

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



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch

American Association of University Women



Vision: Equity for all

November 2025 Edition

Editors: Diana Cardenas and Deanne Purcell



Kelly Gonzalez,
President

President's Message

Recently I was reminded about the power of persistence. To keep trying and not give up.

The theme of this message came out of recent communication from AAUW National. As we discussed previously, Vickie and I were asking AAUW National why we had not earned the Advancement Star. Trying to be diplomatic we asked them to let us know why we had not earned the Advancement Star so we could work on our process for this year. But honestly, we felt we had earned that Star. If they came back with the reason telling us why we had not, we would have been ok. On Monday, October 20, we were informed that we had indeed earned it, and our branch is now recognized as a

Five Star Branch. The State and National offices will update their websites and other information to reflect our achievement!

Persistence makes us more resilient and helps us bounce back when things get hard. When we keep trying, we are not just trying to accomplish something, we are training our minds to adapt. It's something I firmly believe in, but I know there are pros and cons. When does persistence become stubbornness and your efforts are counterproductive? It's important to understand when to persevere and when it may be time to pivot.

I admit to being a little, sometimes a lot, persistent and stubborn but have tried to learn when to keep going and when to reevaluate the goal, but I think persistence is something we all need more of these days. We can't quit trying or just accept the changes that are going on around us.

I am asking each of you to be persistent in keeping up the pressure on our elected officials as we see all the decisions being made that will have a devastating impact on women and their families.

Please take the time to read and respond to the Two Minute Activist emails sent out by AAUW National and let your voice be heard. Encourage others to vote and help in any way you can.

Stay strong and be persistent. And, if necessary, be a bit stubborn!

Kelly

AAUW Corpus Christi Branch Earns 5 Stars



Five-Star Recognitions Congratulations!

BREAKING NEWS!!!!

The Corpus Christi (TX) Branch has been added to the Five-Star Branch List.

Five-Star Branches

Austin (TX) Branch
Corpus Christi (TX) Branch
San Antonio Inc. (TX) Branch
Northeast Tarrant County (TX) Branch
North Harris County (TX) Branch
West Harris County (TX) Branch
Fort Bend County (TX) Branch

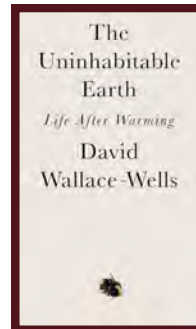


November Branch Meeting

AAUW Monthly Meeting November 2025

What:	AAUW Monthly Meeting
When:	Saturday, November 1: <u>*Fellowship at 9:30 am *Program at 10:00 am</u>
Where:	YWCA 4601 Corona Dr.
Speaker:	Dr. Kelly Bezio, Associate Professor of English at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi
Program:	Presentation on the book <i>The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming</i> by David Wallace-Wells

What is the best way to tell the story of climate change? David Wallace-Wells's 2019 non-fiction book *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* explores the consequences of global warming, asking us how we can narrate looming catastrophe in such a way as to encourage action. This presentation will examine how Wallace-Wells and others recount world-wide environmental change and what we can do about it.



Kelly L. Bezio is a Professor of English at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Her interdisciplinary scholarship foregrounds how insights from the past help us understand how to combat inequity in our present moment. Her intellectual commitments privilege convergent collaborations across disciplines that address how knowledge making is related to the most pressing issues society faces—and how to solve them. She holds a Ph.D. and a M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. in English, History, and French, with a minor in German, from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh.

October Branch Meeting Speaker Summary

By Dr. Jo Rios

The featured speaker for the October meeting was Dr. Juan Carlos Huerta who presented research on Latino voting preferences. He was warmly received by an audience of 27 members in attendance. Dr. Huerta was asked to speak to our group to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Our membership was duly impressed and gave a very enthusiastic response to know that he is the first Hispanic to be named as a Regents Professor for the Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Juan Carlos Huerta is Regents Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi. Dr. Huerta is active in promoting teaching and learning in political science and higher education, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Political Science Education Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Outstanding Learning Community Advocate Award from the National Learning Communities Association (NLCA). In addition, he served as president of the Political Science Education Section, Southwestern Political Science Association, Vice President of the APSA, and founding president of the NLCA.

