



Catherine Cox, President



Summer Edition 2022



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

President's Message

Dear AAUW Members,

My heart is heavy for our nation on this 4th of July. The mass killing of seven people and injuring of dozens of others while celebrating our nation's birthday raises the specter of so many other shootings and psychic injuries that we face as a country. One of the most resent upheavals for women is the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

No matter where you stand on the issue of when life begins, one cannot deny the confusion, fear, and loss of dignity that many women feel due to the decision. I am most troubled by the absoluteness and cruelty of some of the state laws that will now go into effect—no exception for incest, no exception for rape, no consideration of the danger to the woman's physical or mental health in carrying a fetus that may not live or may be severely deformed, bounty hunting (a novel Texas law) to help punish desperate women who try to have abortions in other states. Public conversations suggest that some states, taking their cue from the high court, may go a step further and prohibit long-accepted measures of birth control.

Women of color will, as usual, suffer most from these laws, their rates of poverty being higher and opportunities for insurance, healthy foods and exercise, and pre-natal and post-natal care less. Mortality rates in the United States have risen overall in the last 20 years. The statistics for Black women, however, are particularly alarming. In 2020, maternal mortality for Blacks was 2.5 times higher than for whites. For those with college degrees the rate was much higher. Blacks were five times more likely to die in pregnancy, giving birth, or within the first year of giving birth (<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-brief-report/2020/dec/maternal-mortality-united-states-primer>). (There is much for us to learn on this issue!) The overturning of *Roe* will, no doubt, increase these problems. "The arc of history" that Martin Luther King, Jr., saw as "bend[ing] towards justice" seems at this moment to be straightening or even turning the other way.

This is a time when AAUW is most needed. Girls and women need to know that they are valued and that they can succeed. Our national organization has taken a strong stand on the cause for women's bodily autonomy:

AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies, and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.

If you choose to join a protest objecting to the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* or pressing for the codification of *Roe v. Wade* into law, wearing your AAUW T-shirt is clearly appropriate. We will be adding to our program list to give us more information about the changing landscape for women's reproductive rights.

Through AAUW, we strive to equal the playing field for women and girls through "education, research, and advocacy." May we find strength and determination to continue to do those things that we have always done best. Thank you, Book Finders! Thank you, Community Outreach! Thank you STEM! Thank you, Communications! And thank you, members all, who stand up for women and girls directly and indirectly in all that you do!

I regret that I could not send you a more upbeat greeting, this being my first "Message" as Branch President. These are unusual times, and my heart compelled me to speak on the issue that is on everyone's mind. My hope continues, despite great personal disappointment in our Court and in our Congress, that the "arc of history" will ultimately return to its rightful course—towards justice—and this includes equality for women in every way.



Betty Maroney Retires as Book Finders Chair

Betty Maroney has recently stepped down as the chairperson of the Book Finders Committee. Kristin Conlan will assume the chairperson duties for Book Finders and Deborah Wilkins will be the co-chair, managing the E Bay online sales.

Betty joined the Corpus Christi chapter of AAUW in 1997. At the urging of Sue Stanford, Betty became active with the Book Finders in 2005. After Sue's passing, she became the chairperson of this important, income producing, committee. Betty has spent the past 17 years deeply and passionately involved with Book Finders. Betty has stated that she "loved every minute of it". After a 42-year career as an educator and then principal, Betty strongly believes in promoting the value of reading and studying. She feels that Book Finders is an excellent outlet for these values, and it is her hope that more AAUW members will join Book Finders to enjoy the wonderful fellowship of like-minded women in our organization who wish to serve in such a meaningful endeavor.

Betty's leadership has been deeply appreciated by the members of Book Finders, the current board of directors, and our general membership. Her dedication is an example to us all. She will continue her involvement with the committee in an advisory capacity and plans to spend occasional Tuesday afternoons on site at Neyland Library. **We will look forward to seeing you there, Betty!**





Scholarships – DIRECT AND ENDOWED

From Shirley Selz

Encouraging women scholars – not only highly valued but actively supported through direct and endowed grants, the Corpus Christi Branch financially assists undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M - Corpus Christi and at Del Mar College. Profits generated by Book Finders from used book sales provides the funds for three annual direct scholarships and for establishment of two endowed funds. The Branch currently budgets \$2,500 for direct scholarships. Revenue from book sales has been sufficient to meet the budgeted amount. Separately, earnings from a long established endowed fund at AAUW, Inc., are combined with earnings of other similar endowments for scholarships and community action projects awarded by AAUW, Inc.

