



Catherine Cox, President



**March Edition 2023**

## President's Message

Dear Members,

The groundhog may have seen its shadow, but Corpus Christi feels like Spring. I so hope that our good fortune continues and that we have NO WINTER STORMS!

Just a reminder that we gather at the Antonio E. Garcia Center on March 4 at 10:30 for our Monthly Membership Meeting. To prepare yourself for this experience, please read below Mary Sherwood's offering, which describes the program, gives background on the Center, and directions for you to get there, and Diana Cardenas's piece on her Valentine's experience helping the young girls at the Center.

I have had my mind very much on the CDC Report on the Mental Health of Teen-Agers, that was released earlier this month. It seems that the negative effects of Covid isolation, family stress, and social media have created a crisis of sadness and anxiety for our girls. Bullying is rife on the internet, and many teenage girls have experienced violence and rape. Findings show that many teenage girls are struggling with depression.

AAUW is well positioned to help. While STEM programs, community outreach activities, and scholarships are important ways of opening the world to our young women and instilling in them a sense of self-worth and a recognition of their potential, we as individual also can offer our smiles, open conversations, and patience. We can encourage teenagers as we go through our days, especially those in our families, at our houses of worship, and while we volunteer in organizations, like the YWCA and the Garcia Center. Gestures of kindness let them know that they are valued. It is time to examine ourselves for the concrete ways that we can help our young female friends thrive in a very difficult environment.

A final reminder that voting on the proposed AAUW National Bylaw Amendments begins on April 5 and ends for online voting at 5:00 pm ET on May 15<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you will vote and make your voice and our branch's collective voice heard.



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



Corpus Christi Branch Meeting  
Saturday, March 4, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center  
2021 Agnes Street

**Topic: Supporting Education, Health and Creativity on the West Side**

**Speaker: Esmerelda Teran, Director of the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center**

**Esmeralda Herrera-Teran**, director of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center, will share information about the current mission and programs of the center with AAUW members. Teran has served as director of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center since 2020. As a native of Corpus Christi's Westside and a first-generation college graduate, she brings an insider's perspective to the Center's mission to sustain local culture while opening doors to opportunities in education and the arts, especially for underserved members of the community.

Teran has worked for the university since 2000, beginning as a secretary and advancing positions over time as she advanced her own education. She now has completed a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Master of Science in Counseling, and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She has four adult children and eight grandchildren.

By Mary Sherwood



## Site of the March AAUW Branch Meeting

# Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center



By Mary Sherwood

The center is named for Antonio Garcia, an American artist nicknamed the “Michelangelo of South Texas,” whose career spanned the 1930s through the 1970s. His work received state and national recognition. Although he worked in various media, he may be best known for his frescoes, which adorn several South Texas churches. He taught at Del Mar College for more than 25 years.

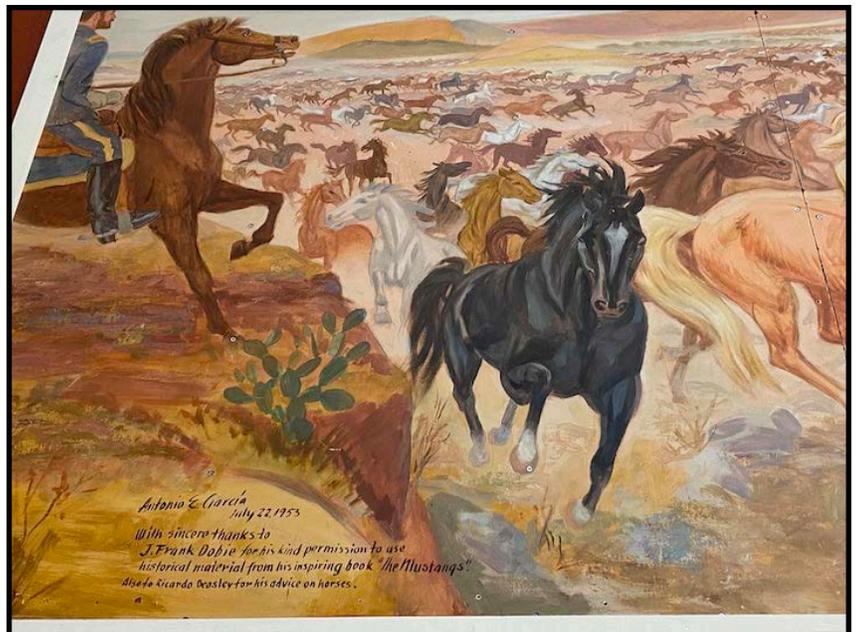
The Center opened in 1993 as the Center for Hispanic Arts with the mission of showcasing works by Hispanic artists and bringing art to the West Side Community. It became part of the Art Museum of South Texas in 1997 and was dedicated as the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center. In 2004 the A&M-Corpus Christi College of Education and Human Development assumed responsibility for the center, adding educational and counseling programming to the arts programming.

