

Hello
August &
September



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch

American Association of University Women

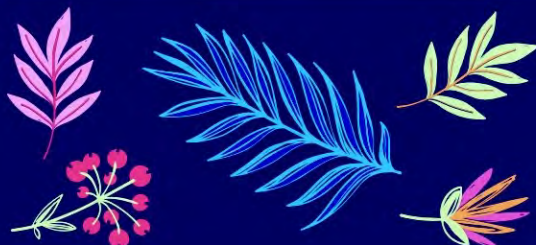
Mission: To advance
gender equity for
women and girls
through research,
education, and
advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

August and September 2025 Edition

Editors: Diana Cardenas and Deanne Purcell

**Welcome Reception for New
and Prospective Members**



• Sunday September 7 •

• 2:00 – 4:00 PM •

• All Saints' Episcopal Church •
3026 S. Staples Street •

**Hosted by AAUW – American Association
of University Women**

Join us for some fellowship and fun and learn more about
who we are and how we serve our community.

President's Message



I hope each of you has been enjoying summer, although I know none of us have been enjoying the heat. We are getting ready for the September meeting, which will be held on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at All Saints' Episcopal Church located at 3026 S. Staples Street, near Ray High School.

It's at this meeting where we welcome our members and prospective members. So, please mark your calendar and bring some friends who may be interested in learning more about AAUW. We will send additional reminders during the month.

We are still waiting to hear the final results for the AAUW Five Star Program in August. We feel sure that we have at least earned four stars but are hopeful we have qualified for all five! As soon as we receive the final notification, we will share with all of you.

The Board met in June and we are proposing some changes to the bylaws, mainly to clarify some wording regarding delivering the slate of candidates before the election. Please be sure to read the information in this newsletter so you will be prepared to vote at the October meeting.

I will close this message with a reminder of how informed we all need to be with all of the changes in our government, whether it's local, state or national. Please be sure to sign up for the 2 Minute Advocacy emails if you have not already done so, and act when you can to contact our elected leaders to make your voice heard.



AAUW Announces New Strategic Plan



AAUW National is excited to announce the launch of AAUW's new [strategic plan](#), reaffirming our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls through education.

AAUW was founded more than 140 years ago with this mission, and with the unprecedented attacks we're seeing on higher education, we believe it is more important than ever to focus our efforts in this area.

AAUW's strength lies in our collective power — our states, branches, and members are the heart of our grassroots movement. States and branches provide meaningful local support for women and girls, and for the policies that matter to their communities. The [Five-Star Program](#) provides a framework for branches to align with AAUW's strategic priorities, reinforcing a cohesive and collective approach to advocacy, community engagement, and financial sustainability. When AAUW National and our branches work in alignment, we maximize our collective resources, influence, and success to break down barriers for women in education and beyond.

AAUW Strategic Priorities Poster

AAUW Strategic Priorities:

Advancing Equity through
Higher Education
(2025 and Beyond).



Our Purpose

AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education — a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding, and collective action.

Strategic Priorities

1. Fund Higher Education

- Provide grants and fellowships for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM.
- Support women in academia and research.
- Build networks for alumnae to lead and expand AAUW's impact globally.

2. Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace

- Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections.
- Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.

3. Strengthen AAUW's Reach

- Support an effective network of states and branches through aligned strategies and initiatives like the Five-Star Program.
- Grow organizational sustainability through member engagement and impact evaluation.

Call to Action

In a time of growing challenges to education access, AAUW must meet this moment. This strategic plan renews our commitment to higher education as the key to equity and empowers a stronger, unified movement to create lasting change.

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Proposed Bylaw and Policy Changes

by Kelly Gonzalez

At the June Board meeting, members proposed two changes to the AAUW Corpus Christi Branch bylaws and policies that will need to be approved at the October Meeting.

First is a proposed change to the Bylaws for Article XII. Nominations and Elections, Section 1, Paragraph 2. (Page 15 in the yearbook).

