



Catherine Cox, President



April Edition 2024

President's Message

As I move towards the end of my AAUW branch presidency, I begin to reflect on the many rewarding and challenging moments during this time. I am very thankful to all of you for your support of our mission and of my leadership. We are AAUW members because we care about women and girls and wish for them a bright and rewarding future. There is still much work to be done, of course, to bring equitable pay and respect to women. There are also continuing challenges to our girls' freedom to learn and to young women's health and security. The struggle for women's rights continues, and AAUW has a significant role in shaping America's future.

Our Community Outreach, STEM, and Book Finders' initiatives are our way of providing educational and research opportunities to those in our community. And our interest groups provide intellectual and creative stimulation, as well as opportunities to strengthen friendships. Your participation in these groups and willingness to take leadership roles in our branch are gifts that I will never forget.

With pride, I often tell prospective members, "We are a very active branch," and I appreciate your attendance at our regular membership meetings. My state of the branch report is thus a very positive one. My sincerest "thank-you" for all that you do for AAUW and for your loving support over the past two years.

AAUW Texas State Conference

WATCH PARTY!

April 6, 2024

****Cancelled****

We encourage members interested in the State Conference to look in their emails for the Zoom invitation to be sent by AAUW Texas and use their home computers to watch and participate in the conference.



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

IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch

ELECTION REMINDER

All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting in April and to vote for the officers to be elected for the 2024-2026 term. The slate of nominees was published in the March newsletter and was also announced at the membership meeting on March 2.

The Nominating Committee reminds all members that the election will be on April 13 and the following candidates have been nominated for the offices as stated below.

**President – Kelly Gonzalez
AAUW Funds VP – Sharon Trott**

**Shirley Selz, Chairman
Nominating Committee**

Make Your Voice Heard Voting Begins April 3 on Proposed Bylaw Changes and National Election of Officers

Be sure to check your email when National Election voting opens on Wednesday, April 3. AAUW will again this year use a third-party vendor to administer voting. You will receive an electronic ballot with your unique voting credential from vote@simplyvoting.com. Please add this address to your safe sender list now to ensure your ballot reaches you. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot. If you cannot find the email in your inbox, check your Spam, Trash, and Junk email folders. If you still have not located the email, call one of your AAUW friends for assistance. Individual emails cannot be forwarded to other members, since there are unique voting credentials attached to each ballot. Voting closes Monday, May 15, at 12 p.m. ET.



Corpus Christi Branch Meeting
Saturday, April 13, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

YWCA, Community Room
4601 Corona Drive

Topic: Xeriscape Gardening
Addressing Drought in Texas

Speaker: Joanne Salge
Program Manager
City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County
Local Emergency Planning Committee



Joanne Salge has tended the Xeriscape Learning

Center and Design Garden since 2008. Prior, Joanne worked at the City of Corpus Christi Water Department with Conservation and Outreach. During that time, she became a Nueces County Master Gardener. She remains active in the organization and in the Nueces County Horticulture Advisory Council. Joanne is the program manager for the City of Corpus Christi- Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee, overseeing facilities and hazardous chemicals. The rest of the time, you will find her planting and playing in dirt, somewhere.

The Book Finders

are delighted to welcome back Mary Sorrells and her husband Bob after Mary's recovery period following her surgery. We are so excited to have you back with the Tuesday group!

In preparation for the sale to be held June 6-8, we have been busier than ever removing books from the Book Nook to make room for new selections to be placed on the shelves for our customers. This turnover of books demands numerous trips of outgoing books to Half Price Books. Sheri Roussel has been our workhorse for this task, doing a fantastic job of transporting numerous boxes of books to HPB and patiently waiting for their appraisal. Mary and Bob have also pitched in and helped with this task several times this year as the need arises.

Sherry Putman has returned after a couple months of "time-out", and resumed the caretaking of the children's section. Sherry is a creative thinker, and we deeply value

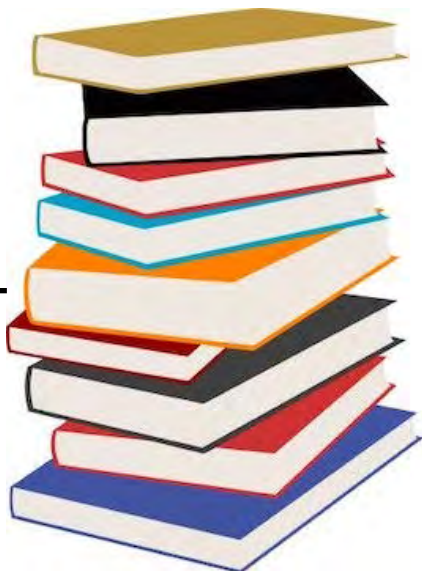
her unique and often very practical ideas which enable us to improve our presentation for our customers.