### Directions to the Garcia Center:

**From the Southside:** Take the Crosstown Expressway (HWY 286) toward I-37. Take the Agnes/Laredo Street exit and stay on the Access Road (16th Street) through the Agnes Street intersection (it is one-way the wrong direction). Turn left on Laredo Street and go under the freeway, continuing to 18th Street where you will turn left. Then turn left onto Agnes. The center, which has a red brick front, will be on your right. It has a large parking lot.

**From the Ocean Drive side of town:** Take Staples through Six Points and turn left at Laredo Street. Continue on Laredo to 18th Street (you will cross under the freeway). Turn left on 18th Street and left on Agnes Street. The center, which has a red brick front, will be on your right. It has a large parking lot.

This mural by Antonio E. Garcia, entitled *Mustangs*, can be seen at the Garcia Center. At the bottom of the mural, Garcia thanks J. Frank Dobie, major literary figure of Texas, for information from Dobie's book *The Mustangs*.



# My Valentine Experience at the Garcia Center

By Diana Cardenas



Children make valentines in the center's art studio, led by an art instructor.

On February 14th, Director Esmeralda Teran greeted me warmly in the lobby of the Antonio E. Garcia Center when I arrived to deliver chocolates and valentines for the children. Twenty students were gathered at round tables in the ample art studio, comfortably talking and laughing with each other. A small girl with a large, red bow pulled a pink backpack to a table where children of various ages joyfully showed off their valentine candy. Tutors greeted each child by his/her name and then announced that the art instructor would teach them to make valentines for their parents and siblings. Most of the children moved excitedly into the art workshop to long tables full of art

supplies while several tutors remained in the studio to provide one-to-one literacy instruction to three children. Along with individualized instruction, the competent, experienced tutors engaged everyone in reading and math lessons. The tutors, with expertise in early childhood, reading, and bilingual literacy, demonstrated a caring, dedicated focus on the children. The center is a safe, nurturing, and joyful setting that celebrates Garcia's legacy by integrating arts, literacy education, and individual growth and welfare into everyday learning and discovery. Because of my experience living on the West Side behind the old Memorial Hospital as a child and my experience as an educator, I laud the commitment of the Garcia Center to the well-being of the children in the area.

## Lovers of Books: Teen Bookfest by the Bay

By Diana Cardenas



- According to the president of the *Teen Bookfest by the Bay* planning/ organizing committee, Ms. Lisa Lawhon, 740 people participated in the Bookfest activities on February 4, 2023.
- Several English/ Reading teachers brought their entire classes. One group traveled from Refugio.
- Many parents accompanied their children.
- Nineteen authors participated in panel presentations/ illustrator's workshops.
- Students who attended 3 author panels/ workshops were gifted a new book by the planning committee.
- Our donation to this exciting, joyful celebration of literacy reinforced youngsters' identity as lovers of books.