The current wording states, “The list of nominees shall be published in the branch newsletter two weeks before the April meeting.” We propose changing the wording to read “The list of nominees shall be delivered to the membership at least two weeks before the April meeting.” This change provides the flexibility to put the nominees’ names in the newsletter or send by an alternative manner.

Second is a proposed change to the Policies in the Finance Section. (Page 19 in the yearbook).

At the meeting the board discussed establishing a reserve balance to ensure that we have sufficient funds available to meet the branch’s operational costs, including donations. We determined that six months would be sufficient. We propose adding wording to the policy to reflect the change.

The Branch shall maintain a six-month operational balance in the bank account, unless the Board approves a variance.

Please be prepared to vote on these changes at the October meeting so that we can formally adopt the changes.

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West Oso I.S.D. Board Recognizes AAUW STEM Group

by Jennifer Gonzales

On Monday evening, July 28th, the AAUW STEM Committee was honored at the West Oso ISD school board meeting for their dedication to the Girls in STEM program at West Oso Junior High during the 2024–2025 school year. Superintendent Kim Moore and STEM Coordinator/Science Teacher Beatrice Esquivel addressed the board and attendees, highlighting the many experiences provided to the 6th through 8th grade girls — including guest speakers, gifts, a tour of the Del Mar College STEM Building which includes architecture, culinary arts, and biotechnology. Each girl received a custom AAUW/West Oso STEM Girls shirts.



STEM Chair Jennifer Gonzales and AAUW Branch President Kelly Gonzalez were in attendance and formally recognized by the superintendent, school board members, and community leaders. Both had the opportunity to speak about AAUW's mission and the purpose of the STEM Committee. They, along with other recognized partners, received certificates and roses in appreciation of their contributions.

AAUW **BOOK SALE**

September 11 – 13

Thursday – Friday: 10 – 5 pm
Saturday: 10 – 1:30 pm

Featured Books:

Texana, Children's,
History & Gardening!

**\$2 & up
special sales!**

**Shelves restocked
daily!**

Neyland Library.

1230 Carmel Pkwy
361-826-2370

For more info:

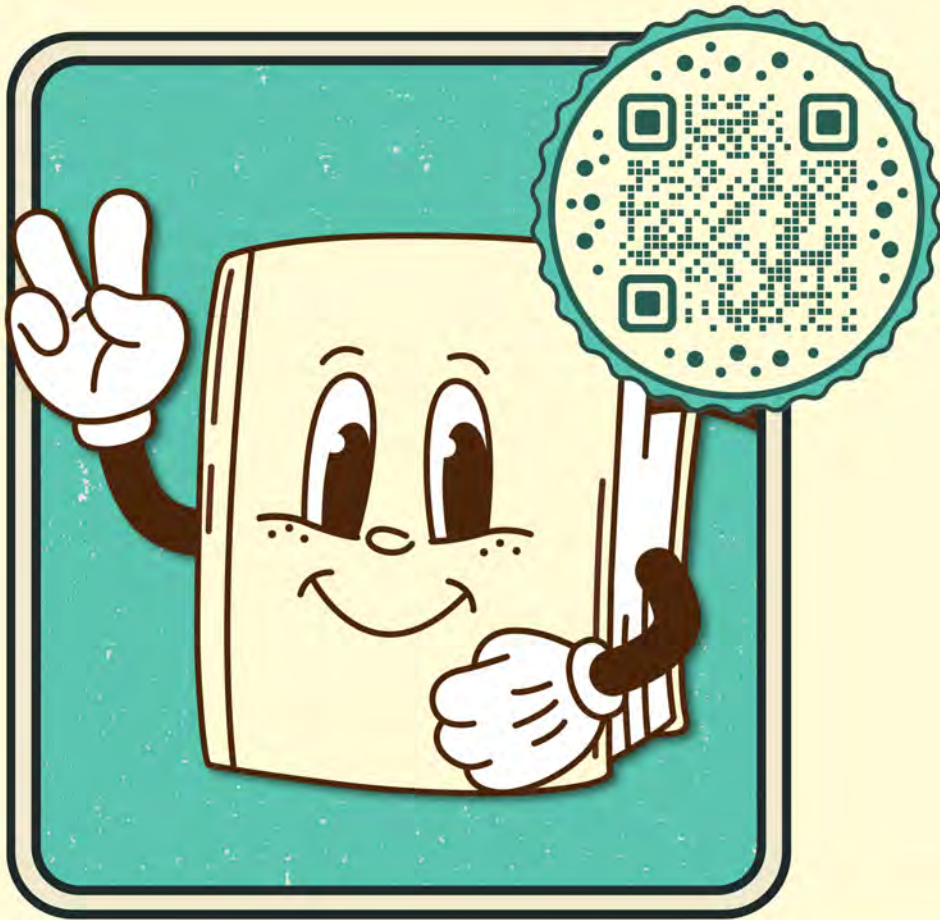
Kristin Conlan || 361-548-0282
corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CORPUS CHRISTI PUBLIC LIBRARIES,
LOCAL WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, AND AAUW
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS FOR WOMEN & GIRLS.