1. **Direct Scholarship – Texas A & M – Corpus Christi:** The Sue Stanford Scholarship is awarded by the Branch to a history student at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. The amount of \$1,500 was awarded to Laura Lamb at the April 2022 meeting.
2. **Direct Scholarships – Del Mar College:** An updated agreement was signed in April 2021 between the Del Mar College Foundation and the Branch. The target award is \$500 per student who is selected by the DMC Foundation. The Foundation cannot legally restrict the award to a female student but agreed to give preference to a member of the Del Mar College student organization of AAUW. Although the student group is not restricted to women students, the number of men students, if any, is anticipated to be very few compared to the number of women students. Because the Branch donated \$1,000, the donation provided funds for two scholarships. This year \$500 was awarded to Samantha Luna and to Hope Clark.
3. **Endowed Scholarship at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi:** An agreement executed in 2021 between the Branch and Texas A&M – Corpus Christi Foundation created the “AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Endowed Scholarship.” It was funded with \$12,000, which was part of the proceeds of a redeemed certificate of deposit. Additions to the principal can be made at any time. The Foundation was able to legally limit eligibility to a female student. No award will be made for at least a year to allow time for the invested funds to earn interest. A minimum award is anticipated to be \$500.00.
4. **Endowed Scholarship at Del Mar College:** An agreement executed in August 2021 between the Branch and Del Mar College Foundation created the “American Association of University Women Endowed Scholarship.” It was funded with \$10,000, which was part of the proceeds of a redeemed certificate of deposit. Additions to the principal can be made at any time. Similar to the direct scholarship, preference is given for a student member of AAUW’s student organization at Del Mar College. Earnings must be adequate to provide a scholarship of at least \$500 before an award is made.
5. **Corpus Christi Research and Projects Endowment a/k/a AAUW Fund 1431 – Corpus Christi Branch:** Funds donated to AAUW, Inc., prior to 1994 constitute an endowed fund invested by AAUW, Inc. The earnings provide part of the funds for scholarships and other grants by AAUW, Inc.



MYSTERY OF A BRANCH ENDOWMENT

From Shirley Selz

The Corpus Christi Branch of AAUW advances its mission through local and national means to support gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. This is the story of one of those mission initiatives – establishing a specific endowment within AAUW's national investment and grant program.

Branch History in Accomplishments as printed in yearbooks first mentions raising money for the Education Foundation in 1940-46; then mentioned again for 1949, 1957, 1990, 1991, 1998-99, 2009, and 2010, but not thereafter. We knew that two prior funds established by the branch with AAUW had been consolidated in 1990 and that the combined fund had been completed in 1994 with total contributions of \$35,000. Recently, however, the fund itself seemed all but erased from institutional memory. Efforts were made in the summer of 2020 to learn more about the fund – does it still exist; is it identified as created by Corpus Christi; is it available for grant requests; are there restrictions; what are the criteria for grants, etc. None of the Branch past presidents could provide any information, and an inquiry to the national office did not produce any response. Due to the uncertainty about the fund, we decided not to include it in the 2021-22 yearbook unless enough information was obtained prior to publication to better describe it to Branch members. No such information was obtained.

