



Catherine Cox, President



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch

December Edition 2022

President's Message

As a community and a nation, we have so much for which to be thankful as the holidays approach, and so much to wish for in the coming year. We are members of AAUW because we care not just about our own needs but about the education, happiness, prosperity, and health of others. We have bonded together because we want our society to value women and girls, just as men and boys are valued. We look outward and know that as we give to others, we are more joyful and hopeful. Companionship in sharing is also part of that joy, and I hope that the members who gather for our Holiday Luncheon at Del Mar's Retama Room feel sisterhood and love in their shared commitment to giving. I realize that not all our members are able to attend this event. Wherever you are on December 3rd, know that you are valued as part of our AAUW-Corpus Christi family.

Thanksgiving Day is my favorite holiday because it allows for some time for reflection. This year, my heart is saddened by the continued violence in our society, the recent mass shootings in Colorado against the LBGTQ community and in Virginia at a Walmart, where six ordinary citizens were killed because someone decided to take their grief and anger out on the world. As we celebrate with our families this Christmas and Hanukkah, we know that many will have empty chairs at their tables, where children, mothers, fathers, and grandparents should be. Deaths by aging and even by accidents are a part of life's cycle, but these senseless shootings cause a grief in the heart that works against the joy that we want to feel as we gather for the holidays. As we toast our own good fortune, let us pause to remember those who are suffering, who do not have enough to eat, or whose lives have been catapulted into the unthinkable by these national tragedies. Though this message does not focus solely on women and girls, it is their tragedy too, as it is everyone's.

In reflecting on these tragedies, my hope is that we can better process our grief, putting it aside at least for a while, and so embrace the present with gratitude and the future with renewed dedication to fight for the better world that we know is possible. I wish you, my AAUW friends, great joy, laughter, and peace as you enter the holiday season!



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

2022 TAMU-CC Endowed Scholarship Recipient Phoebe Shelton

From Vickie Natale



Our AAUW Corpus Christi Branch established an endowed scholarship at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi in September 2021. The endowment successfully gained enough funds within one year to award its first scholarship in the Fall of 2022. Our first endowed scholarship recipient is Phoebe Shelton, a Kinesiology major who will graduate with the class of 2024. Phoebe stated that her first two years at TAMU-CC were fun but challenging, both academically and financially. She and her twin sister are enrolled simultaneously at the university and covering everything from

tuition, textbooks, rent, and other expenses can be a burden.

Phoebe is interested in continuing her education with a graduate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. She hopes to become a registered Dietician or to work as a consultant nutritionist. As a first-generation college student, Phoebe is striving diligently to maintain a high GPA to be successful in college. Phoebe expressed her sincere appreciation for our AAUW financial support, which she was very surprised – but grateful and honored – to receive.

AAUW Board members Shirley Selz, Kris Conlan, Deanne Purcell, and Vickie Natale were delighted to meet Phoebe Shelton at the 2022 Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Banquet held on November 15. Phoebe is a delightful woman and a strong future leader!

Photo I to r: (standing) Deanne Purcell, Phoebe Shelton, Vickie Natale; (seated) Shirley Selz, Kris Conlan



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Del Mar College Foundation Honors Scholarship Recipients

Andrea Grant 2022 AAUW Scholarship Recipient

From Sylvia Rendon
and Janet Blanke



I to r: Amy Rose, Sylvia Rendon, Andrea Grant, Susan Birchfield, Janet Blanke

On November 15, the Del Mar College Foundation held its 2022 Scholarship Reception where both DMC students and donors met face-to-face. This allowed scholarship students to meet their benefactors to share personal stories and show appreciation for their support. Donors included individuals who gave directly to the DMC Foundation as well as those representing outside organizations like AAUW. The event, held at the Windward Campus, included dinner and was the first such reception held by the Foundation since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AAUW members Susan Birchfield, Janet Blanke, Sylvia Rendon, and Amy Rose were delighted to meet Andrea Grant, the AAUW recipient of a \$500 scholarship. Andrea is studying Nursing at Del Mar College. She considers herself a non-traditional student since she and her husband have teenage children who are approaching College age. However, she knows that by going back to school to pursue a degree in Nursing, she is a Role Model to her children! Andrea and her husband both told us how grateful they are for the scholarship and how much it has helped them. They were quick to point out that it is not just the monetary value that has helped; it is the hope that she felt when she received the scholarship that helps her keep going. Andrea is a member of the AAUW Del Mar Student Affiliate group.



