



empowering women since 1881

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



June/July Edition 2021

President's Message - Shirley Selz

Welcome to summer – the temperature is increasing, the virus is decreasing, and life is approaching normality. The board held its June 12 meeting in-person rather than by zoom. What a pleasure to meet together after such a long delay. Our meeting was at the HEB home on Ocean Drive, now owned by the Ed Rachal Foundation, and available for non-profit organizations to hold meetings and events at no cost. A very lovely venue and gift to the community.

Planning for 2021-22 is well underway. Our new vice presidents – Mary Sherwood for Programs and Brenda Harris for Membership – shared many ideas and plans. Our Finance Officer – Vickie Natale – is not new to the position, having served a two-year term. Her experience is invaluable as she was reelected for a second term. Our multi-tasking Interest Group Coordinator – Debby Wilkins – has committed untold hours to developing our online book sales project, as well as leading the Birding Interest Group, and does not have time to continue as Interest Group Coordinator. Diana Cardenas has been appointed as Coordinator. Thanks to both Debby and Diana.



The online book sales have been critically important to the Branch during this year when traditional sales at Neyland Library could not be held. Many thanks to Debby and to Kris Conlan for their untiring efforts in selecting books to offer online and handling all the details of making it a successful operation. Now that the library is fully open again, traditional sales can be held as well as the online sales. The first quarterly sale was held in June, so please inform your friends that we are open for business once again for regular sales. Betty and her team were geared up and ready for the first sale.

Community Outreach's annual recognition of 20 senior students at Miller High School was a grand success. The girls attentively listened to Diana as she related many personal experiences in her educational journey and inspirational challenges for the next phase as they have all made plans for entering college next year – most in Texas but a few out of state. Media publicity was excellent for the branch and for the girls and their school.

Community Outreach continues to plan for the Peace of Mind seminar currently scheduled for October 23. More information will be available later. Please plan to attend and to invite others.

But our more immediate event for inviting others is the September New Member Reception on for Sunday, the 12th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the YWCA. Thanks to Dottie and to Nancy Wesson-Dodd, the large conference room on the second floor is booked for our event. Plan to invite friends and acquaintances so they can learn about the mission, projects, and interest groups. We anticipate continuation of informative and challenging programs, as well as important community projects and our variety of interest groups for 2021-22. And don't forget the socializing and fun times also. We welcome new members of course, but have also especially recognized Audrey Jones who was presented with a certificate on June 24 as our Fifty-Year Honorary member.

Be sure to update your information for the yearbook soon. Annie plans to have the yearbooks printed and ready to distribute at the September meeting. By July 15, she should receive all information needed for the yearbook.

We made it through the pandemic and are ready to enthusiastically support AAUW's mission for another banner year!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Our AAUW membership fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 each year. Please be sure to renew your membership for 2021-22. We thank everyone who has already joined for the year. If you have not already done so, please send your check (\$87, payable to AAUW-CC Branch) to Vickie Natale, Finance Officer. Or, if you prefer to use a credit card, use the online link that has been sent to you via the national database system, under the sender ID of memberinfo@aauw.org. If you cannot find that email, contact Vickie, and she will resend another link for you.

In order to be included in the yearbook's Membership Directory, membership renewals must be received no later than July 15, 2021. Be sure to notify Vickie Natale or Brenda Harris, VP of membership, if you have a change in contact information. Yearbooks will be printed in August and distributed at the September meeting.

ZOOM Renewal from AAUW Texas

from Vickie Natale

The AAUW Texas Board voted recently to continue the coverage for Zoom videoconferencing for a second year for all Texas Branches. Although we are very hopeful that in-person meetings and interest group gatherings can fully resume, we are grateful to the AAUW Texas Board for continuing the reimbursement for a Zoom account for our Branch. The option of Zoom meetings will provide flexibility for any interest group or committee that may decide that they need to host a videoconference in place of an in-person meeting, and it also provides the flexibility to offer Zoom attendance at an in-person meeting for members who may not be driving or who live further away from the meeting location.

As an example, AAUW Texas has told us that another Branch has a book group that has decided to alternate in-person meetings with Zoom because they found that some members who are not comfortable driving have enjoyed attending the Zoom meetings. So, to all committees and interest groups, please remember that, for 2021-22, a Zoom meeting can be scheduled in place of an in-person meeting or in addition to the in-person meeting to encourage wider participation.