Efforts were renewed in April 2022. A breakthrough occurred on May 25 when Gloria Long, President of AAUW Texas, assisted in the research. We learned the fund is identified by AAUW, Inc., as Fund 1431. We also learned that Fund 1431 is one of 17 separate funds, the earnings of which are combined and utilized to support AAUW grants. We now have the names of the grant recipients from 2004-05 to 2021-22. Of the 18 grantees, 15 received Career Development grants, and the other 3 received Community Action grants. The recipients of 12 Career Development grants studied at Texas universities; the others at Wake Forest, Harvard, and Case Western Reserve. The three Community Action grants were for projects in San Antonio, Grand Prairie, and Austin. We do not yet know the amount of each grant or have information about the success of recipients. If and when more information is obtained, we will inform Branch members. To see more information on the past 18 recipients, go to this link: https://ww3.aauw.org/aauw_check/fellowships_directory#fnd1431&&

We are now confident that the donations to Fund 1431 have been, and continue to be, very important to women individually and to society in general as the grants enabled recipients to pursue their careers and passions. We will once again include information about the fund in the yearbook, now that we understand more about its creation and utilization.

¹ The "Education Foundation" or "Educational Foundation" is a reference to the national organization, not to the Branch or an entity established locally.

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 have partnered with the YWCA to bring a series of luncheons focusing on the needs of women. The first one was held in June with a topic of "Focusing on the New Normal." There are two more scheduled for noon at the YWCA. Please make plans to attend these luncheons.

Session II – July 21 "Hybrid Work Environment"

Session III – August 18 "Higher Education as a Key Concept"



We also provide speakers for the YW Teen Summer Camps. Catherine Cox is working with the girls to make jewelry in July and needs help from our members. Her classes are really popular with the girls so the more people helping the better the experience will be. Remaining dates are July 19 and 26. Time for all dates is 11:00.

The Peace of Mind Seminar will be held on October 15 at the YWCA. Additional details will be provided as we get closer to the date. Please plan on attending and invite some friends as this is an important message we need to share.

The next meeting will be held August 8 via Zoom.

Jewelry-Making at the YTeens Camps

From Catherine Cox



Photo by Amy Rose

**Remaining dates:
Tues., July 19 -- 11 a.m. and Tues., July 26 -- 11 a.m.**

Missing several years of participation in the YTeens Summer Camps due to Covid, Community Outreach has organized four weeks of Jewelry-Making this summer. The weekly day camps, sponsored by the YWCA, help pre-teen girls grow into self-confident young women. The girls make new friends, swim, participate in group activities and lecture discussions, and enjoy crafts. Thanks all who are volunteering their time to help the girls make stretchy bracelets. The girls are always very proud when they are done and have something pretty to wear on their wrists or to give to a loved one. The Y is always looking for speakers and helpers for the camps. Consider the talents that you have and how you might help the girls in the coming years.

2022 Recognition of College-bound Seniors from Miller High School



Story by Diana Cardenas

On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Corpus Christi Branch and Del Mar College AAUW student organization partnered to honor the achievement of 20 college-bound senior girls at Miller High School and Metropolitan School of Design.

Kelly Gonzales, chairperson of AAUW's Community Outreach Committee, collaborated with Miller High counselor Gerald Padilla and with Cheryl Sanders, advisor for Del Mar College AAUW student group, to recognize the senior girls and their plans for higher education.

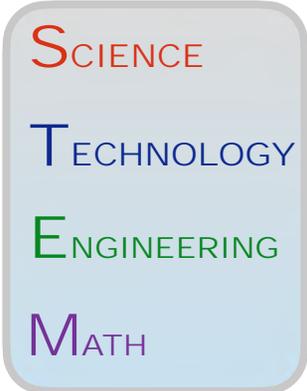
Shirley Selz, past president of AAUW, praised the girls' decision to continue to achieve in their education, careers, and lives.

Cheryl Sanders, DMC Interim Vice President of Student Affairs and AAUW Branch member, expressed pride in the girls and introduced the key speaker, Samantha Luna, vice president of Del Mar College AAUW student organization. Luna, a returning student, wife, mother, small business owner, and former member of the Student Government Association, offered enthusiastic, positive words for thriving in college. She noted, "A happy life is a string of happy moments." These moments include establishing a relationship with an advisor, navigating academic responsibilities, learning about scholarships, and becoming involved in clubs, such as AAUW, which empowers women through support, encouragement, and opportunities to succeed.

