



American Association of University Women Lake/Sumter Newsletter

October 2017

Presidents' Letter

Dear AAUW Sisters,

We hope all of you weathered Hurricane Irma with only minimum damage to yourselves and your property. Thank you for being so flexible in switching dates for our September meeting at Beacon College. Steve Muller, Vice President of Institutional Development and Communications at Beacon College, welcomed us once again and gave us an update about the growth of their student body and their plans for expansion. The biggest treat of the morning was meeting and listening to two extraordinary young girls from The Villages Middle School who attended Tech Trek this summer. They'd prepared a PowerPoint presentation about their experiences, with pictures of themselves and others participating in various classes such as chemistry and robotics and computer coding. Meeting women in STEM professions opened their eyes to various career possibilities. We can be very proud of the work we do to send girls like these to Tech Trek camp!

The recap we gave of last year's Branch accomplishments is available on our website: lakesumter-fl.aauw.net so take a look. Action steps your Board of Directors has taken toward this year's goals are:

Goal # 1 - Recognition and Branding - A poster describing AAUW's mission, our Branch's vision statement and our goals will be on display at all of our meetings and events.

Goal # 2 - Engage and Retain Membership - Members are encouraged to arrive at our monthly meetings half an hour early to socialize before the program begins at 10:00 AM. We'll have a check-off list instead of signing in, to better assess trends in meeting attendance and determine causes for lack of attendance. You're invited to get involved with some of our dynamic committees. It's a great way to learn more about our activities and meet some terrific new women!

See you in October,

Jacquie Latzer and Susan Gold, Co-Presidents

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Lake/Sumter Monthly Meeting

Branch Meeting Oct. 14

Members and guests are encouraged to arrive by 9:30 AM for our Oct. 14 Branch Meeting to allow time for socializing before the program begins at 10:00 AM. Our meetings this year will be at Allamanda Recreation Center, 1515 St. Charles Place in The Villages (from Buena Vista Blvd. turn west onto St. Charles Place at the Liberty Park sign).

After a brief business meeting, Lake County Sheriff Peyton Grinnell will speak about human trafficking in central Florida. Did you know that Florida is one of the top three states for calls to the National Human Trafficking Reporting Center and that vacation spots are prime areas? Lake County's Human Trafficking Taskforce was established in 2012, with the mission of combating all aspects of human trafficking through increased public awareness, coordinated investigative response, trained professionals and victim services. Services to victims include emergency housing, food, medical exams, and mental health treatment.



Sheriff Grinnell

Sept. Meeting Tech Trek Presentation

We were delighted by the presentation by two of our 2017 Tech Trek campers at our Sept. 23 meeting. Meg Ireland and Stephanie Nguyen created a PowerPoint presentation about their week at the AAUW FL State Tech Trek camp. Both girls are eighth graders at the Villages Charter Middle School. They explained study projects they'd worked on during their stay at camp and shared their more personal thoughts and impressions of how this experience has influenced their future career paths and reset their future goals. Meg and Stephanie were gracious about answering our questions during the luncheon that followed. Our three other Tech Trek campers were unable to attend the meeting due to scheduling changes. NOTE: If you would like to join the Tech Trek committee to participate in the selection of the campers for 2018, please call committee chair **Connie Konatsotis** at (352) 396-5590. Connie says, "It is truly a rewarding experience!"



*Shown, L to R, are Stephanie Nguyen and Meg Ireland (who gave a remarkable PowerPoint presentation about their Tech Trek experience at our Sept. 23 meeting), AAUW Tech Trek committee members **Carolyn Johnson** and **Carmel Leese** and Tech Trek committee chair **Connie Konatsotis**.*

Interest Groups

Bridge

Lake/Sumter AAUW offers two Bridge groups. Game locations are scheduled on a date-to-date basis, with members volunteering to host in their homes. On the week of play, directions to the host's home will be emailed to those playing. Any member who wishes to play regularly or to be put on the substitute list should notify the appropriate Group Leader below:

- The Monday Bridge Group plays 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1:00 PM. This month's games will be held on Oct. 9 and 23. The Monday Group Leader is **Cindy Anderson** at (352) 430-5856 or email cmc37738@yahoo.com.
- The Thursday Bridge Group plays 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Oct. 5 and 19, at 1:00 PM. The Thursday Group Leader is **Lu Michaels** at (352) 750-0246 or email lum2800@gmail.com.

Diversity Book Group

Our Book Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Peace Room at North Lake Presbyterian Church on Rolling Acres Road. The book for Oct. 18 will be *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. **Ginny Rivera** (352) 430-0245 will be this month's moderator.