Barb Craig-Schniepp and Catherine Cox have become "regulars", and both are known to sneak in on "off-days" as well, knowing there is just so much work to be done.

Debby Wilkins consistently works on maintaining our online sales, and her husband John often accompanies her to the library on Tuesdays to assist all of us.

Many, many thanks to these dedicated AAUW members (and spouses) who weekly donate their time and talents to further our mission. You are truly appreciated!

—Kristin Conlan



Catherine Cox at Neyland Library, receiving over forty boxes of books from All Saints' Episcopal Church for Book Finders.



Celebrating National Dr. Seuss Birthday at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, West Oso ISD.

By Diana Cardenas

About 60 cheerful community members, who recognize the joy of reading Dr. Seuss books, gathered on March 1, to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss in the renovated John F. Kennedy Library (West Oso ISD). Jubilant hosts—Librarian Dr. Malia Perez, Principal Roxanna Martinez, and Superintendent Kimberly Moore, a fellow AAUW member—welcomed the volunteers who arrived to read to young students on this meaningful occasion, paired with the national initiative, DEAR, “Drop Everything and Read.”

Diana Cardenas read the book, “Happy Birthday to You,” by Dr. Seuss, to 16 kindergarten children in Ms. Zamora’s classroom. They listened intently to this story of the large, yellow Birthday Bird who takes a little boy on an adventure to celebrate his birthday with all the wonderfully drawn community characters. As Diana showed pages of the book, a little girl, impressed with the tall, richly decorated cake, exclaimed, “That cake is 11 feet tall!”

The renovated library, a delight for children’s minds and hearts, features hundreds of books, well-known book characters, and an enormous, breath-taking mural—extending along one entire wall—that depicts the history of our city: a village of native Americans, the Karankawa; the iconic (immense) blue gray Lexington; Whataburger Field; the university’s high, glass covered Performing Arts Center; the Harbor Bridge; and the “Mirador de La Flor” that honors Selena.

Volunteer readers represent banks, refineries, city departments, elected officials, college and university educators, Communities in Schools, United Way, and the Army Depot. Students gifted readers a thank you card that announces its school motto, “Readers Are Leaders,” an identity that the school promotes.



Mrs. Zamora's Kindergarten Class



Kimberly Moore, Superintendent of West Oso, ISD & AAUW Member, with Diana Cardenas



Janet Blanke

By Catherine Cox

A structural engineer (4 yrs.) and IBM executive (32 yrs), Janet Blanke has been an invaluable member of our branch. She and her husband David and their two dogs have just relocated to Asheville, North Carolina. While at IBM, Janet held many positions including 10 years in management and management development. She was selected to participate in IBM Client Executive Certification led by Harvard University Business School Professors. Janet has earned many professional awards and recognition, including IBM's top world-wide sales award, Golden Circle.

Since her retirement in 2015, Janet has enjoyed preparing young people to enter the workforce by helping them create effective resumes and develop their interviewing skills. She has worked as a Career Consultant at Del Mar College leading workshops for students and assisting with staff development workshops. Janet has also discovered in retirement a new creative passion—pottery, serving in recent years as a board member of the Clay Studio at the Art Center of Corpus Christi.

We thank Janet for her friendship and leadership in AAUW. Her signature accomplishment in our branch has been founding and coordinating our STEM program. By partnering with our local schools and the YWCA, Janet has organized numerous field trips (including visits to the Texas State Aquarium, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, and the Natural History Museum), where girls gained academic field experience and practical knowledge about careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. But Janet's dedication, generosity, and enthusiasm have also been felt in other ways. She was our Hospitality Chair, Secretary, and Yearbook Editor (2 years), and Wine and Cheese Chair. For her work on STEM and her initiative in general, she was selected as our branch nominee for Most Valuable Texas AAUW New Member. Her pottery became a "go-to" for us when we needed a special gift to attract donations for our holiday raffle and as gifts for speakers. The Corpus Christi branch. We will miss her greatly but wish her much happiness and fulfillment in her new home.

"Once a Buc, Always a Buc": Identifying and Encouraging the Abilities and Aspirations of Girls

By Diana Cardenas



Diana Cardenas, Program Vice President; Mrs. Sandy Salinas-DeLeon, speaker; Catherine Cox, AAUW Branch President.

