



2022
Happy New Year

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

President's Message - Shirley Selz



Have you noticed that time seems to speed up a bit every year? It seems just a short time ago that we welcomed 2021 and now 2022 has arrived already. Despite restrictions for health and safety, our Branch met regularly, interest groups pursued their interests, and committees carried out their missions successfully. It was a great pleasure to finally meet in person for our December meeting. The large meeting room at the YWCA looked festive with holiday decorations supplied by board members, the silent auction featured a wonderful variety of items, and the gift card raffle, along with some fun and games, made for a long-awaited opportunity to enjoy time together. The money raised at the silent auction provided important revenue for the Branch and the gift card raffle provided support for Community Outreach projects. Thanks to all who made the day so fun and productive.

As of the time, we anticipate holding branch meetings in-person for the remainder of this fiscal year. However, please remember that AAUW Texas has paid the subscription cost for holding meetings by zoom, so this option remains available at no cost to the Branch at least through June. Some committee and interest groups may find it convenient to use zoom and, of course, whenever safety concerns arise, membership meetings can be held by zoom. Be sure to check the newsletter and other meeting notices.

Kelly and the Community Outreach Committee staged the annual Christmas shopping event for 50 YWTeens who browsed the tables of gifts from which they could choose five for giving to family members. Thanks to Dottie and Diana who purchased the gifts with funds budgeted for this project and who also volunteered at the shopping event on December 11. This event is more than a just fun time for the girls; it is a first time opportunity for many to be able share gifts with family, and to learn the lessons of selecting appropriate items for the adults, siblings, and even pets on a "budget" of just five items. Very positive feedback confirms that the shopping event is very much anticipated and appreciated by the girls. Indeed, it is also enjoyed by the Branch members who participate. Thanks especially to Kelly for her leadership.

At the December meeting, Janet reported on the STEM Committee's active involvement on December 2 with the West Oso students and others in the impressive educational traveling exhibit called "In Search of Earth's Secrets" at the Museum of Science and History. Thanks to Janet and to Kim Moore for coordinating Branch participation in this exciting project. For more information, check the Branch website. Webmaster Vickie is our much appreciated web guru.

The next membership meeting will be on February 5. In the meantime, the Board will meet for its annual January meeting. This is a great time to contact friends and acquaintances and invite them to our meetings. Please share your ideas with Membership Vice President Sylvia Rendon about prospective members and recruitment suggestions.

Happy New Year!

SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The 2021 YW Teen Holiday Shopping Event was held Saturday, December 11, at the YWCA. The event was successful due to the hard work of several of our branch members. We were able to provide gifts for 50 YW Teen Girls. Each girl received five tickets to redeem for her gifts.

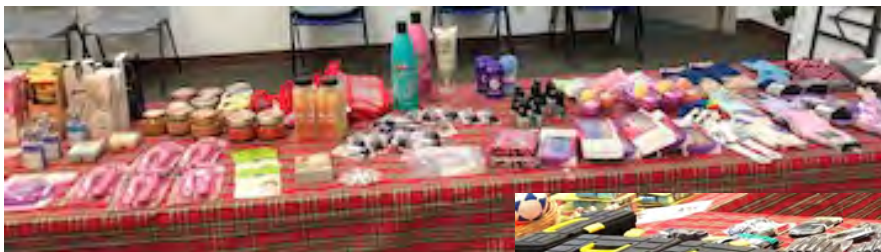
A special thanks and acknowledgement go to the following members:

• **Dottie Ewing and Diana Cardenas** were our Santa Shoppers. (Remember, 50 girls x 5 tickets = 250 gifts to find!) Dottie and Diana also were on hand the day of the event to help the girls shop.

