



Catherine Cox, President



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch

December Edition 2023

## President's Message

### Two great AAUW Activities to begin ringing in the holidays!

Please join us at our **annual Holiday Luncheon**, scheduled for Saturday, December 2, beginning at 11:00. We will be gathering at the Retama Room in the Harvin Student Center on the Del Mar College Campus (101 Baldwin Blvd.). We are planning a pot-luck luncheon, so please bring your favorite dish and enjoy celebrating with your AAUW friends. If you have not let me know that you plan to attend, don't worry. It is not too late, just send me an email.

**Raffle.** At our luncheon, we will be raffling a combination of festive gifts. First prize will include a \$100 Gift Certificate for Books. The winner will select books from one or more of our quarterly AAUW--Corpus Christi Branch Book Sales at Neyland Library. Also included in first place is a beautiful poinsettia, worth approximately \$25, a pair of Catherine Cox earrings, and a lovely piece of pottery by Janet Blanke. These items are perfect for the holidays, great for oneself or to use as gifts. Second prize will include a \$50 Gift Certificate for Books from our Book Sales, a smaller, but still lovely poinsettia, and other gifts of less value than those for first prize. **The proceeds of the Raffle will go to fund our Community Outreach activities. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Please bring cash or be ready to write a check to purchase raffle tickets and to take part in the Silent Auction.** Diana Cardenas and friends will be organizing our Silent Auction (please see further details in Diana's piece below).

I'd like to share with you a brief story of the rewards of giving. During our last book sale, a woman selected books, using a \$50 gift certificate, one of the two that our branch had donated to the YWCA Yuletide Market's silent auction. She expressed her delight that we had such great offerings and said that she would return for our future book sales. Those who helped her were happy that she had found plenty of books that met her needs and that the YWCA had also benefited from our gifts.

Finally, a reminder of our **Y Teens Shopping and Gift Wrapping** on Saturday, Dec. 9 from two to four p.m. This is one of my favorite AAUW activities. The project focuses directly on our mission and captures the essence of who we are as a branch. As we give our time and experience to the girls, they give back to us with their delight and innocence. To see how you can help, read Outreach Chair Kelly Gonzalez's item below.



Corpus Christi Branch Luncheon  
And Silent Auction  
Saturday, December 2 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Del Mar College Harvin Center  
Retama Room



### Holiday Silent Auction

•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 already have but no longer want or need, or certificates for service. Each year members make available original, interesting, and attractive items.

•Please bring your auction items and also come prepared to bid. A bid form was sent by email to print and fill out and bring for each item.

•Payment:

Be sure to bring cash or checks to pay for your silent auction items. We do not plan to use the credit card reader because Internet connections in the Harvin Center are uncertain. Payments to Zelle are acceptable.

The money raised will fund Community Outreach activities.

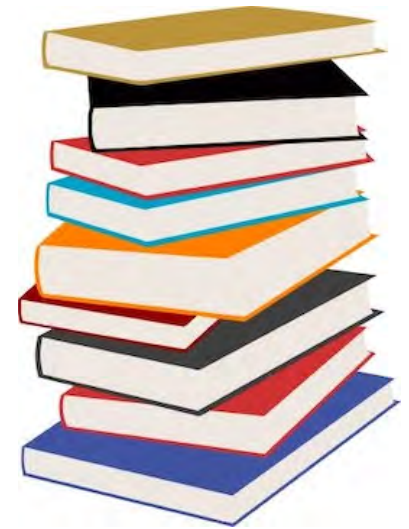
**The Bookfinders** are celebrating another successful sale. Since this was the final sale of 2023, it was tax-free, and the turnout was fantastic, resulting in sales exceeding \$2,000!

A huge thank-you to the following weekly workers who have devoted their Tuesday afternoons to work diligently to help make these sales possible. What a fantastic team!

Mary and Bob Sorrells	Debby and John Wilkins
Sherry Roussel	Barbara Craig- Schniepp
Barbara Jue	Catherine Cox
Alice Barecka	Sherry Putman
Dottie Ewing	Lara Gephart

A very special thank-you to the members who have contributed their time and talents to support our sales by providing publicity, managing the funds, restocking shelves, and/or serving as cashiers.

Mary and Bob Sorrells	Debby and John Wilkins
Sherry Roussel	Barbara Craig-Schniepp
Barbara Jue	Catherine Cox
Alice Barecka	Sherry Putman
Dottie Ewing	Lara Gephart
Janet Blanke	Diana Cardenas
Kelly Gonzalez	Deanne Purcell
Agnes Hamilton	Joanie Whitmire
Cynthia Herran	Vickie Natale
Shirley Selz	Josefina Villarreal



Michelle Balis and the Neyland Library staff have been indispensable in providing any and all support as needed. We appreciate their friendly assistance beyond words! Thank you, thank you!