## BOOK FINDERS

The Bookfinders are very busy preparing for the upcoming sale to be held March 9-11. We will be featuring gardening, entertainment, Texana, and children's books in our special sale in addition to all the varied genres inside the Book Nook.

Online sales have picked up considerably over the past couple of weeks. We celebrated an especially nice sale of The Living Shadow, a detective novel by Maxwell Grant, dated 1931, for \$275. Many thanks to Debby for her tireless attention and dedication to keeping our online sales up to date and running smoothly.

See you at the sale!  
Kris

SCIENCE

TECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERING

The STEM event for local High School girls that was scheduled for March 1 has been postponed until the Fall due to circumstances beyond our control.

Having the event in the fall will give us time to apply for community grants to help offset the cost of lunch and maybe some give-aways for the participants. Please contact Janet Blanke if you would like to work on securing grants and speakers for the event.

From Janet Blanke

## 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.

**Meeting Schedule: Second Monday of the month at 6:00 at  
the YWCA, 4601 Corona Drive**

**March 13      May 8  
April 10      June 12**

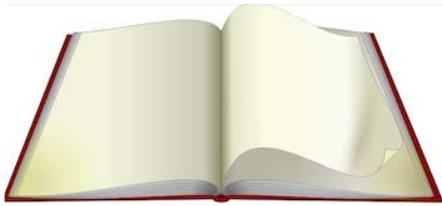


## INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Susan Birchfield

**The Lunch Bunch** will be meeting on Tuesday, March 21st, at 12:30 pm at Maggie's Family Kitchen, located at 5334 Everhart. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.



From Dottie Ewing

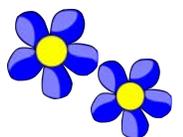
**Page Turners** will meet March 20 at 7 p.m. at Susan Birchfield's home where she will review Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. Please RSVP to Susan reserve your seat. Hope to see everyone out on the island for a fabulous review!



From Agnes Hamilton

**The Gardening Divas** had an excellent visit with Kevin Gibbs, Nueces County TxA&M Agrilife Extension officer, who spoke on Gardening in Extremes. It was very interesting and informative and I think most questions were answered. Thanks to Kevin.

- The March 15 meeting will host Renee Brown, President of Corpus Christi Garden Council, speaking on Propagation. Location to be announced sent via email to members.
- The April 19 meeting will host Mary Sherwood as our speaker and the topic and location will be announced via email to members.
- Our meetings are from 3pm to 4pm every third Wednesday for March and April.
- We look forward to our next meetings and our exciting guest speakers.



## INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Michelle Balis

**PlayGoers** are planning the following:

- *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at TAMUCC on Friday, March 10. (Meet at the Box Office to buy our own tickets.)
- *Noises Off!* at Aurora Arts Theater on Friday, April 21. (Must let me know by Monday, April 17, so I can order tickets.)



From Susan Birchfield

**Wine and Cheese** will be meeting at Catherine Cox's home at 5 pm, Sunday, March 12th. Everyone attending is asked to bring either a bottle of wine or an appetizer.



**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.**



## Book Sale

# March 9-11

*Thursday, March 9: 10 – 5 pm*

*Friday, March 10: 10- 5 pm*

*Saturday, March 11: 10 – 1:30 pm*

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### *Featured Books:*

*Children's, Texana,  
Entertainment, and Gardening*

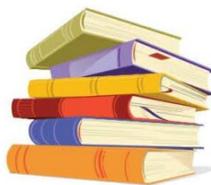
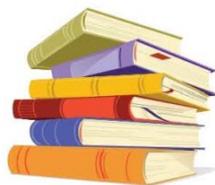
***\$ 2 and up + Special Sales***

### **Neyland Library**

1230 Carmel Pkwy 361-826-2370

### **For more information, contact:**

Kristin Conlan 361-548-0282  
[corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net](http://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.*