



Catherine Cox, President



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

President's Message

Fall is on its way, and that means AAUW-Corpus Christi is ready to ramp up its meetings and activities. Our Welcome Reception for New and Prospective Members is scheduled for Sunday September 11 from 2:30-4:00, in the Retama Room (Harvin Student Center) on the Del Mar College Campus. We will open our event with a moment of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives or were injured on that tragic day in 2001, and to those who responded with courage, and to the families of the victims.

The Welcome Reception is our kick-off. All members are invited. We depend on you to invite those you think will be great members. It is a good opportunity for new people to get to know more about AAUW and our branch. Deanne Purcell has created an excellent icebreaker, and committee and interest group chairs will share their enthusiasm for their group. The Board will provide refreshments. You are, of course, welcome to contribute if you wish (no pressure though).

This year, we are offering our yearbook in two formats. You will have options. Some members said that last year they missed having the small booklets, so we are returning to this hard copy format for a nominal charge of \$5.00. We will have these booklets for you at the reception, so please be ready with cash, credit card, or a check to purchase those on that day. If you do not plan on coming to the reception and want the booklet, we will have some at the October branch meeting to sell. The money will go to our branch. The electronic version will be available to you free of charge.

We will also be taking orders for t-shirts at the Welcome Reception. These will sport the new AAUW logo. Members often like to wear their t-shirts when advocating for issues supported by AAUW or when attending meetings and other AAUW events.

While many AAUW activities slow down during the summer, the Board, along with several committees and numerous individuals, continues to work. I wish to thank all who planned our coming programs; reached out to new and renewing members; worked to edit our yearbook, newsletters, and website; reviewed and planned budgets; gave guidance to our Del Mar student affiliate branch, and continued the summer work of Book Finders, Community Outreach, and STEM. So much planning goes into getting ready for the year.

I want to give a special shoutout to those who are working on the "Peace of Mind Seminar," a Community Outreach event, that focuses on planning for aging and the end of life. The seminar is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 15th. The YWCA has graciously offered us a free place to hold the event. So often, we think of children and young adults when we consider education; through this event, we show our commitment to life-long learning.

My final thank you goes to all who volunteer throughout the year to help AAUW. Those who serve and take responsibility—Communications, Archives, Hospitality, SHARE, Friendship, committee chairs and members, and interest group coordinator, chairs, and members. Thank you—all! Your contributions help us as a branch do the work of AAUW and be the branch that we love so much! Now, let's celebrate and begin a great year. With our commitment, and with a little luck, we will score many astonishing touchdowns.



The Corpus Christi Branch of the
American Association of University Women
Invites You to Our

Welcome Reception
For
New and Prospective Members

Sunday, September 11, 2022
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Retama Room
Harvin Student Center
Del Mar Heritage Campus
101 Baldwin Avenue
Corpus Christi, Texas



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

Go to this link for a map of Del Mar Heritage Campus https://map.delmar.edu/#ctdl-UMAP_2018012361416. When you hover the cursor over the buildings, you will see the Harvin Student Center.

AAUW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Iconic Islander – Mary Jane Hamilton, Professor Emerita of Nursing, Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi

From Catherine Cox



Member since 2002

Congratulations, Professor Hamilton! For those of you who may not know Mary Jane well, she is a remarkable person—compassionate, smart, and dedicated to the field of nursing—a true professional. The latest edition of *The Islander Magazine* (Summer 2022, pp. 20-23) features Mary Jane as an “Iconic Islander.” Mary Jane received this title for her outstanding contributions to the university over 27 years. Professor Hamilton first came to the university in 1993 to head the Nursing Program, which, under her leadership, would become the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Receiving important awards for the nursing program, including a \$10 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and inaugurating new programs, such as the eLine Military Program, designed to bring veterans with medical experience into the nursing field, Mary Jane became recognized nationally and internationally for her work. Her scholarship on HIV/AIDS symptom management research also brought professional acclaim. Even as Mary Jane advanced in administration and scholarship, she did not give up her teaching, reflecting her continuing dedication to the university’s prime mission.

Two quotations by Mary Jane, in the *Islander Magazine* article, are very moving. They help to fill out the story of how her devotion to people and her professional career align. The first is her description of her decision to become a nurse. “I was speaking to my grandmother about my decision to become a nurse and she asked me with great seriousness, ‘Can you hold an old woman’s hand while she’s dying?’ She reminded me that being a nurse is more than physically taking care of people, it’s being there for pivotal moments in their lives.”