- **Catherine Cox** was the star of the show with her custom bead bracelets made on site for the girls. They were so excited to receive such a personalized gift.
- **Susan Birchfield** was ready to help the girls shop as well as help with the wrapping. Her Santa hat was a hit with everyone.
- **Vickie Natale** purchased and donated over 125 gift bags since we needed to minimize the face time it would take to wrap presents. Vickie also provided chocolate candies for the goody bags.
- **Carrie Roach** made a special trip to Big Lots to purchase and donate more gift-wrapping supplies before she was heading out of town!
- **Shirley Selz** helped organize the gift tables and was on hand to help the girls shop on the day of the event.
- **Deanne Purcell** came to help the girls with shopping and gift wrapping at the event – even after she had already worked a long shift at the AAUW book sale that morning!
- **Nancy Wesson-Dodd** and the YWCA staff helped set up the "store" and the gift-wrapping area, as well as a room for Catherine to make her bracelets.
- **Kelly Gonzalez**, as the Community Outreach Chair, coordinated the entire event and also purchased and donated gift bags and other treats for the goodie bags.

As Kelly Gonzalez stated, "It really takes a team effort to manage an event, and I am extremely grateful for the branch members who helped make this a very special day for these girls."

Nancy Wesson-Dodd also sent us a special thank you for creating a wonderful "Holiday Shopping" time for the YW Teens. Nancy mentioned that selecting and wrapping (or bagging) gifts for family members is so uplifting for these girls, and she said that the girls are still talking about the bracelets made just for them.



SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS: CC STEM

In Search of Earth's Secrets

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, twenty STEM girls from West Oso Junior High School joined volunteers from the American Association of University Women Corpus Christi Branch and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi Noyce Scholars in a training session on the National Science Foundation funded Pop-Up Science Exhibit, *In Search of Earth's Secrets*. This exhibit shares information from the international research vessel, JOIDES, that obtains core samples of the ocean floor. With the training

they received, these students will be docents when the exhibit comes to John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Spring 2022. The girls were able to network and learn with STEM professionals from around Corpus Christi. The group ate lunch at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center, a West Side location of the TAMU-CC, and then went to the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History for their training. Thanks to all of our community partners for making this opportunity possible for West Oso Junior High School students. A special thanks goes to Leslie Peart for her leadership in the training sessions and for bringing this exhibit to Corpus Christi.



See website corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net for original article.

AAUW member Leslie Peart

SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS: BOOKFINDERS

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BOOK SALES

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up for the book sales in November and December and to those who worked the sales. Even with our reduced hours of operation and with many people still not venturing out due to COVID, both the November book sale and the December book sale were successful. Combined, we raised over \$3,200 to use for scholarships and library support. Thank you to Betty Maroney and Kris Conlan for taking the lead and coordinating the sales, and THANK YOU to all our members who volunteered their time to make the sales run smoothly and successfully.



Book Sale

COMING IN APRIL 2022

Thursday, April 7: 10am - 6pm

Friday, April 8: 10am - 5pm

Saturday, April 9: 10am - 1:30pm

**AAUW Book Nook
Neyland Library**

Message from Betty Maroney for all Bookfinders

Bookfinders we will have a short business meeting at my home on Tuesday, Feb 1, at 6pm. We will have a sandwich and a cookie. Please be sure to come. It is important. Please call if you cannot attend. (See AAUW-CC Yearbook for phone number.).

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Readers' Round Table will not meet until further notice. The rise in COVID cases has made many reluctant to meet in person and Zoom is not available for everyone. Therefore we are putting RRT on hold. We regret having to do this but feel it is the best solution for the time being. We hope to be able to resume soon.

From Dottie Ewing



The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Saltgrass Steakhouse, 6729 South Padre Island Drive, on Tuesday, January 18th, at 12:30 pm. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield, ([see yearbook for email or phone number to call.](#))

WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND THE NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE RETURN OF THE AAUW CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 4, 2021



Gift basket winner Mary Sorrells



Gift basket winner Peggy Duran



Shirley Selz showed off a silent auction item.



Janet Blanke, Susan Birchfield, and Peggy Duran



Sylvia Rendon and Lessie Hoffman perused jewelry items made by Catherine Cox.



Susan Birchfield, Michelle Balis, Dottie Ewing, and Betty Maroney examined auction items.



Kelly Gonzalez, Peggy Duran, and Josephina Villarreal