



Catherine Cox, President



Memorial Day 2023
May 29



May Edition 2023

President's Message

AAUW-Corpus Christi has enjoyed another successful year. In addition to our Sue Stanford Scholarship (\$1,000) that goes to a deserving student in the history program at A&M University--Corpus Christi and our two \$500 scholarships for Del Mar students, we have created an AAUW Betty Maroney Scholarship, to honor long time educator, principal, and Book Finder Chair Betty Maroney. This \$500 scholarship will go to a deserving undergraduate student in the College of Education at A&M University—Corpus Christi. Book Finders finances all these scholarships.

Our support also extends to honoring high school students. Each spring, we have celebrated fifteen college bound senior girls at Miller High School. This year, thanks to a generous donation by Diana Cardenas, we are honoring additional students. Each girl receives \$100. The Del Mar affiliate branch takes part in the celebration by giving the girls support and advice. We thank Community Outreach members for their planning of this event and Book Finders for its hard work, and Diana for her kind heart.

Book Finders has had an excellent year with book sales at Neyland (formerly Parkdale) Library and online at Amazon. Also, our Community Outreach Chair Kelly Gonzalez became a Y Women in Careers Honoree. We celebrate Kelly's distinguished career in banking and her contributions to AAUW.

Our membership is healthy! We currently have around eighty members. After several harsh years with Covid, I am very thankful that we now have our monthly meetings in person. Our programs have been excellent (a big thanks to Mary Sherwood) and the refreshments delicious (thank you, Susan Birchfield and team). Thank you also, Olivia McDonald, for sending cards out to members throughout the year. Our Board, committee chairs, and interest group chairs have done exemplary service.

Members, know that you are the heart and soul of this organization. AAUW continues to give me great joy because I know that we work together to help girls and women in our community. I look forward to seeing you at our May Luncheon at Mirador Retirement Community.



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



Corpus Christi Branch Meeting
Saturday, May 20, 2023, 12:30 p.m.

May Luncheon and Induction of Officers

Mirador Retirement Community

5857 Timbergate Drive

Corpus Christi, Texas

LUNCHEON ORDER DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting your order or making any change in your order is **May 4 at noon**. Your choices of entrees are Lemon Roasted Chicken or Grilled Salmon. In addition, there will be salad, a medley of vegetables, and the chef's specialty, caramel cobbler. You may submit your order to Vickie Natale via email or call her by Thursday, noon on May 4. After that all orders will be final.

Payment of \$23 can be made at the door. Exact cash is always appreciated, as well as checks.

RENEWAL DUES PAYMENT

Your renewal dues for 2023-2024 can be paid by cash or check at the May luncheon. National AAUW has increased dues by \$5.00, so the total for this year is \$97.00 – that is \$72 for national, \$13 for state, and \$12 for the Branch. The national office is sending out an email to members with instructions for renewing online, for those who prefer to pay by credit card. If you are not attending the luncheon and want to pay by check, you can mail your check, payable to AAUW-CC, to Vickie Natale, Finance Officer. If you know of any potential new members, remember that the national office is still offering half-price on national dues for first-time members, so a new member will pay only \$61 for the first year (\$36 for national dues, \$13 for state, and \$12 for the Branch).

April 2023 Branch Meeting

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch held a meeting on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the YWCA from 10:30 a.m. to noon. We had 21 members and six guests in attendance. President Catherine Cox opened the meeting with a welcome and an introduction of guests. Vice President Mary Sherwood introduced our speaker, David Sikes, who has a journalism degree from the University of Houston and who was the *Outdoors* columnist for 23 years at the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*. Sikes has received numerous awards for his writing, wildlife photography, and conservation efforts. He is currently an editor and the board secretary for *Wildlife in Focus*, a nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve and protect the native wildlife and their habitats in South Texas.

Sikes shared stories and photographs from his days working at the Caller-Times. He underscored the importance of conservation efforts and mentioned several organizations that are involved in those efforts, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and Wildlife in Focus. Sikes also shared an array of his stunning photography that included migratory birds seen about this time of year in South Texas, as well as fishing photographs and other wildlife. He noted that several good locations for birding in South Texas include Blucher Park, Packery Channel Nature Park, the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas, and Hazel Bazemore Park.