His research examines political representation, public opinion, Latino/a politics, political science education, and learning communities. He is a co-author of the widely used textbook *Practicing Texas Politics* and has publications in venues including *Social Science Quarterly* and the *Journal of Political Science Education*. His current research examines predictors of Latino/a party identification. Dr. Huerta is a frequent commentator on Texas politics for local, state, national, and international news organizations. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Houston.

Changing demographics in Texas have led to speculation about the impact on party competition in Texas. Of particular interest is the impact of a growing Latino/a population in Texas and how this will affect party identification and voting preferences. In southwestern states, with growing Latino/a populations, this has led to Democrats becoming more competitive. Florida also has a growing Latino/a population, and Republicans have become dominant in what had been a competitive state.

Continued on next page

October Branch Meeting Speaker Summary

By Dr. Jo Rios

Will a growing Latino/a population in Texas lead to Democrats becoming more competitive, such as in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Nevada; or will Texas follow a path like Florida with a growing Latino/a population that has led to Republican dominance? The presentation will examine public opinion polls to provide some clues about the future of party competition in Texas and implications for Latino/a voting preferences.

Some of the predictors presented that may lead to a shift in identifying with the Republican party (realignment) include:

Protestantism – higher number of Latinos are identifying as Protestant

Rural vs. Urban voters – rural voters tend to identify as Republicans

Attitudes regarding women – may be a “machismo” effect

Strong on border security and pro-police

Born before 1980 – older age groups trend more conservative

Economic voting – vote with your pocketbook

Mobilization of voters – Republican party courted and mobilized Latino voters

Some of the questions from our members included the effects on voting for people moving to Texas from California. Dr. Huerta indicated it would be difficult to predict that effect since Texas has many barriers such as high costs to register to vote and low voter turnout. Mail-in ballots produce higher voter turnout. Finally, it is the party’s responsibility to mobilize voters through grassroots efforts.

Dr. Huerta was also asked about the role of the Protestant Megachurches in influencing elections. He indicated that the sample size from the data set he used was too small to conduct any type of probability testing at this time. Probability renders statistical significance which would provide evidence for any findings.



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previous page

STEM

by Jennifer Gonzales

On Wednesday, October 22, the STEM Committee visited the **Girls in STEM** program at **West Oso Junior High** for an evening focused on exploring careers in various STEM fields. Participants received snacks and an informational brochure about **Texas A&M University–Kingsville’s Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology Program** through the **College of Agriculture**.

Jennifer Gonzales, AAUW STEM Chair, shared several informational videos highlighting careers in **Veterinary Medicine**, **Biotechnology**, and **Computer Science**. To conclude the evening, the girls completed the **Career Coach Assessment**, an interactive tool designed to help them discover their career interests and identify related college degree paths.

The **Career Coach Assessment** consists of 60 questions and serves as a valuable resource for the Girls in STEM participants, providing insight into career planning and helping them connect their personal interests with potential academic and professional goals.

The next visit with Girls in STEM is November 19th from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm. The Biology Student Club Association at Del Mar College will be the guest speakers.



Voter Registration Event

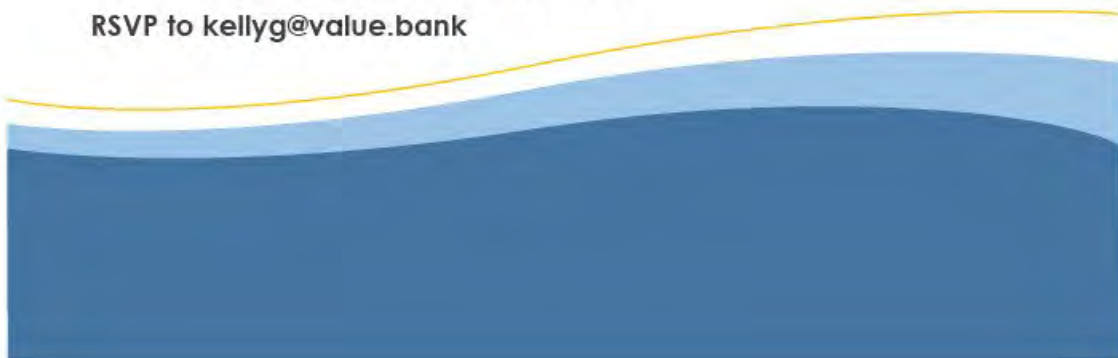


Voter Registration *Event

Join us as we partner with the League of Women's Voters to hold a voter registration drive. Volunteers are needed for set up and signing up voters.

