



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

President's Message - Shirley Selz

The new year brought optimism for meeting together again with the pandemic apparently fading into history. But then the Omicron variant arrived in force and the Board decided safety requires meeting virtually in February. Please join us on zoom at 10:30 a.m. on February 5.

We miss Ann Hamilton's expertise in creating the February newsletter. We hope she is able to publish the March newsletter. Her much less talented substitutes are filling in for her this month.

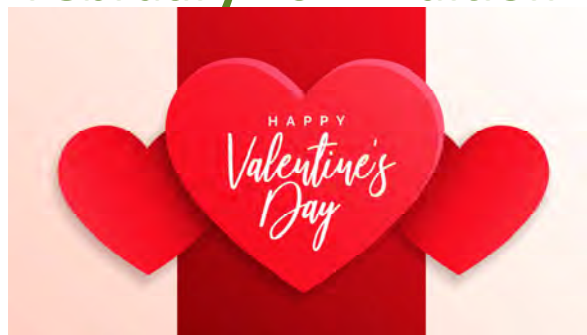
I am happy to report that the Board has appointed Catherine Cox, Dottie Ewing, and Kelly Gonzalez to serve as the Nominating Committee. The current terms of the President, Funds Vice President, and Secretary expire June 30. Nominations will be made for these positions for the 2022-2024 term. Please see Bylaws Ar. XII for procedures.

Committees and interest groups are making decisions about whether to meet in-person or meet virtually or to delay meeting until members feel confident about safety and COVID-19 status. It is important to energize the interest groups and to meet whenever and however they can. Please see the notes in this newsletter and other notices from chairmen.

Last year, on February 1, we celebrated Audrey Jones' 100th birthday with a festive drive-by parade at The Viera Senior Living, along with presentation of resolutions, cards, and well wishes. Let's shower Audrey again with cards, calls, and/or visits wishing her a happy 101st!

I hope everyone appreciates the excellent articles and information that Vickie provides on the Branch website,

February 2022 Edition



corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net. It reflects our mission, achievements, projects, scholarships, etc. – i.e., it is our contemporary real time history. But current webspace has limits and some historical information may need to be deleted. There may be a way to avoid the limits, but in the meantime, please visit the site and use it to help recruit new members.

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi's planned farewell in-person reception for Amy Aldridge Sanford was cancelled due to virus concerns, but written submissions surely reminded her of how much she will be missed as she leaves the university for her new position at Middle Tennessee State University in Nashville. Amy presented excellent programs not only at Branch meetings, but to many other groups as professor, administrator, civic leader, author, and good friend. Best wishes to Amy from your AAUW friends.

AAUW Texas will convene virtually on April 30. Attendance is free but registration is required to receive the zoom link. Registration information will be available later. Sylvia Rendon and Susan Birchfield are preparing a power point presentation for our Branch. Please forward to them any pictures of a Branch activity for them to consider including in the presentation.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Meeting

February 5, 2022

from Mary Sherwood



Danielle Hale serves as the Manager of Emergency Management for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (PCCA), the largest export port of U.S. produced crude oil and the 3th largest Port in the United States in total waterway tonnage. Handling in excess of 160 million tons annually, the Port of Corpus Christi is one of the largest energy ports in the world. Danielle and the Port Corpus Christi team are committed to providing a safe and professional workplace.

Danielle has served in numerous public safety roles over the past nearly 20 years including 911 Dispatcher, Paramedic, Volunteer Firefighter, Regional Liaison Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator. Now as the Port's Emergency Manager, she works to institutionalize the National Incident Management System throughout the Port community and enhance regional collaborations. During Hurricane Harvey, she helped lead the first activation of the Port's Incident Management Team and was awarded NOAA's highest public distinction for her efforts.

Zoom Reminder

Due to the current rise in COVID cases locally, we will be continuing our regular meetings on Zoom. Watch the newsletter for announcements about future meetings.