President Catherine Cox, David Sikes, and Program VP Mary Sherwood





Call for Volunteers!

From Vickie Natale

Our Branch has long supported the YWCA's YWTeens program which is structured for 5th and 6th grade girls who experience so many socioeconomic problems. The program, held year-round, helps girls learn social and interpersonal skills and build confidence. The YWTeen summer camps are three or four-day workshops that provide opportunities for the girls to express creativity; explore education choices and career options; and learn how to be a leader in a tough world.

We invite you to consider becoming a guest speaker for one of the workshops held this summer, as many of our AAUW members have done in the past. Your volunteer efforts can provide a positive role model and build the strength and confidence of each girl. Not sure what you could do with the girls? Here are a few ideas that Nancy Wesson-Dodd has suggested that the girls would love to try or learn about.

- Painting
- Jewelry making
- Hygiene/face care
- Social media
- Sewing and/or hand crafts
- Pickleball (YW has nets, balls & a few paddles)
- Cornhole Toss (YW has equipment)
- Teams making obstacle courses in the gym (with YW fitness equipment) and teams running the courses
- Blue collar jobs/training/careers/wages
- Unusual careers
- Your travel stories with your souvenirs and the YWCA globe

You may have other inspiring ideas for a workshop. Just let Nancy Wesson-Dodd know what you might offer. The YWCA and our AAUW Branch thank all of you who volunteer for this project. You will be broadening the YWTeens lives, their dreams, and their futures.



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.

Plans are well underway for this year's Miller High School Celebration. The celebration is Tuesday, May 9 at 2:30 in the Miller High School Library. This year we will be honoring 25 girls with a reception complete with a speaker, refreshments, goody bags and \$100 cash.

The Del Mar Student chapter will be on hand to meet the girls and help answer questions about college and campus life.

The Outreach Committee is also working on recruiting volunteers to help with the YW Teen Summer camps. Information on these wonderful opportunities is included in the newsletter.

October brings the second annual Peace of Mind Seminar. This year we hope to focus on how to live more independently either in your home or elsewhere. If any of you have ideas or experience with this please share with us! We really need to get the topics nailed down in August so we can finalize the speakers and start getting ready!

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 at 6:00 via Zoom.. The committee **will not be meeting in June or July** but will resume meetings Monday August, 14.





From Susan Birchfield

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Tuesday, May 16th, at 12:30 pm at Las Braza's Cocina Bar & Grill, located at 4425 S Alameda St. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.



From Susan Birchfield

Wine and Cheese will be meeting at Agnes Hamilton's home at 5 pm, Sunday, April 14th. Everyone attending is asked to bring either a bottle of wine or an appetizer.



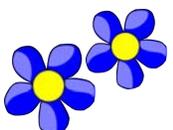
From Agnes Hamilton and Joanie Whitmire

The Gardening Divas met for the last time this year at the home of Mary Sherwood for a very interesting tour of her raised beds and container gardens. Information was shared on growing vegetables, herbs and landscape plants plus information on various watering technics. Valuable information was received by all. Thank you, Mary, for an informative and very pleasant afternoon. Thank you to all of the Gardening Divas this year for attending and supporting our group.



From Leslie Peart

Poetry Appreciation will meet for dinner and verse on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Omni's Glass Pavilion. We're sharing poems, "In Memorium," with Memorial Day in mind. This year's thematic approach has been a true joy for all. Do come join us!



INTEREST GROUP NEWS



From Dottie Ewing

Page Turners met at Jan Hilton's home for their April meeting to hear Catherine Cox review *Atonement*. This was our last meeting for the year. Join us next year to share in some great book reviews.



Summer is approaching, and our Branch newsletter goes into its "summer mode." We have two combined newsletters during this period: a June/July edition and an August/September edition. The send out date is very flexible, so look for the newsletters to arrive in your email somewhere in the above time frames.

Ann Hamilton, Editor