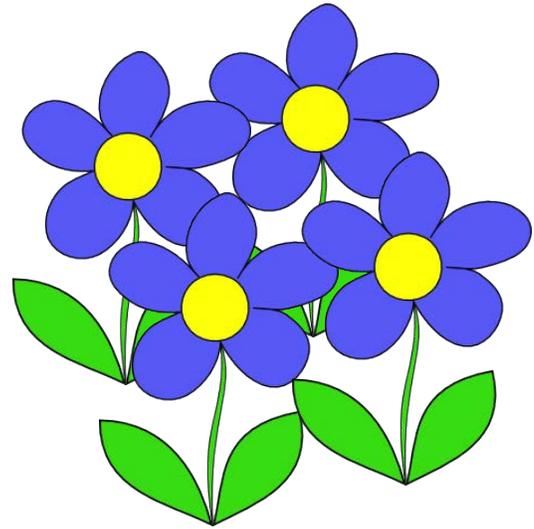




Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



President's Message - Shirley Selz

May 2022 Edition

The last general membership meeting for 2021-22 is an opportunity to review the accomplishments and mission projects of the Branch and to enjoy socializing with friends. Thanks to Mary for making the arrangements for the catered lunch, to all who participated in planning, and to all who will attend our year-end general meeting on May 7.

Be sure to read Vickie's summary in this newsletter of the AAUW Texas annual meeting held April 30. Originally planned for an in-person convention, the state board decided it was safer to meet on zoom. Thanks to Sylvia Rendon and Susan Birchfield for their submission of photos of our Branch activities included in the slide show. Through Vickie's summary of the speakers' messages, we can appreciate the quality of information and presentation provided by AAUW Texas.

It is time to renew membership for the new fiscal year 2022-23. Please note Vickie's explanation in this newsletter about the amount of dues and payment methods. Also, it is an especially good time to recruit new members while AAUW is offering its half price discount on national dues for new members.

As we reflect on the year, there are many memories to share and enjoy – just some examples; excellent programs, busy committees, an active AAUW student group at Del Mar College, interest groups activities, hybrid meetings (in-person and zoom simultaneously), completion of converting the Branch certificate of deposit into two new endowed scholarships, awarding scholarships at TAMU-CC and Del Mar College. We even kept pace with some technical advances to improve communications, sales, and business operations. For a bird's eye view, note Vickie's April financial report – both the income and payment sections include references to a Square Terminal, internet book sales with related expenses, and new software and hardware.

It has been a privilege to serve as Branch president for two years. Many thanks to all who participated in so many ways to make sure the Branch thrived and continued its mission. Please welcome Catherine as she leads the board and members into another year of knowledge, service to the community, and fun.



AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Luncheon and Installation of Officers

11:00am, Saturday, May 7

**YWCA
4601 Corona Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78411**

Reminder: Reservations for lunch were due April 29. Cost of \$23 due on Saturday. Please pay with exact cash or check. For more information contact Mary Sherwood.



From Vickie Natale

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For 2022-23, national membership dues have increased by \$5 to \$67. State and local dues are staying the same at \$13 and \$12, respectively, which makes the total dues \$92 for the coming year. We will be accepting checks for membership renewals at the May luncheon, or you can mail a check (payable to AAUW Corpus Christi) to Vickie Natale, Branch Finance Officer.

The national AAUW office is still working on the updates to their software system, which means that the invoicing process to pay by credit card is not quite yet ready, but it should be available soon. If you wish to pay by credit card, we will let you know by email when that system is up and running again. Also, if you know anyone to recruit for new membership, AAUW is still offering half-price on national dues for new members, which means that a new recruit will pay only \$58.50 for the first year of membership. Spread the word!

Del Mar College AAUW Student Chapter

From Vickie Natale

Cheryl Sanders, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Del Mar College, announced at our April meeting that the Del Mar College Student Chapter of AAUW is off to a great start this semester. About 35 students have signed up to become members. The student chapter celebrated Women's History month and International Women's Day in March with a display on campus to share knowledge about "Breaking the Bias." Students have created their own [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts featuring photos of their events – and even some of ours! The chapter focused on sexual assault awareness during the month of April.

Several Del Mar College students are scheduled to attend the AAUW virtual leadership training event at the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) which is scheduled for May 24-26, 2022.

We are so proud of Cheryl's leadership in making the DMC Student Chapter a reality, and we are especially proud of the students' efforts and involvement. We look forward to meeting some of the students soon and collaborating with the Student Chapter. Our first collaborative effort will be held May 11, 2022, at our Miller High School event celebrating college-bound female seniors. DMC AAUW students, including Chapter president Sofia Jiménez, will be attending to give advice and insight on making the transition from high school to college.



AAUW Community Outreach Committee

From Kelly Gonzalez

The Community Outreach Committee strives to put the AAUW mission into action in the community through various community projects.