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All Saints' Church
3026 S. Staples, Corpus Christi TX 78404
RSVP to kellyg@value.bank



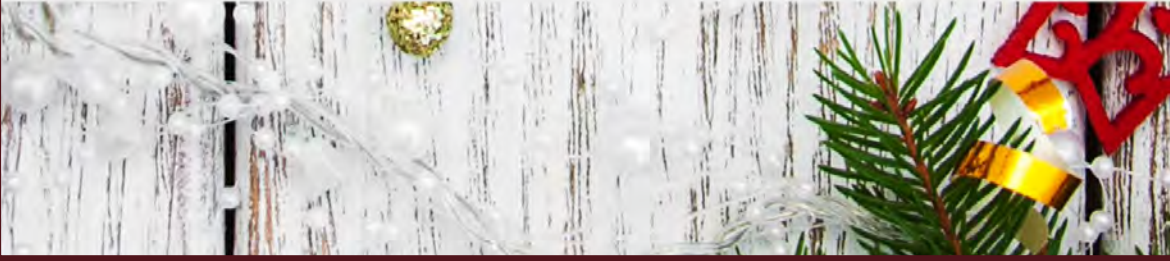
December Luncheon



You are Invited to
AAUW Corpus Christi's
December Luncheon

DECEMBER 6th
11 AM - 1 PM

All Saints Episcopal Church
3026 S. Staples St.
More details to come



Book Finders

By Kris Conlan

The next Book Sale will be held at Neyland Library on November 13-15. Thursday and Friday it will be open from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and will be TAX FREE!

On Saturday the hours are 10:00am - 1:30 pm.

The Special Online Preview Sale will feature Texana, Coffee Table books, Gift Giving books, and Children's books. Inside the Book Nook we present all genres of books, magazines, CDs, books on tape, etc.

The majority of our books are in new or almost new condition, and many well-read Vintage books are also offered.

Additionally, we offer three carts loaded with books all priced at \$1.00!! This sale will be an excellent opportunity to do Holiday shopping for very reasonable prices, so please plan to attend. You will find something for everyone!

AAUW
BOOK SALE
November 13 – 15
Thursday – Friday*: 10 – 5 pm
Saturday: 10 – 1:30 pm

Special Featured Books:
Texana, Children's, Holiday Gifts, & Coffee Table Books

\$2 & up special sales!
Shelves restocked daily!
***Tax Free Days**

Neyland Library.
1230 Carmel Pkwy
361-826-2370

For more info:
Kristin Conlan || 361-548-0282
corpuschristi-tx.aauw.net

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.

A huge thank you to the following Bookfinder volunteers who have worked so diligently to prepare our books for the sales ...