PERSONS REQUIRING AN ACCOMMODATION SHOULD
CONTACT THE LIBRARY 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

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MISSING AAUW'S BOOK SALES?



CHECK OUT THEIR ONLINE STORE!

<https://ebay.us/m/Y7zo4D>

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Interest Group News



Bridge

The AAUW Bridge Group celebrated 2 table play this month at Silverado Restaurant.

First place winner Catherine Cox and second place winner Frances Quinn were pleased with their high scores.

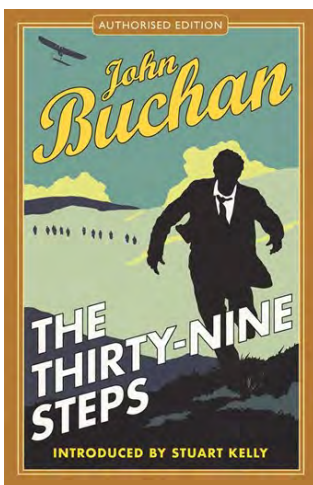
For those interested in learning how to play bridge, contact Chairperson Lessie Hoffman.

Out to Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, August 19th at Kikos, located at 4425 S Alameda. Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.

Wine and Cheese

Wine and Cheese will meet at 5:30 pm on Sunday, August 10th at The Republic of Texas Bar and Grill, located on the 20th floor of the Omni Hotel.



John Buchan's masterpiece

The Thirty Nine Steps on August 27.

Discussion led by Susan Birchfield.

Contact Chairperson Annie Huckabee

Members Judge Student Summer Research Projects

by Laura Grantland, Leslie Peart, and Diana Cardenas

Forty-four students, registered with the Family Centered Educational Agency (FCEA) Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science Program, spent six weeks studying various subjects with instructors and undertook research issues that led to team academic products, such as posters of their findings and oral presentations. The program is led by Ms. Dynyel Miller, Executive Director. Mr. Richard Pena is the Associate Director. Ms. Brianna Graveley serves as the Coordinator.

On June 28th the ample Retama Room at Del Mar College was filled with these students, their parents, friends of the students, FCEA administrators, instructors from FCEA and Del Mar College, and judges. Members of the large audience—joyful, excited, and proud—gathered to recognize and support the learning and academic growth of these students during their six-weeks study and congratulate them on their collaborative research posters and team oral presentations, which they offered to judges.

Judges included several of our AAUW members—Laura Grantland, Leslie Peart, and Diana Cardenas. They assessed research posters and corresponding team presentations.

Nine teams undertook unique issues, such as examining lactose intolerance, applying coding language to organize information, genetically modifying bacteria cells, and learning Artificial Intelligence (AI) with coding to develop bots designed to accomplish everyday tasks in a time saving manner and to undertake complex processes. For example, members of a team learned how to use AI (Chat GPT) to write a program that could play against an existing piece of software.