We are currently working on the Miller High School Senior Celebration. It will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at 2:00 on campus at Miller High School. The Community Outreach committee will be working with the Del Mar College AAUW Student Chapter. Branch members are invited to attend. If you are interested please let me know by May 6.

The speaker for the event will be Sofia Jimenez, who is the President of the Del Mar AAUW Student Chapter.

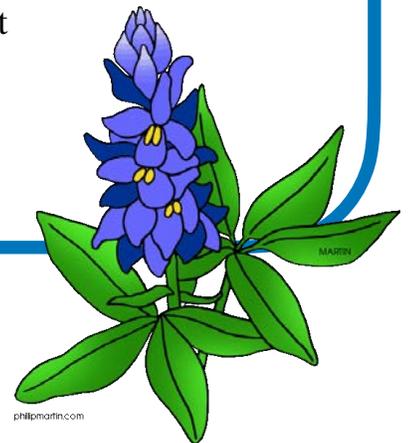
Other projects we are working on include:

-Equal Pay Luncheon scheduled for April. Will provide additional information as it is received. This is in partnership with the YWCA.

-Providing speakers for the YW Teen Summer Camps

-Peace of Mind Seminar to be held in the Fall

The next meeting will be held May 9. Meeting will be in person but we will also provide a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person.



INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Susan Birchfield

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Nolan's Restaurant, 4117 S Staples on May 17th at noon.

Special Lunch News: The YWCA, in association with AAUW, will be holding a series of three luncheons this summer, entitled *Women Navigating the New Normal*. The first luncheon will be on June 23rd at the YWCA and the topic will be *Work Life Balance and Self Care*. Additional information on registration and future events will be provided as it becomes available.

The Poetry Appreciation group met in person at the Glass Pavilion in April. Come join us for great view, poetry, and discussion. Contact Leslie Peart if interested.



L to R: Leslie Peart, Michelle Balis, Deenie Tillman



Evening Contemporary Literature From Michelle Balis

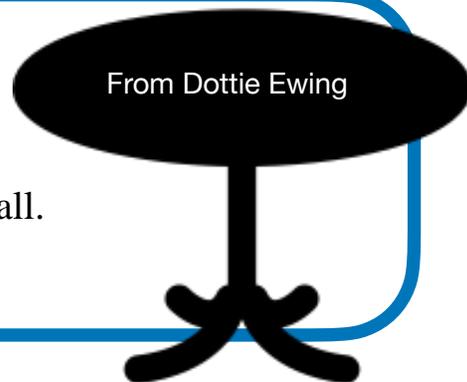
Thursday, April 21, Alan Berecka, 2017 Corpus Christi Poet Laureate, presented his poetry to our group at the Neyland Library.

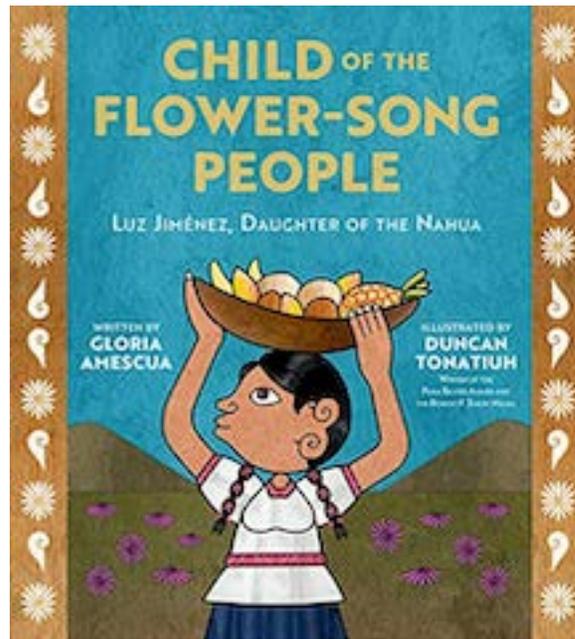


left to right: Michelle Balis, Deenie Tillman, Annie Huckabee, and Kay West. Seated poet: Alan Berecka

Readers' Round Table
will not meet in April or May.
Hopefully we will resume in the fall.

From Dottie Ewing





by Diana Cardenas

Gloria Amescua, a Latina and Tejana writer from Austin, Texas, captivated and delighted an audience as she read from her recent picture book biography, **CHILD OF THE FLOWER-SONG PEOPLE: LUZ JIMÉNEZ, DAUGHTER OF THE NAHUA**, illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh.

Sylvia Rendon and Diana Cardenas were part of a unique university event, Authors Day, and an audience of local book lovers, undergraduate and graduate students, and professors at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Thursday, April 21.

Ms. Amescua (surname is Basque) explained the origin of her passion for Luz Jimenez and the extensive, engaging, and surprising research into this native daughter of an ancient people and the immense process of planning a picture book. Jimenez, who longed to be educated after migrating to Mexico City with village members after the Mexican Revolution, grew up to assist anthropologists and linguists who studied Nahua history and language and worked as a model for painters who captured her Nahua face.