Barb Craig-Schniepp

Alka Khanolkar

Peg (and Joe) Duran

Catherine Cox

Grace Martinez

Kelly (and Poncho) Gonzalez

Judy Potts

Sherry Putman

Patti Flood

Jan Hilton

Sheri Roussel

Shirley Selz

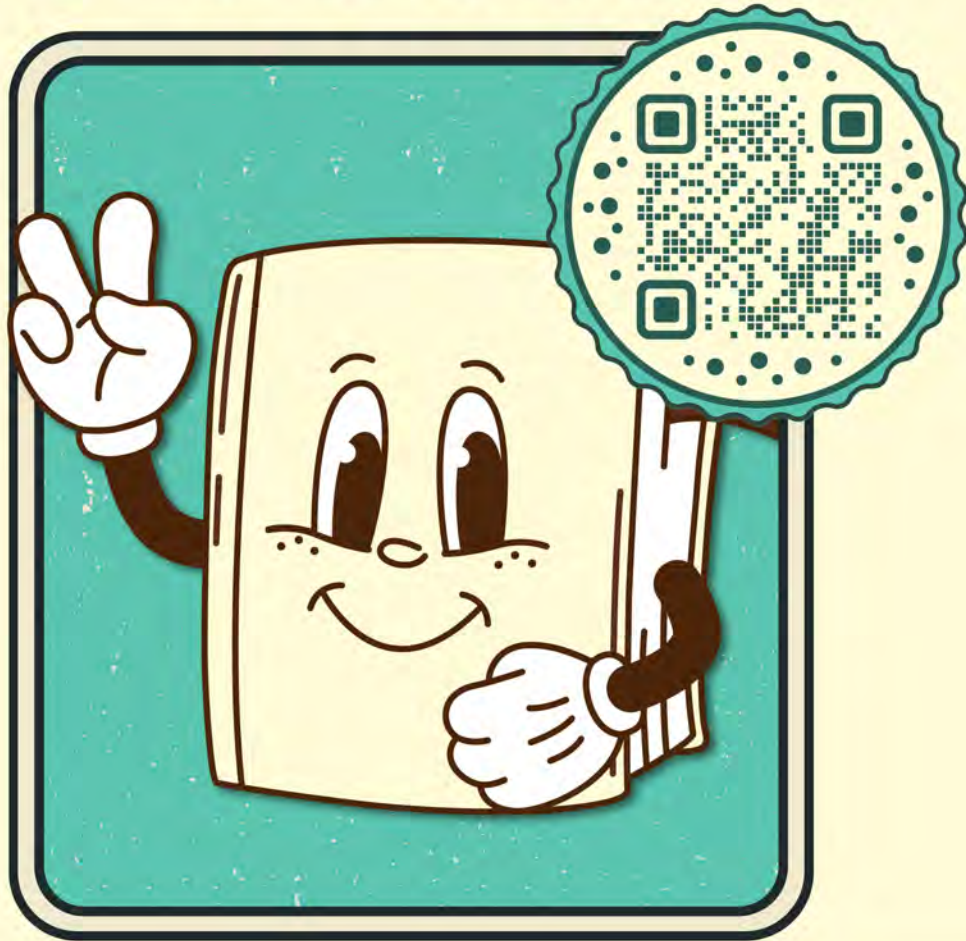
Susan Birchfield

Another huge thank you to Debby (and John) Wilkins for the daily work you provide in keeping our online sales up and running so successfully.

Thank You, Thank You to Deanne Purcell, Kelly Gonzalez, and Lara Gephart for advertising our sales and to Vickie Natale for taking care of the financial end of things so promptly and expertly.

And a final round of applause for Michelle Balis and her crew of library workers for your endless support. You are all most deeply appreciated.

MISSING AAUW'S BOOK SALES?



CHECK OUT THEIR ONLINE STORE!

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

Community Outreach

By Diana Reyes



The Community Outreach Committee invites you to join them at the YWTeen Holiday Shopping: Unwrap the Magic event.

The event will be held on Sunday, December 7th from 1:00 -3:00 pm at the YWCA.

We invite you to help us by volunteering at this wonderful event.

Volunteers are needed to help the girls with shopping, gift wrapping, the coloring activity, and serving refreshments.

You also have the opportunity to donate gift bags, tissue paper, bows, and scissors. Please bring items to the next branch meeting or Community Outreach meeting.

The next committee meeting is on November 20th at 12:15 pm at the YWCA.



YWCA Opportunities to Help Those Who Help Others

The YWCA Corpus Christi is preparing for their Yuletide event and holiday season. They are decorating 12 Christmas trees and common areas throughout the facility.

They are reaching out to AAUW–Corpus Christi to invite our members to donate **gently used Christmas ornaments and décor.**

They are collecting:

- Ornaments (all sizes, unbroken)
- Garlands, ribbons, tree toppers, and tree skirts
- Decorative picks, faux florals, wreaths, and mantle/door décor
- Small, working string lights (optional)

How to donate:

Drop off location: YWCA Corpus Christi – 4601 Corona Drive

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Donation Deadline: November 28th



The YWCA will be hosting the First Annual Yuletide Gala and Marketplace.

With over 1,200 registered senior members, the YWCA facility plays a vital role in supporting healthier, longer lives. Whether attending daily, weekly, or occasionally, these seniors rely on them for safe equipment, social connection, and a welcoming space that helps them thrive. Contributions will help them purchase new, safe, and effective fitness equipment to replace aging machines and ensure their seniors continue to stay active, independent, and engaged.