**Look for our next newsletter September 1, 2021.
--Ann Hamilton, Editor.**

WELCOME New Members

At our September Branch meetings new members have always introduced themselves to our group. During the unusual circumstances of the last year, Catherine Cox, Membership VP, thought of a way to continue this tradition. And as we return to normal times, we shall continue to introduce new members in our newsletters.



JENNIFER BERKICH

Jennifer Berkich is happily married with a "THREE-nager" and another one due mid-July. In her off time, she likes spending time with family, sewing, and reading. She received both her degrees from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi in Business Administration and Public Administration. She decided early on that instead of moving to a big city, to stay in Corpus Christi and help her community become a better place. Thus, she has spent the last 5+ years working in local government in various capacities. It's fascinating to see and be a part of the changes within the City. Last December after a layoff, she decided to pursue something she has always been interested in, grant writing. Currently working on her grant writing certificate, she is also volunteering as a grant writer with the YWCA Corpus Christi and really enjoying it. Her goal is to continue looking for job opportunities in the public sector in either nonprofit work or government with program/project management.

AAUW CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH

September New Member Reception

Sunday, September 12, 2021

3pm to 5pm

YWCA



Audrey Jones honored for 50 years in AAUW



Seated - Janis Wood, Audrey, Betty Maroney; back row - Michelle Balis, Dottie Ewing, Sylvia Jones (Audrey's daughter-in-law), Shirley Selz, and Catherine Cox.

from Dottie Ewing

Readers' Round Table will not meet during the summer months. But look for us in the fall with a new slate of books and reviewers!



CLASSICS – 2021

from Catherine Cox

And they say we didn't go anywhere during the pandemic.

Our Classics readers were eager spectators at jousting tournaments in merry old England (Ivanhoe), jogged the upper and lower towns of Quebec (Shadows on the Rock), and played poker with asylum inmates in northwest Oregon (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest). We experienced quite a metamorphosis in Constantinople (Orlando). We escaped the war in Stresa, fleeing to Switzerland (A Farewell to Arms), and tried to avoid getting high from the secondhand smoke on our way to Mexico City (On the Road). We hid ourselves as best we could on murderous Indian Island (And Then There Were None) and horse raced across sacred Navajo lands (Laughing Boy). On London streets, we donated money to the poor (A Christmas Carol), enjoyed a lovely room with a view in Florence (A Room with a View), frolicked with lovers in the Forest of Arden (As You Like It), and joined an unforgettable religious awakening in Harlem (Go Tell it on the Mountain). Although it proved difficult, we tried not to panic traveling with hippies through the galaxy (The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy). And with so much intimacy expressed by our characters, there was little social distancing.

— **Travel log by Annie Huckabee**

Classics thanks **Irene O'Connor** for her many years chairing our group and **Annie Huckabee** for assisting her. This sparkling duo, with their excellent organizational skills, creativity, and generosity are indeed classics!

If you are interested in joining the Classics interest group, contact its new chair, Catherine Cox.





Poetry Appreciation from Leslie Peart

Think you're not into poetry? Think again!

Join us on July 14 and/or August 11, both Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m. at the Omni's beautiful Glass Pavilion. We'll have dinner (and drinks, of course), read a little poetry, and share a few laughs all with a beautiful view of Corpus Christi Bay. In July we'll share the poems of Joyce Kilmer, and in August, we'll bring favorite quotes from Alexander Pope. Don't have any books of poetry? No problem – you'll find plenty online. RSVPs to Leslie Peart but not necessary. We'd just love to see you!



from Michelle Balis

Playgoers will be going to *Nunsense* at Harbor Playhouse on Friday, July 30.



Evening Contemporary Literature plans are in progress. We'll be letting you know soon!



Wine and Cheese from Janet Blanke

Wine and Cheese is planning an outing for our July meeting! We will meet at 4pm at the Winery on the Bay located at 1007 E North St, Rockport, TX. for a wine tasting. Cost is \$4 for 4 wines. After the wine tasting, we will have dinner at Paradise Key Dockside Bar and Grill which is located at 165 Cove Harbor N, Rockport, TX. Each of us is responsible for the cost of our own dinner.

Everyone is welcome! Feel free to join us for the Wine Tasting, Dinner or both. If you would like to attend, please let Janet Blanke know so we'll have an accurate count for the winery and the restaurant.

AAUW Community Outreach Committee

from Kelly Gonzalez

Community Outreach Committee will not meet in July. We will resume meetings in August on the 9th. I will poll members to see if they prefer Zoom or are ready to meet in person.