Also, this team and other teams demonstrated effective presentation skills, with each student practicing his or her phase of the oral presentation. Students took pride in their work and external evaluation.

We three judges observed the excitement and eagerness of the students to share their long-term endeavors. We were impressed with the commitment of these students to a summer, six-week academic program that began with daily writing and continued with the other meaningful subjects, such as identifying an academic issue, research methods, and coding. We were also impressed that some students completed this six-week program last summer and have returned.

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Members Judge Student Summer Research Projects

by Laura Grantland, Leslie Peart, and Diana Cardenas

This complex, well-organized collaboration between the experts at the Family Centered Educational Agency and at Del Mar College helps the students grow intellectually and emotionally in their forward path to their college and university engagements. In tandem, the parents, siblings, friends, and the larger community benefit.

We enjoyed meeting many of the students and watching the joy of their family members when student names and work were announced. This involvement of our members contributes to the mission of AAUW: to promote access to academic development to promote equity.



Photo:

Students of winning project, “AI Chess Bot,” Kristin Castro, Amanda Gallegos, Precious Nolan; AAUW members Laura Grantland, Leslie Peart, and Diana Cardenas; and Jennifer Gonzales, AAUW STEM Committee Chairperson

AAUW T-Shirts

Shirts with AAUW Logo


Available at [ShopAAUW](#)

Members can go online (click the link above) to purchase their own selection and pay by credit card.


If you prefer, you can place an order with Alka Khanolkar, Membership VP, at the September meeting. You will need to write a check for your order up front, and then we will place the order online for you. We will need at least five orders to follow through, because the cost of shipping and handling is expensive. See the note below.

Also note that the color logo is printed only on the Navy, Orange, or White colored shirts. All others will be printed with a white logo.

Selection #1: Ladies Heritage Blend V-Neck Tee (cotton/poly short sleeve with V neck)

	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	2XL	3XL	4XL
Black	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Royal	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
Shadow Grey Heather	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
True Navy	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.00
White	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$32.00

Selection #2: Ladies City Stretch Top (Y-neck collar, 7-button placket, longer length short sleeves)

	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	3XL	4XL
Black	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$42.00	\$44.00
Dark Teal	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$42.00	\$44.00
Graphite	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$42.00	\$44.00
River Blue Navy	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$42.00	\$44.00
True Blue	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$42.00	\$44.00

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AAUW T-Shirts

Selection #3: Ladies Luxe Knit Tunic (rayon/spandex, collar, buttonless front placket, side vents)

	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	3XL	4XL
Deep Black	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$46.00
River Blue Navy	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$46.00
Sterling Grey	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$46.00
Teal Green	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$44.00	\$46.00

Selection #4: Ladies Silk Touch Performance Polo (polyester, V-neck with collar, cuff sleeves)

	X-Small	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	3XL	4XL
Black	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Bright Purple	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Brilliant Blue	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Carolina Blue	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Dark Green	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Lime	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Maroon	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Navy	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Neon Orange	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Pink Raspberry	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Red	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Royal	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00
Steel Grey	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$33.00	\$35.00

NOTE: Shipping and handling costs are \$22 if only one item is purchased, and tax is also added on. We must have at least five items to place an order. To cover the S&H and tax, add \$12 for each item ordered. Be sure to make your check out for the cost of your selection plus \$12. Please choose the right size for you. This will be a one-time order from the Branch. **No exchanges, no returns once the order is placed. All sales are final.**

Happy Birthday Wishes

August

Diana Reyes.....August 12

Mary Sherwood.....August 13

August Interesting Facts

Birthstone

Peridot

Birth Flower

Gladiolus

Zodiac Signs

Leo - July 23 - August 22

Virgo - August 23 - September 22



Happy Birthday Wishes

September

Frances Quinn.....September 3
Shirley Selz.....September 3
Eva de la Garza.....September 30

September Interesting Facts

Birthstone

Sapphire

Birth Flower

Aster

Zodiac Signs

Virgo - August 23 - September 22

Libra - September 23 - October 22