We hope to see many, many of you at our next sale which will be February 8-10. Until then, have a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season and keep reading!!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**February 8-10, 2024**  
**See you at the Book Nook!**

# BETTY MARONEY

## AAUW Member 1997-2023

Sadly, we have said our final good-bye to our former leader and mentor, Betty Maroney. Betty led the Bookfinders for many years with strength and passion. During the past year she kept close tabs on our sales and was always proud of what we accomplished. In memory of Betty, the Bookfinders will place signage in the children's section of the Book Nook, naming it "Betty's Corner." Betty would like that.

— Kris Conlan





## AAUW Community Outreach Committee

From Kelly Gonzalez

**The Outreach Committee is wrapping up a busy year with the December Holiday Shopping event on Saturday, 9 at the Y from 2:00 – 4:00. Information on how you can help is listed below and I encourage all of you to come participate. You can bring your donations to the December meeting and I will get from you.**



**WE NEED YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### ***YW Teen Holiday Shopping Needs***

**Cookies for participants (50 participants x 2 each)**

**Toppings for the Hot Chocolate Bar/Family Area**

**Gift bags (50 girls at 5 gifts = 250 bags needed)**

**Volunteers (minimum 3) to work the store**

**Volunteers (minimum 5) to work the giftwrap area**

**Volunteers (minimum 3) to work the Hot Chocolate/Family area**

## Teen Bookfest by the Bay

by Diana Cardenas

Ms. Ana Lisa Garza Lawhon, President of Teen Bookfest by the Bay Planning Committee, engaged AAUW members with her inspiring presentation of the yearly *Teen Bookfest by the Bay* gathering.

A native Corpus Christian who received her degrees at Del Mar College and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, with an emphasis in Reading, Ms. Lawhon taught with CCISD for six years before embracing a librarian position for 24 years and retiring in 2022.

The leader in her second term as President, Ms. Lawhon works with other officers and many members of the Planning Committee to organize the yearly event. To our meeting she was accompanied by Jennifer Belcher, Hospitality Chairperson.

In February 2023, the *Bookfest*, held at the American Bank Center, attracted 7,500 teens from Coastal Bend school districts, Robstown, Kingsville, Orange Grove, Goliad, Refugio, Pharr, and San Juan in the Valley.

Seven panels were attended by students who interacted with their favorite authors from across the country, excited to ask questions and to receive encouragement to continue their budding talent. A Writer's Workshop was offered by Del Mar College faculty members, and an Illustrators' Workshop and a Graphic Novel workshop were provided by nationally-known artists. Many teens brought their favorite books for book signing sessions with authors, some who traveled from various states.

Ms. Lawhon presented photos of teens engaged in panel discussions with favorite authors and families enjoying the activities. She read a letter from an author who praised the gathering. He was enthused by his interaction with hundreds of youngsters, families, fellow authors, and the industrious planning committee

Ms. Lawhon noted that *Bookfest* will be held on February 24, 2024, at the [Education Service Center Region II](#), 209 N. Water Street, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Teachers who are involved with Bookfest will receive credit toward their teaching certification.

Ms. Lawhon thanked AAUW for funds donated to the [Friends of Corpus Christi Public Libraries](#), which Michelle Balis, Director for Neyland Public Library, earmarks for the Authors' Dinner.



From Michelle Balis

## Playgoers:

- Messiah on Friday, December 1 @ 7 pm at First United Methodist Church. Free!
- Winter Wonderettes on Saturday, December 2 @ 7:30 pm at Aurora Arts Theater. Buy your tickets online for \$20 + 2.50 services (<https://www.auroraartstheatre.com/shows/winterwonderettes23>)
- Winter Organ Concert on Sunday, December 10 @ 3 pm at Corpus Christi Cathedral. Free!
- Also Happening:  
Christmas Carol at Harbor Playhouse. Let Barbara Craig-Schniepp know if you want to go to a matinee.  
It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play at Port Aransas Community Theatre, December 14-22.

## Check out the monthly book club offerings at Neyland Library!

From Michelle Balis

- Hooked on Yarn Club: Every Thursday at 3:00. Come learn or share your crafting skills with crochet or knitting. Lots of fun conversation with all ages of crafters.
- Taste of Murder Book Club (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10:30 - share the mystery books you are reading!).
- Neyland Library Literary & Pie Society (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 4:00 -- share the books you are reading - that are not mysteries!)
- Banned Book Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 4:00 -- ask at the library for the monthly selection and join us for a lively discussion!)

Anita & W.T. Neyland Public Library  
1230 Carmel Pkwy  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411