Corpus Christi Branch
Holiday Luncheon*
With Raffle and Silent Auction

**Saturday, December 3, 2022
11:00 a.m.**

Retama Room (2nd Floor)

Harvin Center, Del Mar College Heritage Campus

101 Baldwin Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX

*Luncheon choices were preordered by members at our November meeting or as per instructions sent to members in an email in November.



Tiffany Style Table Lamps



Everyone is invited to bring donations to the Holiday Luncheon for the Silent Auction. These may be items that you have created, collectibles that you might already have in your home but no longer want or need, or certificates for services.

These are just a few of the exciting items available for bid in our upcoming December meeting. Add your auction items and come prepared to bid.



Heirloom Quilt



22 Piece Russian China Set

**SILENT
AUCTION**

December Holiday Luncheon Raffle



This year's **Luncheon Raffle** has been modified. In the past, members purchased and donated gift cards to put into baskets for the raffle. Many members donated several gift cards valued at \$20 to \$50 each, and then bought raffle tickets at the luncheon, which basically meant that members donated twice for the same event. This year, the Board decided that that we would simplify the raffle by replicating the process we used two years ago during COVID. We are purchasing HEB gift cards as prizes for the raffle, and we are asking members to contribute to our Community Outreach fund by purchasing raffle tickets. Since members have not been asked to purchase gift cards for the baskets, the Board thought it was reasonable to increase the cost of raffle tickets to \$20 each, or 3 for \$50. **The 1st prize gift will be a \$100 gift certificate from HEB, 2nd prize will be a \$75.00 gift certificate from HEB, and 3rd prize will be a \$50.00 gift certificate from HEB.**

Remember that the purpose of the raffle is to raise funds for Community Outreach activities. We hope all members will participate in the raffle. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, you may still purchase raffle tickets in advance by sending your check to Vickie Natale. You do not have to be present to win. We will have tickets for all presales assigned to buyers and included in the drawing. Thank you for your support!



Buy your tickets at the luncheon or in advance by mail. (See above.)

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.

I would like to send a thank you to Sylvia Rendon, Catherine Cox and Shirley Selz for a great Peace of Mind Seminar! We had two amazing speakers and a great turn out. It took a lot of planning and hard work, especially since they had to plan and cancel plans for 2020 and 2021! They stayed the course and the results were amazing. We will work hard to build on this and grow our event each year.

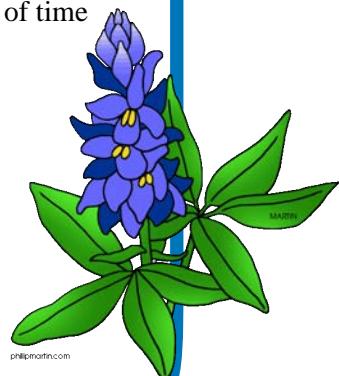
We are currently working on the YW Teen Holiday Shopping Event on Saturday, December 10 from 1:30 – 4. This is a great way to make a difference for 75 YW Teen Girls. Each girl is allowed to select 5 gifts from our store. Our Super Shoppers, Dottie Ewing and Diana Cardenas, purchase the gifts to make sure we have enough inventory. We will give out 375 gifts during the event. Our branch members have the opportunity to sit with the girls and help them wrap the gifts but, more importantly, we get the chance to visit with the girls and learn more about them and their families. They are very sweet and will tell you who the gift is for and about that person or pet!

As you might imagine, getting 75 girls to wrap 375 gifts in 2 ½ hours takes a lot of time and effort. So, we NEED YOUR HELP.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Check in the girls
- Help them shop for the gifts
- Help them wrap the gifts
- Make sure they complete the survey and get their Goody Bag

There will not be a committee meeting in December so Happy Holidays from the Community Outreach Committee and we hope to see you on December 10.



Volunteers needed for the **YW Teen Holiday Shopping Event, Saturday, December 10** from 1:30pm to 4pm at the YWCA, 4601 Corona Drive. Volunteers need to arrive no later than 1:15pm. See you there!



SPECIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



BOOK FINDERS

The November sale was interesting. The proceeds on the first day set a new single day record by exceeding \$1,000. However, the next two days were very slow, with low customer turnout. Overall, we did comparably with previous sales and look forward to the next sale days in March.

Thank you to all the workers who helped make our November sale a success. The Book Nook looked seasonally attractive with the large display of children's holiday themed books, and the shelves were fully stocked with numerous books of all genres. The checkout workers have become quite proficient at using the new "Square" for processing the credit card sales, a popular feature for many of our customers, and a needed boost for our profits!