Sanders highlighted the importance of DMC AAUW's participation: "Celebrating the accomplishments of the senior girls who plan to pursue higher education is significant because this step is a once-in-a lifetime achievement, and it marks the beginning of new adventures and opportunities that will shape our future community leaders." Del Mar College AAUW group members presented gift bags to the girls of items useful to the seniors for their college days.

Catherine Cox, the new president of AAUW Corpus Christi Branch, presented awards from the Branch to the senior girls. Miller High principal Sandy Salinas-DeLeon and counselor Gerald Padilla congratulated the senior girls and the parents in attendance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



From Janet Blanke

Since its inception in Fall 2018, the **AAUW STEM Committee** has partnered with girls at West Oso Jr High who have an interest in STEM careers. We have organized 2-3 programs/field trips per year around the Coastal Bend to enable the girls to learn about STEM careers and meet some of the women who are in those careers. West Oso ISD now has a very successful STEM program and it is time for us to focus our efforts with other girls/young women in our community.

AAUW STEM plans to partner with the Del Mar AAUW Student Affiliate this year to develop new programs that can reach more girls in our community inspiring them to pursue STEM careers!



From Kris Conlan

BOOK
-
FINDERS

The Book Finders Committee is very pleased with the results of our June sale, having broken the \$2,000 mark for overall sales before expenses were deducted. The customers were impressed with our offerings, and many made donations in addition to the cost of their purchases. Thank you to all the workers who help prepare the sales on a weekly basis and those who served as cashiers during the sale.

Online sales are conducted daily on EBay and many thanks to Debby Wilkins for her excellent management of this component of the Book Finders mission. Debby is looking for an assistant to help with listing new books and maintaining existing entries to our EBay pages.

The schedule for our book sales for the 2022-2023 season is as follows:

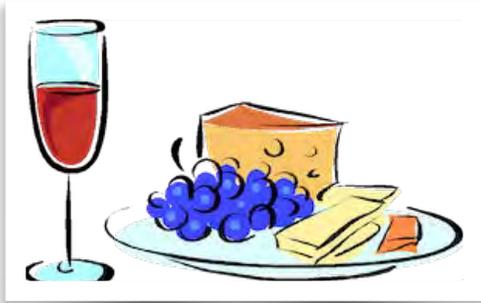
September 2022 (8,9,10)

November 2022 (10,11,12)

March 2023 (9,10,11)

June 2023 (8,9,10)

INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Janet Blanke

Wine & Cheese is a fun and popular interest group. In June, we met at Tannins for a lovely evening of good wine, yummy food and conversation! Two of our members were exploring the Wine Country and sent a photo of them enjoying a glass of wine also!

Wine & Cheese meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 5-7pm – sometimes at members' homes, sometimes at other locations, and since Covid, we have also met via Zoom. Recently we have met at On the Border and at Snoopy's as well as our June gathering at Tannins.

Wine & Cheese is looking for someone to serve as chair for the Interest Group for 2022 – 2023. Please let Janet Blanke know if you are willing to be chair for the next year.



L to R: Cheryl Sanders, Vickie Natale, Mary Sherwood, Janet Blanke, Joanie Whitmire, Agnes Hamilton, and Dottie Ewing.



Susan Birchfield and Sylvia Rendon in the wine country



From Leslie Peart

Poetry Appreciation

After an entertaining evening of verse about our cats, the Poetry Appreciation "regulars" have settled on a new calendar focused largely on themes rather than poets. Maybe the good food and wine went to our heads, or maybe it was the laughter and fun, but maybe, just maybe, we'll attract a few new friends to join us for dinner, drinks, and poetry at the Omni's Glass Pavilion at 6:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. Here's what's on for the next few months:

August: Summer

September: Poetry Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

October: Halloween or Poems of the Macabre

INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Susan Birchfield

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the Longhorn Steakhouse located at La Palmera Mall on Tuesday, July 19th at 12:30 pm. Please let Susan Birchfield know if you plan to attend.



The Gardening Divas will be meeting in February, March and April to support the interest in spring planting. We will be discussing the propagation of plants, starting for seeds and container gardening which could include Hoyas. Spring has been our best attendance season and we hope all interested plant lovers will attend.

