



Catherine Cox, President



May Edition 2024

President's Message

How quickly these past two years have gone. I remember wondering back then, if I should take on the responsibility of President of AAUW—Corpus Christi. It seemed a bit overwhelming. Now, as I prepare to leave this role, I feel very honored to have been your branch President. The noble mission of helping women and girls, and your support, help, and friendship have made this one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever done.

I hope that you will come to our Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 4th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and celebrate our new officers. The branch election slate was accepted at our April meeting with Kelly Gonzalez as President; Sharon Trott as Vice President for Funds; and Janet Hilton as Secretary. At every level, AAUW needs dedicated leaders, and our branch is fortunate to have these three incredible people step up to take the reins of their offices. Thank you, Cheryl Sanders, Deanne Purcell, and Shirley Selz, as you prepare to leave the board. Your service, as Vice President for Funds, Secretary, and Parliamentarian respectively, has been outstanding. Finally, I extend my gratitude to the remaining board members (Diana Cardenas, Leslie Peart, Vickie Natale, Kristin Conlan, Deborah Wilkins, and Jennifer Gonzales) for their support and for their continuing service to AAUW.

Additionally, at the luncheon, we will be treated to a poetry presentation by our very own Annie Huckabee. She will be reading from her new book *Such Character*, a work of passion and humor, that reflects on her love of teaching and reading and on her beloved family. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Bon, Voyage, Del Mar students! As you may recall, the Board approved moving \$300 from a budgetary line, where the money was left unspent near the fiscal year's end to a new line dedicated to supporting the Del Mar affiliates' trip to the AAUW annual conference at the University of Maryland in College Park. It is great to support this trip for five leaders in the student branch. I know from experience that professional conferences like this can have a huge impact on students, inspiring them, helping them make contacts, and offering knowledge and opportunities. We wish these women and Cheryl a wonderful journey.

See you at the luncheon!

**You are invited to
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 menu for the luncheon at the end of this newsletter.



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2024-25

by Vickie Natale

For many of our members, it is time to renew membership. The good news: national AAUW did not increase dues this year, so annual dues for 2024-25 remain at \$97, which is \$72 for national, \$13 for state, and \$12 for the branch. If you wish to pay by credit card, you can do so at the national [AAUW website](#). Click on “log in” at the top righthand corner to enter the *Community Hub* site. If you prefer to pay by cash or check, you can do that at the May luncheon or you can mail your check, payable to AAUW-CC, to Vickie Natale, Finance Officer, before June 30. Remember that because of the change in the *Community Hub* system, the renewal date for those who joined AAUW within the past two years will be the same month in subsequent years as the month that you initially joined. The national office sends renewal notices to everyone about a month prior to your renewal date.

If you know of any potential new members, be sure to let them know 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). You can help potential new members find the registration form for our branch at the bottom of this page on our website: <https://corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net/join/>. Be sure to remind them about the half-price offer from national, even though it is not stated openly on the form.



Sunday, May 12, 2024



April 2024 Branch Meeting

By Diana Cardenas

Ms. Joanne Salge, Master Gardener and coordinator of our city's Xeriscape Garden, located on the grounds of the Museum of Science and History, presented an engaging, instructional overview of Xeriscape Gardening to twenty-five attentive members on April 13, 2024, at the YWCA.

She defined Xeriscape as a concept of water conservation, NOT a landscape design, that emphasizes key principles:

- Your landscape is an investment in your comfort and value of your property.
- Xeriscape can increase the value of your property.
- Xeriscape can reduce water and maintenance costs by 60%.
- Xeriscape extends water supplies.
- Xeriscape principles are good horticultural practices.
- There is no "O" in Xeriscape.

In her planned, clear, and pleasant presentation Ms. Salge—a cordial, experienced speaker—explained how to create a Xeriscape design with focus on grouping plants that complement each other, incorporating many colors, sizes, and textures, and dividing landscape area among turf, flower beds, and hard ground surfaces.

Impressive was the professional design (map) of our city's breath-taking, water-conserving Xeriscape Garden—designed by experts—that incorporates multi-colored and multi-height plant varieties, many species of trees, and different ground covers and hard surfaces.

Ms. Salge stressed the importance of elevated soil that allows oxygen and nutrients to promote plants and trees that thrive in our climate and water-scarce environment. Having the soil tested may be necessary.

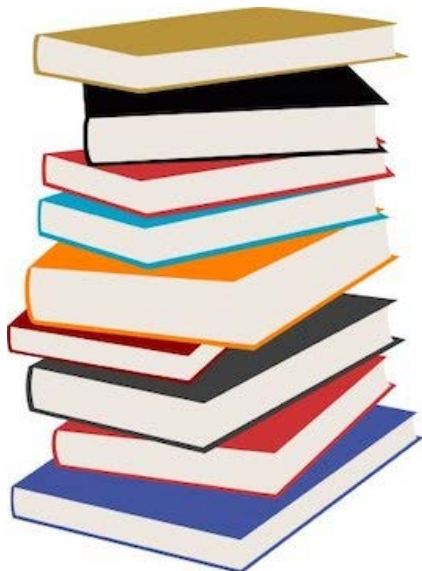
Before creating a Xeriscape design, a person should ask herself: Do I need help with my project?

Within her presentation Ms. Salge explained our area's water sources: The Mary Rhodes Pipeline that carries purchased surface water from the Colorado River near Bay City to the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority near Lake Texana; the Choke Canyon Reservoir near Three Rivers; and Lake Mathis.