Ms. Amescua departed after generous applause from her audience to rest for the next day's activity: an extensive workshop with over 100 excited high school student writers from 5 area high schools who traveled to the university to spend the day drafting, sharing their creations with Ms. Amescua and other students, enjoying lunch, and revisiting their compositions, poetry or prose. Students had already received and read the picture book at their high schools before participating in the workshop.

On Saturday Ms. Amescua presented sections of her book to area English and Language Arts teachers and university English professors as part of the Coastal Bend Writing Project. Also, she analyzed cultural and historical elements of the book.

Many individuals benefitted from Amescua's generous spirit of sharing and her gift of authorship.



AAUW of Texas Conference

From Vickie Natale

On April 30, 2022, AAUW Texas held its 50th state conference by Zoom, and all members were invited to attend, free of charge. The conference was titled “Celebrating our Commitment to Providing a Golden Opportunity for Women and Girls.”

The first speaker was Jackie Littleton, a North Texas author and member of AAUW Texas. Jackie told stories that will be in her soon-to-be-published book, “The Lady and the Letters.” Jackie recently served on an Archives Task Force that had her searching through multiple file boxes of historical records for national AAUW, and she emphasized how important it is to maintain and provide access to our organization’s historical records. [Side note: Our Branch has already proactively followed this advice with an Archives committee established in 2021-22.] Jackie’s stories included women with degrees who were desperate to escape Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II and who sought help from AAUW. These stories led to mentioning how some AAUW Branches engage in an international focus.

The second speaker was Kevin Stewart, our Texas Legislative Consultant. Kevin gave an overview of the Texas Legislative processes and timelines. The 2021 session was significantly impacted by the February winter storm, which led to fewer bills getting passed. The legislative agenda items considered important for AAUW Texas were (1) workforce issues, including workplace protections, job training, family leave, and childcare; (2) healthcare issue, including access to care, behavioral health, and healthcare disparities; and (3) criminal justice issues, including sexual assault and human trafficking. Legislation successfully passed included: extending postpartum Medicaid coverage for six months; requiring insurers to cover screening for detection of ovarian cancer; prohibiting polygraphing sexual assault victims; and others. Kevin mentioned that the coming 88th Legislative Session is predicted to be more polarized because several representatives considered to be from the “middle” are retiring out. During Q&A, Kevin answered questions about the “heartbeat” bill, saying that the last session did not include much opportunity for public testimony on this issue or others. Kevin encouraged AAUW members to start talking to current political candidates about issues important to us, getting involved early and often.

After lunch, a “Celebrating AAUW Texas” agenda item included presentations and awards to various members across the state. The next state newsletter will have details on the awards.

Malinda Gaul, AAUW Board of Directors Vice Chair, gave an update from national AAUW. As most know, AAUW has been working to bring the national database into the current century. The system should be working as of today, allowing members to individually access the Community Hub to update their annual membership. More details will be coming soon. Malinda mentioned a new STEM for Girls national program created and supported by a recent large donation received by AAUW. This program will include a series of virtual workshops during the summer months for girls in middle and high school. AAUW has also continue to update annually its Equal Pay Day report and to support the Equal Pay Day events. In addition, AAUW invites hundreds of college women to attend a virtual leadership training program at their National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scheduled for May 24-26.

Raegan Pebley, TCU Women’s Basketball head coach, made a presentation on the history of AAUW and Title IX. Raegan reminded us that we are embarking on the 50th anniversary of Title IX. In 1972, only one in 72 college women had participated in any collegiate sport; now that number is one in five. To emphasize the impact of sports participation, Raegan stated that while only 6% of CEOs at Fortune 500 companies are women, more than 90% of those female CEOs participated in collegiate sports. She expressed concern about how Title IX will be protected in the future, since NCAA decisionmakers are primarily men, with few women – and fewer women of color – included. Recent gender disparities were noted in COVID testing, travel housing accommodations, salaries, and other factors.

Our last speaker was Dr. Taharee Jackson, a consultant who talked about allyship, urgency, and solidarity in the struggle for equity and social justice. She noted that these past three years have been disproportionately difficult for women. Violence against women and girls increased during COVID isolation. Additionally, two thirds of student loan debt is held by women. Dr. Jackson described her own schooling experience and the difficulty in being a sole female as well as a sole black student in STEM classes. She stressed that we need to get others to recognize sexism at the institutional/structural and cultural level, which is based on pervasive sociohistorical factors. She ended with a discussion of Jonathan Osler’s [actors, allies, and accomplices framework](#).

During breaks throughout the day, slides were shown from Texas Branches, featuring activities, programs, scholarship awards, and interest groups. The photos were an inspiring show of the multitude and variety of worthy projects sponsored by AAUW Branches throughout the state. Kudos to our Branch officers Sylvia Rendon and Susan Birchfield who gathered, assimilated, labeled, and submitted great photos from our Corpus Christi Branch that were included in slide show!

The conference speakers were recorded, and those videos will be available on YouTube. Watch for updates from AAUW Texas in your email.