



President's Message - Shirley Selz

May Edition 2021

A year ago we never imagined that our new, but temporary, method of meeting by zoom would apply to membership meetings for more than just a month or two. But the months went by, the pandemic raged, and we became proficient (or at least reasonably competent) at meetings using our electronic devices. At this point, we hope we can resume in-person meetings in September with our more traditional New Member Welcome gathering and can begin the 2021-22 year enjoying fun and fellowship with current and new members.

As the last membership meeting of the fiscal year, the May meeting usually features installation of officers, a special lunch, and plenty of time to socialize. This year our zoom meeting will feature installation of officers, a special lunch (i.e., whatever special you create at home or order elsewhere), and a special program. Officers to be installed for two-year terms beginning July 1 are: Program Vice President Mary Sherwood, Membership Vice President Brenda Harris, and Finance Officer Vickie Natale. To inspire us to think outside the box, or perhaps outside the COVID restricted box, Sylvia Rendon has arranged for a program to expand our horizons. Our speaker to complete the year's programs will be our own member Sylvia Whitworth. Sylvia will share some of her experiences as a world traveler. No need to bring your sunglasses and passport but be sure to bring your imagination and visualization to virtually share Sylvia's exciting and exotic experiences.

Our very important and practical goal of supporting education took a giant step forward in April with the members' approval of using the funds preserved in the certificate of deposit to establish one endowed scholarship for a Del Mar College student and one endowed scholarship for a Texas A&M Corpus Christi student. When the CD matures in August and after the details of creating the endowed funds are completed and the funds generate revenue from investments, two more students will benefit directly from the hard work of Book Finders whose volunteer work over the years produced profits which will be put to work to pay these new scholarships.

In addition to the two new endowed scholarship, the Sue Stanford Scholarship for an A&M student and two scholarships for Del Mar College students will continue to be funded from revenue created from current book sales and other current fundraising. The Del Mar College Foundation Direct Scholarship agreement is being updated. Although we cannot control the selection process, we can state our preference to guide the Foundation's committee. With the establishment of the AAUW student group at the college, we have stated a preference for selecting a member of the Del Mar College student organization of AAUW. Members of the student group have been encouraged to apply for the scholarships and their applications will be considered for the upcoming selection cycle.

Please join us for the last meeting of this fiscal year on May 1. Remember when May Day celebrated the arrival of spring and even featured special dances? Let's celebrate on May 1 and anyone who desires to dance, please feel free to do so!

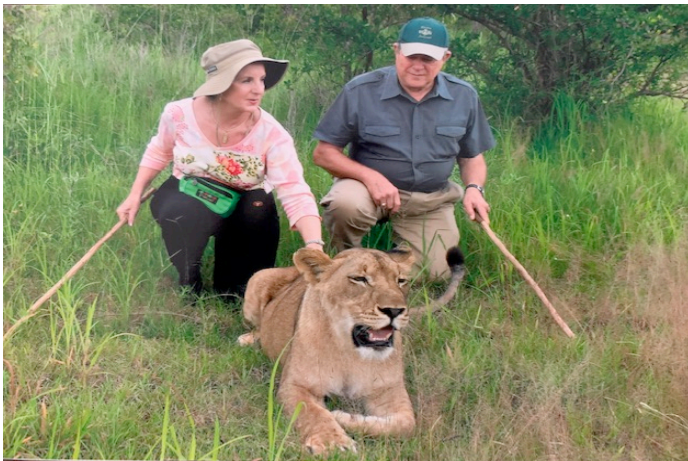


AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

May 1, 2021 - 10:30 a.m. from Sylvia Rendon

Spring is here, and it is time to travel to new places, and aren't we all ready to go *somewhere*! Sylvia Whitworth, a sister AAUW member, will be our guide on a journey to exotic, far away locales. Those of you who have visited her FaceBook page already know that she is a veteran traveller who, with her family, has visited over 100 countries. Sylvia will take us along on a virtual tour of several countries she has visited.

Sylvia grew up in Corpus Christi, went to Fisher, Hamlin and Ray, and then went to Austin to UT to get a BA in Microbiology where she met Jim. After moves to Tulsa, Houston and Los Angeles, they spent 28 years in Laredo where they raised their daughter and son. They traveled extensively in Mexico for years and after the kids finished UT, they started traveling farther away. She got her travel bug from her mother, Florence Beatty, who was President of the Corpus Christi AAUW 1973-1975 and was an Honored Member in 1978. Jim is a CPA, and Sylvia has worked for him for almost 40 years. They have been to over 100 countries, enjoy scuba diving and sailing, museums, historical sites and classical music.



2020 Del Mar College Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to **Mackenzie Ortiz** and **Cassandra Reyna** who were selected to receive the AAUW scholarships awarded by our Branch to students enrolled in Del Mar College for the 2020-21 academic year. Mackenzie, who aspires to a career as lab technician, and Cassandra, whose goal is to complete a nursing degree, expressed their gratitude for the financial help needed to complete their programs. For more information, see the branch website. In past years, Branch representatives have attended a reception honoring the scholarship winners and have had the pleasure of meeting them, but the reception was not held this year due to COVID protocols. We hope a reception will be held for the 2021-22 recipients. These scholarships at \$500 each have been awarded from annual Branch revenue and are separate from future awards from an endowment fund to be created from a part of Book Finders profits currently held in the certificate of deposit.



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



SHELLY GARCIA

I am a Corpus Christi native and have 6 beautiful children of my own body. I am a graduate of Incarnate Word Academy, Loyola University-New Orleans, Webster University via Regent's College in London, England, and the University of Tulsa School of Law. I played piano as a child and through my teen years and I enjoy baking a mean whipping cream pound cake.