The second quotation is Mary Jane’s response to the interviewer’s question, “How would you like to be remembered?” Mary Jane responded: “I hope others remember me as a strong, supportive, and encouraging mentor — someone who placed service to others above all else. I hope I am remembered as someone who embraced technology, encouraged increasing education, and was a strong advocate for nurses everywhere.”

Mary Jane, AAUW-Corpus Christi salutes you for all that you have accomplished as a nurse, scholar, administrator, and teacher, and for the loving person that you are. Your many years of faithful service make you an Icon indeed!

If you would like to read more of the *Islander* article on our Iconic Mary Jane, here is the link: <https://www.tamucc.edu/marketing-and-communications/islander-magazine.php>

New Members for 2022-2023

From Sylvia Rendon, VP Membership

We are so pleased to introduce our new members for the coming year. The short biographical information that follows should provide a springboard for you to meet these ladies in person at our **September 11 reception for new and prospective members** and at subsequent monthly meetings.

Kathleen (Kat) Pettaway-Clarke

is a worldwide traveler who has served this country honorably in the United States Navy for 20 years. Her motto in life is simple, "leave the world a better place than it was the day before." While serving in the Navy, Pettaway-Clarke was selected as a member of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron and worked with ALL Hands magazine, the Navy's flagship magazine.

She is the Lead Public Affairs Officer at Corpus Christi Army Depot, which manages the organization's brand.

Pettaway-Clarke has a dual master's in business administration with an emphasis on Project Management and Marketing from American Intercontinental University and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies from Excelsior College. A lifetime learner, Pettaway-Clarke is pursuing a Doctoral degree in Business Administration. She is a Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. member and the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business. Additionally, Pettaway-Clarke's name is listed among the women who served at the National Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

Pettaway-Clarke's passions and values are about constant improvement and moving forward. That philosophy leans towards taking on new challenges and learning to be comfortable in an uncomfortable world. This led Pettaway-Clarke to compete in the inaugural Ms. Veteran America pageant and participate in Family Feud with the "Vernon Family."

Kat resides in Corpus Christi with her husband Tyrone and is an active member of the Corpus Christi Corvette Club.



Belinda De La Cruz

is a first Generation College Graduate. She Graduated from Texas State University in San Marcos, TX, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business -- Marketing & Management Dual Major. Belinda currently is the Director of Del Mar College Corporate Services which provides upskill and retooling training for the employees of Workforce partners. Her hobbies include reading, live music, travel, community volunteering, networking, and connecting with new contacts.



Jennifer Michelle Gonzales

I was born in Oceanside, California, as my father was in the military. When I was four years old, my family moved to Robstown, Texas, where I was raised. I have been living in Calallen (Northwest Corpus Christi) with my husband and our children ages 22 and 9 since 2002. Our daughter has since graduated from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and moved out of our home and our 9-year-old son is with us (of course!).

I have been working at Del Mar College for ten years. I currently hold the position as Del Mar College Career Development Coordinator where I manage the department and supervise six employees. I hold a Master's degree in Counseling from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. My hobbies include doing yoga, running, spending time with



Melissa Longoria Goonan

Hello! I'm so excited and honored to be part of such an accomplished group of women. I was born and raised in Corpus Christi and I'm the oldest of three children. I received my bachelor's degree in Communications from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, followed by a career in news at KRIS-TV and at KXAN-TV in Austin. After working in broadcast news, I decided to give public relations a go and was fortunate to work for The Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. While working at A&M-Corpus Christi, I became interested in education and helping students. This brings me to my current career at Del Mar College where I'm the tutor coordinator at the Student Success Center (SSC). As a tutor coordinator, I oversee a tutor program that includes both student and professional tutors that work one-on-one with students. My role allows me to interact with students of all ages and backgrounds as they work toward their goals. This is one of my favorite things about my job.



I'm passionate about women's rights and advocating for people of color in professional roles. I can see how inclusive representation has a positive effect on the advancement of all people.

My husband Ralph Goonan and I have been married for 20 years. I'm the mother of a son Eric, who passed away in 2021. We are raising our granddaughters Aubrey, 15, and Cameron, 13. This brings me to my personal interests, which is trying to stay active enough to keep up with a 15 and 13-year old physically, electronically, and mentally. Joking aside, I love watching them grow and become more involved in life and finding their own interests. I love walks on the beach and enjoying life while living on the coast. Ralph and I also have a 2-year old Schnoodle named Arlo and two cats Sara and Bella.