Principal of Miller High & Metro School of Design, Mrs. Sandy Salinas-DeLeon, enlightened our members about the programs, initiatives, and resources for 1,500 students — from 7th to 12th grades. Miller High School includes the Metro Prep for 7th and 8th grade students. In addition to Dual-Credit courses, Language Arts classes, and STEM offerings, students may engage their passion for music, art, and theatre and drama. Young Metro Prep students won the first-place award at Corpus Christi ISD's UIL One Act Play, "The Great Pandemonium," competing against five other middle schools in December 2021.

In 2021, Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon was selected principal of Miller, originally named Corpus Christi High School. At 5 feet tall, slight, and soft-spoken, Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon leads her responsible staff with confidence, enthusiasm, respect, and collaborative efforts. Together, they oversee inventive events to encourage student abilities and aspirations—for example, the TOP 50 and the Senior Signing Day.

TOP 50: At the beginning of each year, when the first ranking is announced, she and the staff invite the 10th, 11th and 12th grade TOP 50 students and their parents to a ceremony to present them with a "TOP 50" certificate. The ranking for each student, written on the back of each certificate, motivates students.

Senior Signing Day: In May, Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon and the staff host an unofficial Senior Signing for all of those who have been accepted to a college/university/military branch/or specific trade school. Banners for the organizations decorate the gym. After each student signs a banner, banners remain displayed.

Her own path from childhood in Eagle Pass, Texas, to her Miller High School leadership reveals challenges and achievements. She was born in Corpus Christi, Texas. However, soon her parents divorced, and she left Corpus Christi with her mother. After years of moving from city to city, they finally settled in Eagle Pass, Texas. Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon graduated from Eagle Pass High School.

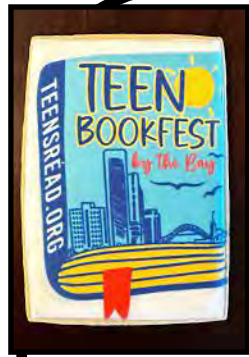
After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from Sul Ross State University, she returned to Eagle Pass where, for 8 years, she taught at-risk, low socio-economic bilingual students. Many students, from migrant families, traveled North, working in the fields from October to March. Often, in a class of 22, more than half of her students withdrew and returned in March to take state assessments.

In 1998, Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon moved to Corpus Christi, Texas. She taught at-risk, bilingual students at Gregory-Portland ISD. In 1999, while teaching classes full time and teaching GED twice weekly, she earned a Masters in Educational Administration (TAMUCC) in 2000. She taught at CCISD schools and then served as an assistant principal and principal, for example, at the new Cunningham at South Park.

She was named Educator of the Year 2008 by the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas. In 2020 she was named Secondary Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary Principals.

Since 2021, Mrs. Salinas-DeLeon has partnered with our Branch to celebrate the accomplishments of 20 Miller High School senior girls—working with Kelly Gonzalez, Coordinator of our Community Outreach Committee, and its members; Miller Counselor Gerald Padilla; Cheryl Sanders, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at DMC; and the DMC AAUW students. The senior girls delight in this recognition.

President Catherine Cox thanked Principal Sandy Salinas-DeLeon for her uplifting presentation and, quoting Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, complimented her courage and achievements at Miller High School, saying, "Though she be little / She is Fierce."



Teen Bookfest by the Bay Authors' Dinner

by Diana Cardenas

Warm greetings, lively conversation, and laughter filled the attractive dining area of the Roughian Restaurant, where teen book authors, members of the Teen Bookfest Planning Committee, area librarians, and Friends of the Library gathered on February 23 to celebrate the next day's Teen Bookfest, a multi-county literary event that attracts hundreds of teens, their families, and their teachers.

Kelly Gonzalez and Diana Cardenas, members of our Community Outreach Committee, enjoyed a delicious meal with authors from within our state and other areas of the country to engage the young readers. AAUW helps fund this dinner through its donation to the Friends of the Library group

Kelly and Diana talked with authors R.L. Toalson from Austin and Daniel Garcia Ordaz from the Rio Grande Valley; Ms. Laura Garcia, Director of Public Libraries; members of Friends of the Library; and Planning Committee members president, Ms. Ana Lisa Lawhon.

On March 24 the Teen Bookfest by the Bay, held at the Education Service Center, Region 2, hosted 20 authors who held panel presentations/discussions with youngsters, book signings, readings, author book signings, illustrator workshops, and conversations.