- If you do not have a Zoom account, access zoom.us and click *Sign Up for Free*.
- You will need to enter your email address when prompted to do so.
- Before the meeting day, you will receive an emailed invitation. The hyperlink will allow you to join the meeting.
- On the day of the meeting, click the hyperlink.
- Don't forget to click permit audio and video when prompted.
- Please MUTE during all presentations. Remember to use the CHAT feature if you have questions or comments for the group.
- If you need assistance before the meeting to load Zoom or to test your computer, contact Vickie Natale by email or phone.

Teen Bookfest by the Bay

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch is a proud sponsor of the 7th Annual Teen Bookfest by the Bay, a free Book Festival promoted by the Corpus Christi Public Library that is open to the public. Each year, our Branch helps support Corpus Christi Public Library programs with a donation to the Friends of the Library. Some of those funds are being used by the CCPL to support this program.

The event is scheduled for February 19, 2022, at the American Bank Center, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. It is designed to support, promote, and celebrate the joy of reading for young readers by featuring middle-grade and Young Adult authors. This year, there are 22 authors and illustrators slated for the public to meet, gather autographs, and take pictures. To learn more about the authors and the event, check out the website for [Teen Bookfest by the Bay](#) or the [Facebook](#) site.



News from Standing Committees

BOOK FINDERS

Thanks to everyone who helped with book sales in December at Neyland Library and online. Book sales continue to support our AAUW mission. The sales also promote the love of reading and provide an opportunity to inform library patrons about AAUW.

Meeting alert – please look for an update about a tentative Book Finders committee meeting on February 1.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Committee had a very successful event at the YWCA in December. Plans will soon be underway for the annual recognition of 20 high school senior girls at Miller High School. In addition, the committee is planning to reschedule the next Peace of Mind seminar which was first held in 2019 and later postponed twice. The next Community Outreach meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 21, at 6:00 p.m. Kelly Gonzalez, chair, will send out a meeting reminder with the Zoom invitation.

STEM

The STEM Committee also held an excellent event in December for the West Oso Junior High School STEM girls at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History. With COVID cases on the rise again, the Committee is looking forward to the 2022-23 school year when it is likely that field trips and in-person meetings will be safe.



Notes from Interest Groups

EVENING CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Michelle Balis has provided an option to meet at the Neyland Library instead of meeting in members' homes for the March and April meetings (February has been cancelled). Please stay tuned for updates about the meeting location for each month.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

The Out to Lunch Bunch is enthusiastically enjoying food and fellowship. The next meeting is at the Ginger Café, 7009 S. Staples St., on February 15 at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield's email or see the yearbook for the phone number to call.

READERS' ROUND TABLE

Readers' Round Table will not meet until further notice. Co-chairs Dottie Ewing and Betty Maroney regret having to cancel but will let their dedicated readers know as soon as members once again feel comfortable with in-person meetings.

CLASSICS

Classics meets the last Wednesday of each month to discuss a work that a member believes is or perhaps will be a classic. The group has been meeting at Katz 21, where members enjoy dining with great discussions. For February, the group will be reading *Chéri (1920) by Colette*. If you would like to join Classics, please contact the chair Catherine Cox at her mail address.



Call for Volunteer For Yearbook Publication

Annie Huckabee, former AAUW Corpus Christi Branch President (2008-2010), has graciously, competently, and artistically developed and published our annual Yearbook for the past decade. We are ever grateful for her dedication and contributions to our organization, and we are in awe of her skills and creativity. Annie has decided that it is time to step down from those duties and pass the mantle on to a new volunteer.

Annie has used *Word* to create the document, and her template for each page is available, so the task does not entail working from scratch. It is a job that is completed during the summer months, starting in June with updates to committees and the membership list, and ending with the publication emailed out before the September meeting. If you have familiarity with *Word* and want to volunteer your time to this effort, we NEED you! Vickie Natale, Communications Chair, will also be able to assist this person with any technical details and troubleshooting. Please contact Vickie or Shirley Selz if you are interested in volunteering for this important job.



Friendship Committee

Please remember to let Olivia McDonald know of a member or a member's family who is ill or otherwise would welcome a note expressing well wishes from our group. If you know of a member who is hospitalized or in rehabilitation or resides in a senior facility who would welcome a visit, please let Olivia McDonald or Vickie Natale know.