Top priority for our committee is the *Peace Of Mind Seminar* in October.

Meeting information will go out late July.



Peace of Mind Seminar: October 23, 2021

**Sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee,
AAUW Corpus Christi**

Date: October 23, 2021 Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: YWCA

Speakers, resource information, refreshments



BOOK FINDERS

from Betty Maroney

Thank you to all the BOOK FINDERS for working so hard to set up and work the June sale. Because the Library is having a/c problems which may not be fixed until Sept., we cannot plan a sale until after it is fixed. In order to do this, they have to take down a wall in the BOOK NOOK. So keep tuned for other news. In the meantime, we can work upstairs on Tuesdays. So please join us.

More Book Sale news in the next newsletter. - Editor

MILLER HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HONORED BY AAUW-CORPUS CHRISTI

“On Friday, May 14, 2021, members of the AAUW Corpus Christi Branch honored 20 Miller High School senior girls for their achievement and drive for excellence, overcoming immense obstacles that 2020 and the pandemic posed for students and teachers. Kelly Gonzalez, chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee, collaborated with Miller High School counselor, Nelda García, to organize a celebration that recognized the girls, who have been accepted by local and state colleges and universities for fall enrollment.” Read the full article by Diana Cardenas at our website corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net



Roy Miller High School & Metro Prep School of Design

#1 Battlin' Buc Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78408
Phone: (361) 878-5100 Fax: (361) 883-1928

Vision: To graduate all students who are responsible, productive, members of society who will positively impact their community.

5/18/2021

Attn: American Association University Women (AAUW)

Re: AAUW Honoring Twenty Miller Seniors

Dear AAUW members,

It is with great gratitude to the American Association University Women to extend such a gracious message to our young ladies at Miller High School. Dr. Diane Cardenas shared her beautiful story, and noted how even with all obstacles that life throws at us, we still persevere, we still move forward, we still gather our strength and pull each other up and continue the journey of our dreams.

Twenty female seniors were so thankful of the gift received. Many of them are using it to pay for University orientation fee, others a graduation dress (perfect- timing was commented). It was an arduous task in searching for these twenty young ladies. There was specific criteria: it began with students who had applied to colleges/ universities, finalized their decision, and received their acceptance letter. The following criteria: academic checks, time management, attendance, connection with teachers and need were all reviewed.

Even though, we live in an electronic capacity of communication, this year has been a tremendous task in connecting with our students and parents, yet we have all prevailed. We can embrace every day in knowing that we have survived 1.5 years of a severe pandemic, and now move into the next phase of our new reality.

Once again, thank you AAUW for your generosity and graciousness. I do hope this continues, I am retiring this year, however, I will leave the beautiful stories as documentation for the new career counselor coming in. The enlightenment our young ladies received will be forever remembered.

With much love and appreciation,

Nelda Garcia

Roy Miller High School

And Metro Prep school of Design

Appreciation Letter
from the Friends of Corpus Christi Public Libraries



May 25, 2021

American Association University Women
c/o Dr. Vickie Natale
Anita and W.T. Neyland Public Library
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Dear AAUW,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000 to the Friends of Corpus Christi Public Libraries for your continued support of the Children's Reading Program. We are slowly re-opening and plan to provide both in-house and virtual services to our patrons.

Thank you also for your gift of \$1,500 to the Anita and W.T. Neyland Public Library for their wish list for programming.

We are very grateful for the help from AAUW and Bookfinders over the years. With your help, we look forward to offering new programs to our community.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogen
Vice President

A Message from Diana Cardenas, Interest Group Coordinator

Hello, Interest Group Chairs –

Shirley Selz invited me to serve as the coordinator for the interest groups. I am delighted to partner with you.

Please review the 2020-2021 Yearbook information found on pages 31-32 and also on each of your interest group's respective pages.

Additions and/or revisions to Interest Group descriptions need to be submitted no later than August 1 to Annie Huckabee.



Board Members All Smiles After a Busy Planning Session on June 12.



Seated (left to right), Betty Maroney (Bookfinders), Shirley Selz (President), and Janet Blanke (STEM).

Standing (left to right), Susan Birchfield (Secretary), Mary Sherwood (VP Programs), Vickie Natale (Finance Officer), Diana Cardenas (Parliamentarian), Brenda Harris (VP Membership), and Dottie Ewing (VP Funds).