YW TEENS CAMP- Spring 2024

Over Spring Break, Branch President Catherine Cox participated in the YW Teens Camp, sponsored by our branch's valued partner, the YWCA. She is shown in these photos helping girls make stretchy bracelets. There were nineteen girls in her class. Catherine was impressed by their collegiality, creativity, and patience. She encourages other members to share their talents and knowledge through the YW Teen Camps.





Playgoers

From Michelle Balis

- *25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee: the Musical* at Del Mar on Friday, April 26
- *Lone Star & Laundry and Bourbon* at Aurora Arts Theater on Saturday, May 4
- *9 to 5: the musical* at Harbor Playhouse on Saturday, June 1.

Let me know if you are interested in attending.



The Lunch Bunch

will be meeting at 12:30pm on April 16th at Persis Indian Grill, located at 4650 Corona Drive. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.

From Susan Birchfield



Wine and Cheese

will be meeting at 5:00 pm April 14 at Sylvia Rendon's house. Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of wine or an appetizer.



Library News from Michelle Balis

- Special Author Visit: Celebrate National Poetry Month with Teachers Who Poet. Join Annie Huckabee and Joe Wilson who will present original poetry at Neyland Library on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 pm. Annie will have her new book for sale.
- Banned Book Club is reading *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. Join the discussion on Wednesday, April 17 at 4:00. (Let me know if you want a virtual invitation)
- Game On! On Tuesday, April 16 at 4:30. Join us for board games or other games for a group of fun-loving adults.
- Best Seller Book Club on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:30. Join us in reading some not-so-recent Best Sellers. March's title is *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.
- Color Me Happy on Friday, April 12 at 10:30 am. Come for some Adult coloring time!
- Corpus Christi Literary Reading Series is starting again! Author Donald Ray Pollock will be reading from his works on Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 pm at the Art Museum.

**Anita & W.T. Leyland Public Library
1230 Carmel Parkway**

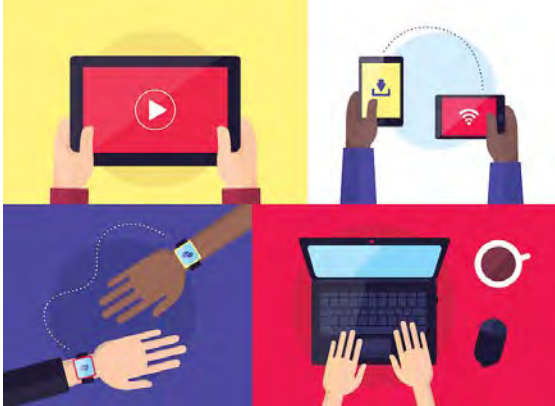


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Find Us on Facebook!

By Vickie Natale

Lara Gephart, our newly appointed Social Media Chair, has created a beautiful Facebook account for our Branch. Lara, along with her committee members, Lorrie Garcia and Kay Pluta, started this effort with creating a set of policies and procedures for our social media efforts. Once those were approved by the Board, Lara created a private group Facebook account, using our AAUW logo for the header. Lara has spent a great deal of time uploading photos from the past four years to help create a history for our Branch.

The committee has posed three simple questions for prospective Facebook members to answer to join the group. This helps ensure that we don't have unwanted trolls invading our space. As we learn more about how to maintain this account, we may be able to make more of it public.

Lara and her committee will be in charge of what gets posted to the account. Members are encouraged to send photos and information about events to committee members for posting. (Find committee members' email addresses in your Yearbook.) If you are a seasoned Facebook user, you can share posts through the Facebook messenger.

Our Facebook account is called **AAUW-CC**, not to be confused with an older account called **AAUW Corpus Christi** which was created in 2014. That older account is no longer accessible, which is why we had to create a new one. Please log into our new Facebook account and send your request to become a member of the account here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/764099335647045>. We sincerely thank Lara Gephart and her committee for all their hard work to create this new social media presence for our Branch!

Coming in May
The Annual Spring Luncheon
of the
AAUW-Corpus Christi Branch

Please join the AAUW-Corpus Christi Branch for our annual spring luncheon. Our main order of business will be the installation of officers. As part of our program, Annie Huckabee will read selections from her new book *Such Character*. Books will be available for purchase, and Annie will be happy to sign copies.

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 11 a.m- 1 p.m.

Place: The Blue Clove Seafood Bar and Grill
5884 Everhart Rd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78413

This year at our luncheon, we will be ordering directly from the menu and paying the Blue Clove individually at the close of the luncheon. The prices range from \$14-\$20 on this menu for the basic meal. If you order an appetizer, salad, drink, and/or dessert, additional charges will be made to the \$14-\$20. Tax and a mandatory 20% gratuity due to the size of our group will also be added to each total bill.