New workers are always needed, and this cycle we welcomed Barb Craig-Schniepp to our weekly group. We hope to see more members join us on Tuesday afternoons as well.

Have a joyful holiday season, everyone!

Kristin Conlan

SCIENCE

TECHNOLOGY

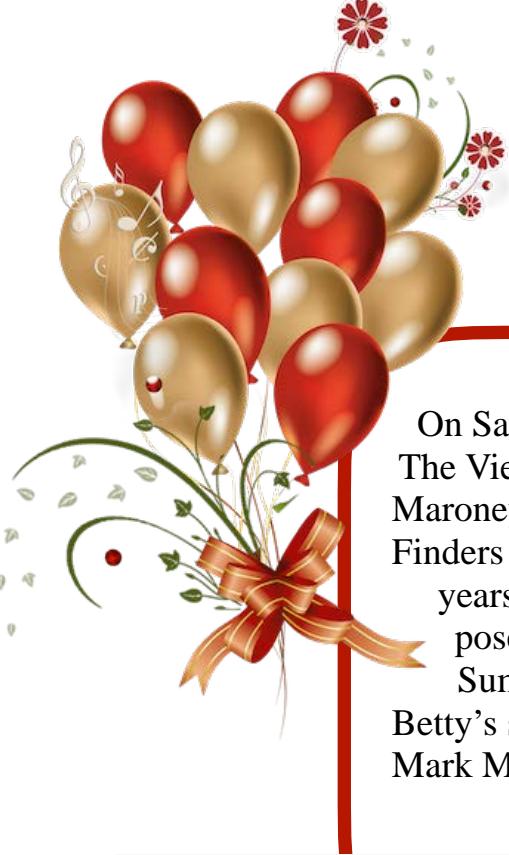
ENGINEERING

MATH

The AAUW STEM Committee is planning to hold a Girls Discover STEM day at Del Mar College in March 2023 for High School Girls in the Coastal Bend Community. We will partner with the AAUW Del Mar Student Affiliate group and a number of STEM Departments at Del Mar to host a meaningful event.

From Janet Blanke





HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY BETTY MARONEY

On Saturday, November 12, 2022, family and friends gathered at The Viera to celebrate the 90th birthday for our dear member, Betty Maroney, who served for many years as the Chair of the Book Finders committee. Betty has also been a “band mom” for over 40 years to *Aloha Dave and the Tourists*, and the band members posed for this photo with Betty. Standing left to right are Ray Summy, lead guitar and vocals; Bill Purcell, drums and vocals; Betty’s son, Dave Maroney, lead vocals and guitar; and Betty’s son, Mark Maroney, bass guitar.

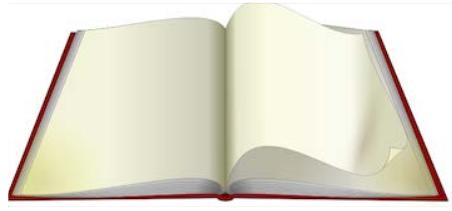


INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Susan Birchfield

The Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in December. See you in 2023!



From Dottie Ewing

Page Turners will not meet in December. Join us in January to hear a review by Maggie Gibson at the home of Shirley Selz. Enjoy your holidays!
(Check Branch Yearbook for location)



From Agnes Hamilton

The Gardening Divas will meet on the third Wednesday of the month starting in February - April at 3 p.m. at the hostess's home or designated location. The information will be emailed to the members that signed up for Gardening Divas. Hope all that signed up will be able to attend. Looking forward to the new year.



From Michelle Balis

PLAYGOERS-

- Aurora Arts Theater will have Cabaret from February-March. Let me know if you want to go March 24.
- TAMUCC will have *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* March 7-11. Let me know if you want to go March 10.



save
the
date

A Message From Michelle Balis

Literary Events At Neyland Public Library
1230 Carmel Parkway
Corpus Christi, TX

- **Local Author Jim Moloney** speaks on his latest work *The Tarpon Club of Texas* on Thursday, February 23, 6:30pm.
- **Former Corpus Christi Poet Laureate, Juan Perez**, will read from his poetry books on Thursday, March 23, 6:30pm.
- **Poet Robin Carstensen** will help us Celebrate National Poetry Month on Thursday, April 20, 6:30pm.



For more information on the interest groups of AAUW CC Branch, refer to the Branch 2022-2023 Yearbook. Members will find descriptions of interest groups, gathering days and time, and contact information for interest group chairs. The yearbook is a valuable tool for information about our Branch.

AND FINALLY