Elizabeth “Lizzy” Wilkins Foo Kune

I graduated from Wellesley in 2009 with a BA in Cognitive and Linguistic Science and Italian Studies. I also studied Comparative Media Studies at MIT and completed my undergraduate research at the MIT Media Lab. Currently I work as a Vice President of Research for Gartner, based out of Stamford, CT. My focus is on marketing data and analytics, advertising and marketing technology, and futurism.

My spouse and I relocated to Corpus Christi in November with our 3.5 year old, Eloise (Wellesley class of 2043!). I told my spouse one February that -22 degrees was WAY TOO COLD, so we picked up and moved to be able to go kiteboarding more often! It also helps to be close to my family, many of whom are located here in Corpus (including my mom, Debby Wilkins, and my aunt, Kristin Conlan, who are very excited that I’ve joined the AAUW chapter).

Between working full time and running around after a very active preschooler, I don’t have much free time. Still, I make time for exercise, spending time outside, reading (poetry!), and cooking. Can’t wait to meet some folks locally!

Amy Rose

is one of those pesty California implants that has recently moved to Texas, green juice and yoga mat in hand. She has been an AAUW member since 2012 - belonging to various chapters throughout northern California.

Most recently she moved from Houston to Corpus Christi where she lives part-time downtown and part-time sailing with her boyfriend. Amy has a bachelor's degree in political science from UC Berkeley and a masters in public policy from Northwestern University. She has worked in various non-

profits, think tanks, and government institutions. Currently, she analyzes state and local government subsidies to corporations with the national budget watchdog group, Good Jobs First. When she is not working or traveling, Amy can be found nose-deep in a book, running, practicing yoga, making videos, and planning her next escape from civilization.



WELCOME TO AAUW CORPUS CHRISTI

On Friday, August 26th, 2022, Del Mar College AAUW Student Organization Advisors, Officers, and several members had an inaugural meeting with Janet Blanke STEM Chair, Kelly Gonzales Community Outreach Chair, and Shirley Selz, Parliamentarian/Texas SHARE Program Coordinator, to brainstorm and plan for DMC AAUW and AAUW Corpus Christi joint projects for the 22-23 school year. The meeting was a huge success and marked the beginning of many exciting gender equity collaborations.

DMC AAUW Officers 2022-2023

Kaila Guerra-President

Miranda Rodriguez-Vice President

Alanna Perez- Secretary

Linda Ibarra- Treasurer

Advisors: Cheryl G Sanders and Belinda De la Cruz



Women's Equality Day

From Catherine Cox



L to R: Sandra Heatherley, Mary Jane Hamilton, Dottie Ewing, Michelle Balis, Susan Birchfield, Deanne Purcell, Catherine Cox.

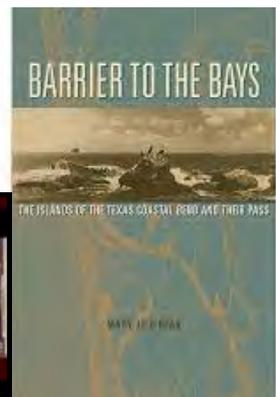
On August 26, 1920, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, extending to women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters held a gala dinner on Friday, August 26, 2022, to celebrate this historic event. A powerful speech on women's long quest for equality, that continues even today, was given by the Honorable Sandra L. Watts, Presiding Judge of the 117th District Court. AAUW showed its appreciation for those in history who fought for women's rights and its support for the work of the League by sharing in the celebration.

A Message From Michelle Balis

I invite AAUW members to an Author talk by **Mary Jo O'Rear** on her latest book *Barrier to the Bays: The Islands of the Texas Coastal Bend and Their Pass*.

When: Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 pm

Where: Neyland Library, 1230 Carmel Pkwy.



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.

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

The next meeting will be held September 12 via Zoom.

Topic: Community Outreach Committee

Time: September 12 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)



Peace of Mind Seminar

October 15, 2022

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., YWCA 4601 Corona, Corpus Christi

Speakers include:

Susan Hutchinson, Esq.