Sponsorships and individual Gala tickets are available.

Interest Groups

Out-to-Lunch Bunch: Susan Birchfield, chair. Enjoy a delightful lunch on the third Tuesday of the month at local restaurants. This month they will meet at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, November 18th at Community Kitchen located at 900 S. Shoreline inside First United Methodist Church. Please RSVP to Susan.

Bridge: Lessie Hoffman, chair. This group meets at Silverado Smokehouse, 4522 Weber Road at 12:30 pm on the second and the last Friday of the month from January through November as well as the second Friday in December. Lessie also offered to teach newbies how to play if you contact her personally. RSVP

Classics: Annie Huckabee, chair. This group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at local restaurants. On November 19th, a discussion will be held on *The Good Soldier* (1915) by Ford Madox Ford. Location and time to be determined. RSVP

Playgoers: Michelle Balis, chair. If you have signed up for this group, Michelle will email you one week before a performance. RSVP.

Poetry Appreciation: Leslie Peart, chair. This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month. RSVP. This month they will be discussing poems by John Donne.

Wine and Cheese: Susan Birchfield and Josefina Villarreal, co-chairs. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month, 5 pm—7 pm (October through September) at different homes. This month they will meet on November 9th at 5 pm. Location to be announced. Please RSVP to Susan.



Upcoming Events Calendar

November

1 Branch Meeting
4 Book Finders
5 STEM Committee
9 Wine & Cheese
11 Book Finders
12 Poetry Appreciation
13-15 Book Sale
14 Bridge
18 Book Finders
18 Out to Lunch Bunch
19 STEM @ West Oso
19 Classics
20 Community Outreach
25 Book Finders
28 Bridge



December

2 Book Finders
3 STEM Committee
6 Branch Meeting
7 YTEENS Shopping
9 Book Finders
10 Poetry Appreciation
12 Bridge
14 Wine & Cheese
16 Book Finders
16 Out to Lunch Bunch
17 Classics
17 STEM @ West Oso
23 Book Finders
31 Bridge



January

6 Book Finders
7 STEM Committee
7 Poetry Appreciation
9 Bridge
11 Wine & Cheese
13 Book Finders
14 STEM @ West Oso
20 Book Finders
20 Out to Lunch Bunch
27 Book Finders
28 Classics
30 Bridge



February

3 Book Finders
4 STEM Committee
7 Branch Meeting
8 Wine & Cheese
10 Book Finders
11 Poetry Appreciation
11 STEM @ West Oso
13 Bridge
17 Book Finders
17 Out to Lunch Bunch
24 Book Finders
25 Classics
26 Community Outreach
27 Bridge



March

3 Book Finders
4 STEM Committee
7 Branch Meeting
8 Wine and Cheese
10 Book Finders
11 Poetry Appreciation
12-14 Book Sale
13 Bridge
17 Book Finders
17 Out to Lunch Bunch
21 STEM @ West Oso
24 Book Finders
25 Classics
26 Community Outreach
27 Bridge
31 Book Finders



April

1 STEM Committee
4 Branch Meeting
7 Book Finders
8 Poetry Appreciation
10 Bridge
12 Wine & Cheese
14 Book Finders
21 Book Finders
21 Out to Lunch Bunch
24 Bridge
28 Book Finders
29 Classics
29 STEM @ West Oso
30 Community Outreach



May

2 Branch Meeting
5 Book Finders
6 STEM Committee
8 Bridge
12 Book Finders
13 Poetry Appreciation
17 Wine & Cheese
19 Book Finders
19 Out to Lunch Bunch
26 Book Finders
27 Classics
27 STEM @ West Oso
28 Community Outreach
29 Bridge



Happy Birthday Wishes

November

Lara Gephart.....November 21
Jennifer GonzalesNovember 23
Patti Flood.....November 25
Sylvia Rendon.....November 26
Catherine Cox.....November 29

November Interesting Facts

Birthstones

Topaz

Citrine

Birth Flower

Chrysanthemum

Zodiac Signs

Scorpio - October 24 - November 21

Sagittarius - November 22 – December 21