Please see the attached menu for the luncheon.



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch



The Blue Clove Seafood Bar and Grill

Lunch Menu

Cold Entrees

- Aguachiles *GF*.....18**
 Shrimp + Octopus | Mild Lime Sauce | Avocado |
 Cucumber | Chips |
- Gulf Shrimp Salad *GF*.....18**
 Shrimp Salad Mix | Seasonal Fruit | Cucumber |
 Tomatoes |
- Shrimp Cocktail *GF*.....Sm 10 Lg 16**
 Pico de Gallo | Fresh Cocktail Sauce | Avocado |
- Crab Salad *GF*..... 8**
 Imitation Crab Salad | Avocado | Chips |

Chicken Entrees

- Chicken Marsala.....18**
 Sweet Marsala Sauce | Mushrooms | Green Onions |
 Mash | Veggies |
- Chicken Guacamole.....16**
 Monterrey Jack Cheese | Fresh Guacamole | Lemon
 Beurre Blanc | Mash | Veggies |
- Chicken Parmesan.....15**
 Panko Chicken | Marinara Sauce | Parmesan Cheese |
- Chicken Fried Chicken.....15**
 Creamy Country Gravy | Mash | Veggies |

Salads

- Blackened Chicken Salad *GF*..... 16**
 Blackened Chicken | Romaine | Toasted Almonds |
 Tomatoes | Avocado | Feta Cheese |
- Avocado Salad..... Medium 10 Large 15 Family 30**
 Chopped Iceberg | Sliced Tomatoes | Red Onions | Black
 Olives | Avocado | Italian Dressing |
- Chicken Caesar Salad.....14**
 Sliced Blackened Chicken | Crisp Romaine | Grated
 Parmesan | Seasoned Croutons | Caesar Dressing |

Sandwiches FF or Fruit

- Softshell Sandwich.....18**
 Buttermilk Fried Softshell | Lettuce | Tomatoes |
 Avocado | Bacon | Toasted Kaiser Bun |
- Pesto Parm Sandwich.....15**
 Panko Chicken | Marinera | Pesto | Parm Cheese |
 Toasted Kaiser Bun |
- Fried Fish Sandwich.....15**
 Fried Tilapia | Lettuce | Tomatoes | Pickles | Toasted
 Kaiser Bun | Side of Tartar Sauce |
- Clove Burger..... 15**
 Beef Patty | Lettuce | Tomatoes | Pickles | Onions |
 Toasted Kaiser Bun |
 Cheese \$2 Bacon \$2.75 Avocado \$2.75

- Tuna or Shrimp Salad Sandwich.....14/15**
 Tuna or Shrimp Salad | Lettuce | Tomatoes | Toasted
 White or Wheat Bread |

- Chicken Melt.....14**
 Buttermilk Fried Chicken | Melted Mixed Cheese |
 Chipotle Mayo | Toasted White or Wheat Bread |

Soups

- Seafood Gumbo..... Cup 6 Bowl 11**
Crab Potato Bisque..... Cup 4 Bowl 9
Chicken Tortilla Soup..... Cup 4 Bowl 8

Mains

- Fish ala Pastor.....22**
 Pastor Glazed Corvina | Grilled Pineapple + Mango
 Salsa | Avocado | Tortillas | Rice |
- Southwest Flounder.....22**
 Cornmeal Crusted | Avocado | Corn | Tomatoes | Cilantro
 | Lemon Beurre Blanc | Rice | Veggies |
- Fish Etouffee21**
 Sautéed Flounder | Shrimp + Crawfish | Etouffee Sauce |
 Rice |
- Salmon Curry.....20**
 Grilled Salmon | Yellow Sweet & Mild Curry | Rice |
 Veggies |
- Pontchartrain.....20**
 Sautéed Tilapia | Shrimp Pontchartrain Sauce | Rice |
 Veggies |
- Fiesta Mahi.....20**
 Blacken Mahi | Black Bean + Corn Fiesta Mix | Feta
 Cheese | Rice |
- Fish Tacos *GF*.....17**
 3 Grilled Snapper Tacos | Avocado | Spicy Cabbage |
 Chipotle Mayo | Rice | Veggies |

Sides

- Hand Cut Fries.....4**
Seasonal Fruit.....4
Rice Pilaf.....3
Mash Potatoes.....3
Veggie Medley.....2
Sautéed Mushrooms.....5
Sautéed Spinach.....4