Dr. Nestor Praderio

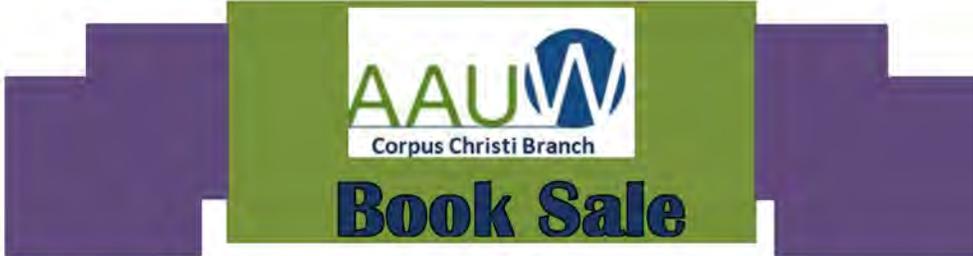
Speaker, Coastal Bend Area Agency on Aging TBA

9:30 a.m. - Refreshments

SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
MATH
From Janet Blanke

The Del Mar AAUW Student Affiliate is very interested in collaborating with our STEM Committee to develop a Women in STEM Day at Del Mar in Spring 2023. We will form our STEM Committee in September and begin planning for the event.



September 8-10

Thursday Sept. 8th: 10 – 5 pm
Friday Sept. 9th: 10- 5 pm
Saturday Sept. 10th: 10 – 1:30pm

Featured Books:
Children’s, Texana, Rare/Collectible, and Literature Classics
\$ 2 and up + Special Sales

Neyland Library
1230 Carmel Pkwy 361-826-2370

For more information, contact:
Kristin Conlan 361-548-0282
corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net



All proceeds benefit the Corpus Christi Public Libraries, local women's scholarship funds, and AAUW Community Outreach projects for women and girls.

Persons requiring an accommodation should contact the library 48 hours in advance: 361-826-2370.

BOOK FINDERS From Kris Conlan

Upcoming book sales for the 2022-2023 season
November 2022 (10,11,12), March 2023 (9,10,11), June 2023 (8,9,10)



INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Janet Blanke

The Wine & Cheese group will meet in September. The exact date and location will be communicated via email soon.



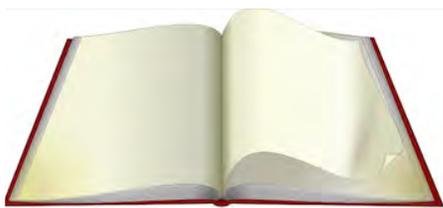
From Susan Birchfield

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Saltwater Grill, 2401 Cimarron Blvd., on Tuesday, September 20th at 12:30 pm. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield.



From Agnes Hamilton

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.



From Dottie Ewing

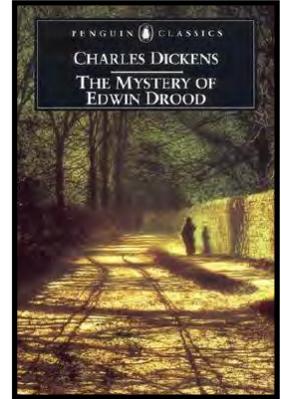
Page Turners, the newly formed book group which combined Readers Round Table and Evening Contemporary, will have its first meeting on September 19 at 7 p.m. Joanie Whitmire will host our premiere event at her home. Agnes Hamilton will co-host. Alice Berecka will review *The Rose Code* and *the Huntress* by Kate Quinn, historical novels based on World War II and its aftermath.



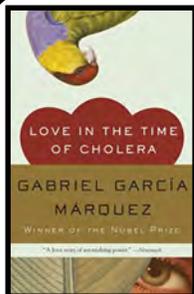
A Classics' Escape

Fleeing the summer heat, **Classics** met in late July at Katz 21 to discuss Charles Dickens' mysterious last novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870). The story is set in a quiet English town with a gothic cathedral at its center.

Rivalries over the lovely orphan Rosie ignite among numerous men when suddenly young Edwin, supposed to be her future husband, disappears and is presumed dead. Unfinished due to Dickens' own death, readers are left to speculate on Dickens' intended murderer, or did Dickens plan to revive Edwin all along? Thank you, Sylvia Rendon, for leading a lively discussion. William Faulkner's *Light in August* (1932) is the scheduled reading for August 31st. **If you wish to join Classics, please contact the chair Catherine Cox.** We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:15 p.m.



L to R: Dottie Ewing, Sandra Heatherley, Catherine Cox, Annie Huckabee, Sylvia Rendon, Susan Birchfield, Deenie Tillman.



Next In September:
Love in the Time of Cholera
 (1985)
 by Gabriel Garcia Márquez.