The group asked questions about water use by industries, desalinization, and the ammonia plant destined for Robstown.

Ms. Salge gifted each cheerful member a useful canvas bag filled with colorful plant guides and various types of Xeriscape information. Our group presented Ms. Salge a book about Avery Island, LA, a formidable pepper farm that produces Tabasco.

At the end of the meeting, Catherine offered a significant assessment of our group: We are a community of members who appreciate and enrich each other as we work to achieve our mission.



The Bookfinders next

scheduled sale will be held at the Neyland Library on June 6-8 from 10-5pm Thursday and Friday and Saturday from 10-1:30.

Many, many new titles will be offered, and there will be several carts designated as "Dollar Sale" as well as our "Fill-a-Bag for \$5" cart. If you are available to serve as a cashier please contact Kris Conlan.

Online sales have surged, which is a welcome addition to our mission's treasury. Thank you, Debby Wilkins, for your ongoing dedication to this aspect of Bookfinders.

We are in need of someone with excellent computer skills to assist with the online efforts. If you feel a need to contribute your time and talents in this area, please contact Debby.

We are also in dire need of having additional volunteers to price books for the in-house sales. This is a "sit-down" job, and we do have an elevator for use if mobility is a concern. Please consider donating 3-4 hours a week of your time to assist us in fulfilling our mission.

Thank you to all for supporting Bookfinders! See you at the sale.

–Kristin Conlan

News from the Del Mar College AAUW Student Club

By Cheryl Sanders, DMC-AAUW Advisor

Women's History Month

On March 29, 2024, DMC AAUW honored four Del Mar College(DMC) employees for Women's History Month. DMC faculty and staff do more than enhance the learning experience for students; they also model the way for them. The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 celebrated "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognized women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination from our lives and institutions.



DMC AAUW president Kaila Cavazos-Guerra had the honor of presenting the DMC AAUW 2024 Women of Honor Awards to four exceptional individuals: Mrs. Beverly Cage, Director of Student Leadership and Campus Life; Dr. Tammy Francis, Associate Professor of Reading; Dr. Erinn McComb, Associate Professor of History; and Ms. Leticia Wilson, Director of Advising Initiatives. These awards recognized their outstanding contributions and served as a beacon of inspiration for the entire community.

Denim Day

At Del Mar College (DMC) on April 24, 2024, DMC AAUW, along with the DMC Counseling Center, The Student Leadership and Campus Life Office, and The Purple Door observed Denim Day during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to honor and support victims and survivors of sexual violence. This day of Action and Awareness was an event in which people were encouraged to wear denim to combat victim blaming and educate others about sexual violence. It was a beautiful day to believe survivors!



Cheryl Sanders (Advisor), Linda Ibarra (Treasurer), Kaila Cavazos Guerra (President), and Belinda De la Cruz (Advisor) representing DMC AAUW at Denim Day

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)



Five students that are members of the Del Mar College AAUW student club Anai Austin (Vice-President), Kaila Cavazos-Guerra (President), Sofia Jimenez (Member), Arianna Rios (Member), Veronica Rivera (Secretary) will be attending AAUW's annual conference, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) May 30- June 1, 2024 at the University of Maryland College Park. Veronica Rivera is a lucky recipient of an NCCWSL scholarship that covers registration. The conference brings together more than 800 young women from around the country for two and a half days of leadership training, networking, and inspiration. This year's event will include sessions on career development, mentorship, financial literacy, racial justice activism, and more. Attending the conference is possible because the students had several successful fundraising campaigns, such as the Del Mar College Fall Carnival, selling popcorn, and a bake sale. Private donors, Del Mar College, and AAUW Corpus Christi also contributed to the costs. The students are very excited and thankful for all the support!



Kaila Cavazos-Guerra (President), Sofia Jimenez (member) and Linda Ibarra (Treasurer) at the DMC AAUW Bake Sale

Playgoers

From Michelle Balis



Let me know if you want to go to either of the following:

- *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. (So far, I have Susan and Kay on my list)

Let me know if you are interested in attending.*

**See the Branch Yearbook for member contact information.*



The Lunch Bunch

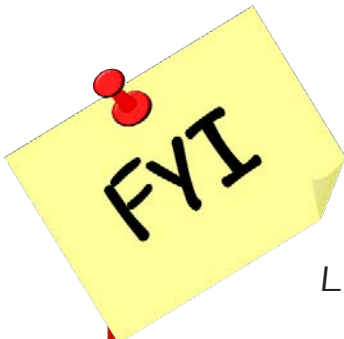
will be meeting at 12:30pm on Tuesday, May 21st. We will be meeting at Bien Merite located at 1336 S Staples Street. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.

From Susan Birchfield

Wine and Cheese



is scheduled to meet at 5 pm on May 12th at Judy Harral's home.* Attendees are asked to bring a bottle of wine or an appetizer.



Library News from Michelle Balis

- Banned Book Club is reading *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert Heinlein. Join the discussion on Wednesday, May 15 at 4:00. (Let me know if you want a virtual invitation)
- Game On! On Tuesday, May 21 at 4:30. Join us for board games or other games for a group of fun-loving adults.
- Best Seller Book Club on Tuesday, May 28 at 10:30. Join us in reading some not-so-recent Best Sellers. May's title is *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. (Let me know if you need a virtual invitation.)
- Color Me Happy on Friday, May 10 at 10:30 am. Come for some Adult coloring time!

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



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**