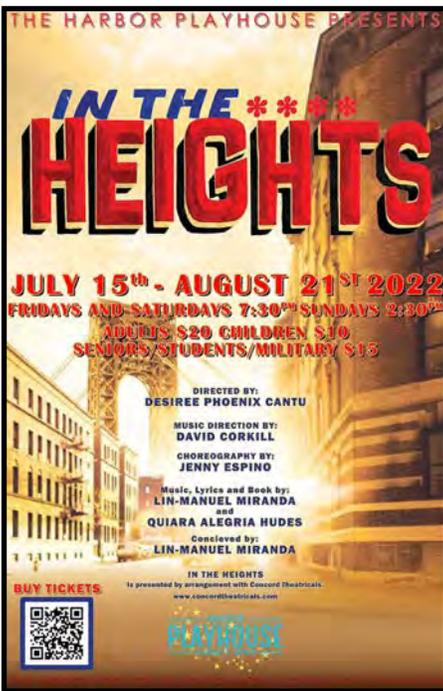
AAUW BRIDGE beats the heat under the capable leadership of Chair Sandra Heatherley





PLAYGOERS

Interested in a night out at the theater!!
Contact Michelle Balis for more information.



Source: harborplayhouse.com

AT Harbor Playhouse:

In The Heights: July 15 - Aug 21

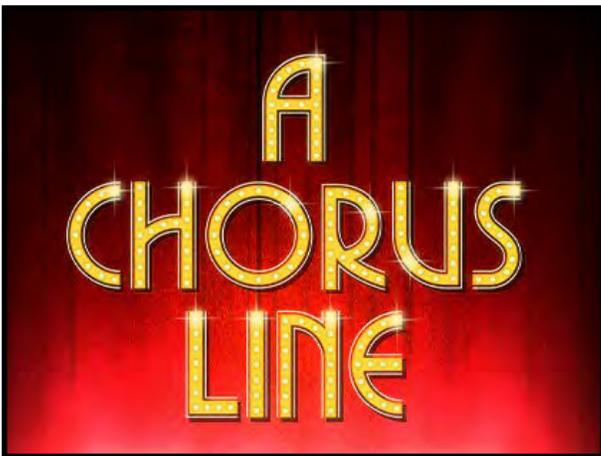
In the Heights tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood - a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind.

Source: auroraarttheatre.com

AT Aurora Arts Theater:

A Chorus Line: July 15 - Aug 28

A Chorus Line examines one day in the lives of seventeen dancers, all vying for a spot in the "chorus line" of a Broadway musical. After the first round of cuts, Zach, the director and choreographer, asks each dancer to speak about themselves. Discomfort opens into revelation, confession leads to redemption, and within the bright, outwardly homogenous chorus, the audience begins to see each dancer's individuality. From Cassie, the star who just needs the "music and the mirror and the chance to dance," to Val, a small-town girl with a brand-new big-town body, to Mike, who took his sister's place in dance class, saying "I can do that." Based on real Broadway dancers' stories, as told to fellow dancer and choreographer Michael Bennett, A Chorus Line is funny, heartbreaking, and refreshingly honest.





Our **Fall Reception for New and Prospective Members** will be held on Sunday, September 11 from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Retama Room (in Harvin Center) on the Del Mar Campus. Please invite those who would make good members and who share the mission of AAUW “to support women through education, research and advocacy.” This reception will help new and prospective members learn who we are as a branch and will kick off our year with a fun social event. The Board will provide refreshments.

Please save the date—September 11.

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Women’s Workplace Has Changed
YWCA-CC Responds with a New Series:
**“WOMEN NAVIGATING THE
NEW NORMAL”**

~~Session I: Thursday, June 23 @ 12:00~~
~~“Work Life Balance & Self Care”~~

Noon @ YWCA, 4601 Corona Drive
Box Lunch for first 60 registrants
Registration
CLICK 



Session II: JULY 21, 2022, Noon, YWCA
“Hybrid Work Environment”

Session III: AUGUST 18, 2022, Noon, YWCA
“Higher Education as a Key Concept”

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