I find much peace and solace in the outdoors and enjoy tent camping since I am able to hear the frogs and the wind. I enjoy reading, and although audible is a great resource, the joy of a good book and the smell of manuscript paper on a hardback is the best way to spend a Saturday afternoon. (Sunday afternoon is a nap day!) I love a good spaghetti dinner and dark chocolate with a cabernet sauvignon is pretty darn good. Did I mention the beach? I love to swim. I wish I was a good surfer, but I am not, but I do try all the same. And why not? Corpus Christi has so much water; it sure beats the Dallas North Tollway on a sunny day. I love going to the movies, and popcorn is my favorite snace - so it goes hand in hand. I have earned my profession by being a real estate agent, and I decide to jump in on that during COVID-19-21 since I ws not able to go to the movies and enjoy making money. Why? Money follows job, if you share it!

LAURA MONAHAN

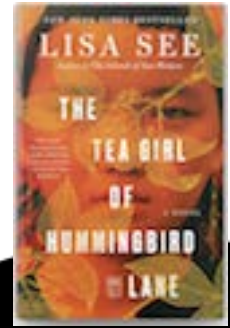
Laura Monahan, OFS, DNP, MBA, RN is presently working at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi as the Interim Department Chair of the Women, Children, & Baby Health Science Department and an Assistant Professor. Previously she taught at Elmhurst College, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Rockford University. She and her husband, James Davis, have two daughters, four grandchildren, and have been happily married for thirty years. Presently her husband lives in their home in Illinois, she lives in their condo in Corpus Christi, Texas, and together they enjoy time at their vacation home in the Galena Territory.

After working as a construction welder, Dr. Monahan decided to pursue her Bachelor degree at Lewis University and her Masters of Business Administration degree at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. She then worked at one of the largest electrical utilities in the U.S. as a Long-Term Power Broker. Fortunate to be able to retire at age 36, Laura became bored. She started her own mural business, and painted murals all over the United States. She decided to become a nurse after her husband's cancer scare, obtained her second master's degree and a doctorate degree in nursing. She worked as a nurse educator at Mount Sinai Hospital in Chicago with the Mother/Baby, Emergency, Medical/Surgical, Intensive Care, and Psychiatric Units, managed the new employee orientations, and set up the clinical rotations at the hospital with the ten nursing schools (approximately 600 students each year) in the area. Dr. Monahan is happy to be in Texas and to be a member of AAUW.



Readers' Round Table will meet by Zoom on Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m. Kristin Conlan will review *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. Some of you may have heard Lisa See speak to the Corpus Christi Literary Reading Series group in 2019 and will remember what a talented author she is. Information to connect to the meeting will be sent out over the weekend prior. Hope to see you in May.

from Dottie Ewing



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.



from Leslie Peart

Poetry Appreciation is returning to the

Glass Pavilion on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.!

Please bring selections by poets you would like to nominate for the coming months. As our first in-person

meeting in over a year, this will be a very special evening. Never been to Poetry Appreciation? You don't know what you're missing! Please RSVP by Monday, May 10 to Leslie.

Interest Group News



from Agnes Hamilton

The Gardening Divas have been meeting in person following Covid protocol - masks, gloves, six feet distancing and out door meetings.

We have enjoyed knowledgeable speakers from Master Gardeners, Bay Area Garden Guild and AAUW members. Our knowledgeable speakers have addressed such topics as Succulents, Orchids, pottery, Yard Wildlife Habitat, bulbs (Amaryllis), Spring Gardens (Herbs), Monarch Butterflies and Tillandsias. Our next speaker on May 19th will be Gaynell Torgerson, President of the Rose Society, to talk and show and tell about roses.

If you are interested in Gardening Divas or Roses please attend our meeting at Joanie's home at 3pm on May 19th. Please RSVP to Joanie (she is in the AAUW Handbook) and we will have a chair for you.

Our group has enjoyed our meetings at Joanie Whitmire's large and beautiful protected patio that accommodates social distancing. THANK YOU Joanie!

Birding Group Report

from Debby Wilkins and Kristin Conlan

Migration is in full swing in our area and I encourage everyone to get their oranges, grapes, and hummingbird feeders out. If you plan to visit our local birding sites please remember to social distance and wear your mask as needed. The Leonabelle Turnbull site in Port Aransas has been very busy with multiple Warblers species, Orioles, Tanangers, Buntings and more! As our Covid19 situation improves, we can look forward to meeting in person soon.



Special Committee News



BOOK FINDERS

from Betty Maroney

The Library is not yet open, but it looks like maybe by September. Of course that is very tentative. Keep that in mind and pencil that month in for our first sale in over a year, if the library opens. We will need lots of help to get ready for a sale. I will keep you informed as we go along.

AAUW Community Outreach Committee

from Kelly Gonzalez

May 14 – Miller High School Senior Celebration (10 – 11:30) Shirley, Diana Cardenas and I will be representing the branch. Diana is the guest speaker!

June – August YW Teen Summer Camps. Please contact Nancy Wesson-Dodd if you are interested in becoming a speaker.

October 23 – Peace of Mind Seminar. More opportunities to help will be coming but we would like to encourage all members to attend and bring a friend. This is a great event and a good way to inform our community on a very important topic.

Looking Good Irene!



Irene O'Connor is in rehab recovering from her fall. When Irene gets out of rehab, she will be going to Austin for the summer.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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!