vice President Programs, Vice President Membership, and Finance Officer for the 2021-2023 term. See March 25 email for more information.

The Board's proposal to establish two additional scholarships: (1) an endowed scholarship fund for a Del Mar College student, and (2) an endowed scholarship for a Texas A&M Corpus Christi will be voted on. See the March newsletter and March 25 email for more information.

We have learned that member Karen Pratt passed away a few months ago. Karen held a master's degree in speech pathology, and was a member of our branch since 2004. If you would like to make a donation to AAUW Funds in Karen's memory, please mail it to me, payable to AAUW Funds. I will forward it to National and will notify her husband of the donation.

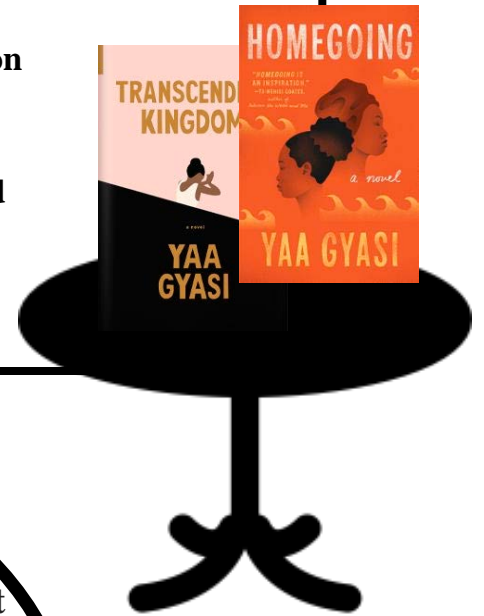
Dottie Ewing, VP, AAUW Funds



Interest Group News

Readers' Round Table will meet by Zoom on Monday, April 5, at 7 p.m. Alice Berecka will review two books by Yaa Gyasi: *Transcendent Kingdom* and *Homegoing*. Sign-in information will be sent the weekend before the meeting. If you have not been receiving notifications and would like to attend, please email me.

from Dottie Ewing



CLASSICS – 2021

Meets at Katz 21 Steak and Spirits on the last Wednesday of the month, 6:15 pm.

For April meeting, Deenie leads *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin.

To reserve a seat contact Annie Huckabee.



Special Committee News

from Kelly Gonzalez

AAUW Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee will meet Monday, April 12 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The committee is getting ready for the Miller High School Senior Girls Project in May. Additional details to be sent once the date and time are confirmed.

The Committee has decided to move the *Peace of Mind* seminar to a date later in the year. It is our hope that if it is scheduled in the fall we will be able to hold the meeting in person.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBER Nancy Wesson-Dodd



The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Coastal Bend Branch has awarded AAUW Corpus Christi Branch member Nancy Wesson-Dodd with the 2021 Lifetime Achievement award. She is in the “pool” of nominees at the state NASW level.

Nancy Wesson-Dodd, Licensed Clinical Social Work and President/CEO of the YWCA Corpus Christi, has over 40 years of professional social work experience from direct social work practice to administration of intervention and prevention programs with proven ability to empower others by creating quality programs, cost-efficient administration, and dedicated personnel.

Nancy has humbly helped the community and has served with several memberships. Nancy received Public Citizen of the year with Coastal Bend Social Work Society in 2007. She was inducted as honorary member to Phi Alpha Honor Society-Lambda Chapter in 2016. Since 2014, she has been on the TAMU-K Social Work Program Community Advisory Committee. She has been a member of Executive Women International since 1998 and was president in 2003. She has been a board member and secretary since 1999 for the Estill foundation.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch congratulates Nancy on her latest achievement, and we wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Website Scavenger Hunt

from Vickie Natale

AND THE WINNER IS...

We thank the members who participated in the website scavenger hunt. We hope that you had fun with the game. Because there was more than one entry with all correct answers, the winner was selected by a random drawing among those entries. Our prize winner is... **LESSIE HOFFMAN!** Lessie, who has been a member of AAUW for 37 years, commented that she did not realize how much information we had on the website until she played the game. We encourage all members to frequently visit the website to see the latest news and to access archived material. Congratulations to Lessie, and a **BIG** thank you to Janet Blanke for her donation of the prize.



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

CARIE ROACH



Carie is an accomplished leader and insurance expert with 30 years of experience in the independent insurance agency realm. Over the years, she has served in many leadership roles, including President/CEO of a large independent insurance agency in south Texas. She recently completed her MBA and owns her own consulting business, leading insurance agencies to improve agency culture and processes to raise the standard of their operations boosting productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness. She is also an adjunct professor at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and is an active member of SHRM, XPerHR, the National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research and the American Institutes among others.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

AAUW Membership renewal began

March 16th

This year national membership increased to \$62.00. Texas state membership of \$13.00 has not changed. Remember to use the "Shape the Future" discount for new members. Information is on the national website.

Membership renewal for 2021-22 has opened. Remember that national dues have increased to \$62. State and local dues have stayed the same at \$13 and \$12, respectively, which makes the total dues \$87 for the coming year. You can mail a check (payable to AAUW Corpus Christi) to Vickie Natale, Branch Finance Officer. Or, you can wait for the national invoice email that will provide a secured link that you can use for payment by credit card. Donations to the Branch or to the national organization can be included with your \$87 dues; just be sure to indicate whether your donation is meant for the Branch or for the national organization. Also, if you know anyone to recruit for new membership, AAUW is offering half-price on national dues for new members, which means that a new recruit will pay only \$56 for the first year of membership. Spread the word!