Member **Pat Taylor**, who recently took over leadership of our Book Group, died unexpectedly on Sept. 28. She was a thoughtful, intelligent, charismatic leader who offered interesting and insightful comments during our discussions and displayed a delightful sense of humor. She will be sorely missed. In a tribute to her mother, Pat's daughter Sharon wrote:

Pat Taylor learned early on that she could escape from her small world and travel the greater world and beyond through books. So at a young age she devoured books. They were her lifeline... As my brothers and I were growing up, it was important to her to get us all reading for pleasure because she knew it would widen our horizons... We kids are who we are because of her, and she will live on in our every good deed, our every kind word or touch, our every book read, perhaps in our every breath. What a blessing that is.

Mah Jongg

Mah jongg is played at 1:00 PM the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. If you'd like to play, please call the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so that she can have enough tables, game sets, etc. This month, mah jongg games will be at the following homes:

Oct. 2 **June Love** (352) 259-3927 17880 SE 89th Natchez Ave. (Village of Piedmont)

Oct. 16 **Anne Schlick** (352) 750-1027 17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terrace (Vill. of Piedmont)

Golf

AAUW's Golf Group is on hiatus until further notice due to a schedule conflict for Carmel Leese. Plans are to resume Friday play in Jan. 2018. More information will be forthcoming. If you have questions contact **Carmel Leese** at crleese@gmail.com or (352) 751-0119.

Special Events



January Casino Night Fundraiser

A fun evening of gambling with someone else's money ("free casino cash") is in store for this year's main fundraiser to support our efforts on behalf of local women and girls. The event will be held at Lake Miona Recreation Center from 5:30-8:45 PM on Sat., Jan. 27, 2018. We have hired an experienced, female-owned company to stage the event, and our goal is to sell 325 tickets at \$25 each.

What's planned:

The event ticket comes with \$2,500 of free casino cash, one free prize raffle ticket, free snacks and bottled water. Gambling will include roulette, poker, craps, slots, black jack, and Texas hold'em with two tournaments throughout the evening. Coaches will be available to help players unfamiliar with the rules. At the end of the event, casino cash will be traded in for chances on raffle prizes (must be present to win). Also, a drawing will be held for the winner of the 18-carat gold bracelet provided by Gold In Art Jewelers to support our scholarships.

Your help is needed:

Please begin talking to your friends now to invite them to Casino Night and arrange to get tickets for them (see below). You can print out copies of the Casino Night flyer attached with this Newsletter to give to friends, distribute at club meetings, etc. **Casino Night is our Branch's major fundraiser this year!** Every member's participation is needed to support this event through ticket purchases and sales, donations of prizes, attendance on Jan. 27 and/or financial contributions. It's your membership responsibility.

How to get tickets:

Joyce Tisovec is handling all Casino Night ticket sales. Tickets will be sold at our Branch Meetings as well as in person or by mail from Joyce. There is no limit on the number of tickets an individual may purchase. Tickets are \$25 each. To order tickets by mail, send check(s) for the number of tickets wanted (payable to Lake/Sumter AAUW), plus a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Joyce Tisovec, 2427 Kingtree Place, The Villages, FL 32162. To facilitate Casino Night ticket sales to friends and club members: collect their checks, obtain the tickets from Joyce, and distribute the tickets to the buyers.

This is an event you won't want to miss!

For more information or to volunteer, please call **Cathy Cirocco** (352) 753-7720 or **Liz Schweers** (850) 247-9489. Call **Joyce Tisovec** (770) 815-0801 if there are ticket questions.



Branch News

New Members Coffee

Invitations have been mailed for the New Members Coffee which will be held at 10 AM on Sat. Oct. 21 at the home of **Diane Jacobson**, 755 Mallory Hill Drive, Village of Mallory Square. Anyone new to our Lake/Sumter Branch who did not receive an invitation should contact Diane Jacobson at (352) 750-0032 or email chasanddi@embarqmail.com. This event will be a good opportunity to ask questions and meet other members.

Membership

Membership booklets are ready for pick up!

If you don't have your 2017-2018 periwinkle-blue booklet, email **Diane Jacobson** at chasanddi@embarqmail.com to arrange to pick it up. Also, please inform Diane of any errors or changes in your personal information.

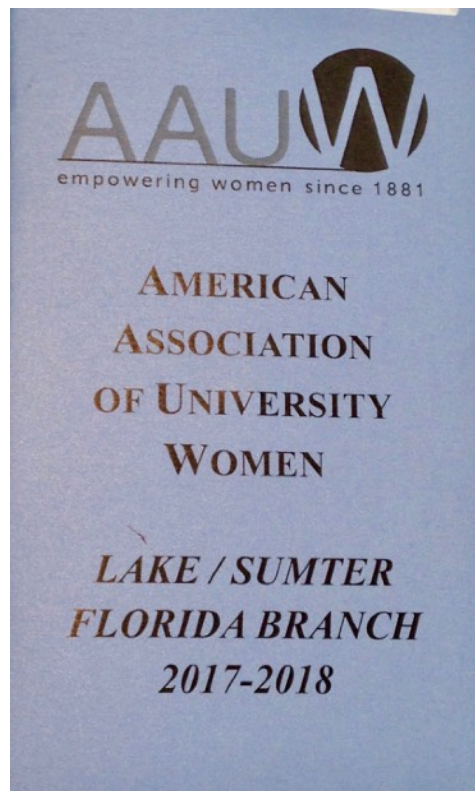
Two new members have joined since the Membership booklets were printed. Please add their names to your booklet:

Marianne Bender-Powers

2023 Palo Alto Avenue
Lady Lake, FL 32159 Palo Alto
Phone: 781-424-2096
Email: xmasbabe_mbp@yahoo.com
College: Queens College, NY BA and MA in Psychology
Boston Univ. MA and Ed.D in Education

Jane Hempfen Harris

1628 Norwood St.
The Villages, FL 32163 Gilchrist West
Phone: 618-704-8869
email: planejane62@att.net
College: University of Houston, TX BA in English



Note: Lake/Sumter AAUW members' names appear in **bold** type in this Newsletter.

Branch News (Continued from page 5)

Scholarship Winners

Here's news from several scholarship recipients that was shared at our Sept. monthly meeting.

2017 recipients:

- Haley Marie Mariner of Fruitland Park plans to study Biomedical Engineering at USF in Tampa. Haley hopes to become an M.D. and research neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.
- Selina Hickey has begun her studies at FSU in Tallahassee. She spent the summer taking a required Spanish course and is pursuing a BS degree in Criminal Justice. Selina plans to join the military after college, complete a Master's Degree, and become a Federal Agent.

2016 recipients:

- Kate Reynolds is at USF studying Forensic Science. She took an Immunology course this summer and got a B in lecture and an A in lab. Her mother is a new member of AAUW. (Kate and her Mom joined us for breakfast one Tuesday in July.)
- Katie Beason had an internship this summer with a Navy lab in Orlando and hopes to start a part-time job there in the next few months. At UCF she is currently taking Computer Science, Calculus, Object Oriented Programming and German. She sends her thanks!

2015 recipient:

- Monika Lamud is at Stetson University for her last semester before graduating in December with a BA in Business Administration. She's taking five classes again this semester and has maintained a 3.8 GPA. Monika earns money for textbooks by modeling and doing makeup.

Scholarship Bracelet

Again this year Gold in Art Jewelers at 441 and Rolling Acres Road has donated a beautiful piece of 18-carat gold jewelry for our Scholarship fund raising raffle. A detail of the bracelet is shown below. Raffle tickets will be available at our Oct. 14 monthly meeting. Every member should buy at least one ticket, and members are encouraged to take a book of 5 or 10 tickets to sell or to purchase as gifts for relatives and special friends. It's your membership responsibility. The bracelet drawing will be held at our Casino Night on Jan. 27, 2017.

**Scholarship raffle bracelet detail.
Please stop and thank the staff at
Gold in Art Jewelers for their
generous continued support of
our Scholarship program.**



Neighborhood Gatherings

Summer Breakfasts are now transitioning to Neighborhood Coffees or any other ways you'd like to get together with other AAUW members in your neighborhood. Member **Carolyn Pasquale** organizes lunch outings for members who live outside The Villages, as shown below.



Lake-Sumter AAUW members who live outside The Villages have enjoyed monthly lunch outings organized by Carolyn Pasquale. Their Aug. 8 gathering was held at Sakura's Japanese Restaurant in the Colony Plaza. *Pictured seated, (L to R): Carolyn Pasquale, Kate Manion, Monika Lamud* (Scholarship student at Stetson U). *Standing (L to R): Rosella Todd Valentine, Frankie Smith, Carol DiDomenico, and Joan Krick.*

Ways to Get Involved

In line with this year's goals (described in the President's Letter on page 1) we are creating two new groups and we need volunteers for each of them.

Under the goal of *Membership Engagement*, we're creating a group that will contact new members to welcome them to our branch, pair new members with an existing member, have a table for interest group sign ups, and find other ways to help members feel connected.

A second group under our goal of *AAUW Name Recognition* will work in conjunction with Casino Night. After that, they will develop and distribute promotional materials to libraries and local colleges, have a presence at town center Market Nights, and develop a speakers bureau.

Which group would you like to be part of? Please contact **Jacquie Latzer** to let her know: (704) 451-9886 or jacquie.latzer@gmail.com. Together we can make belonging to the Lake/Sumter AAUW Branch even more fun and enjoyable!

October 2017 Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION & CONTACT
Mah Jongg	Mon. Oct. 2	1:00 PM	17880 SE 89th Natchez Ave., The Villages (352) 259-3927
Thursday Bridge	Oct. 5 & 19	1:00 PM	Call Lu Michaels for location (352) 750-0246
Monday Bridge	Oct. 9 & 23	1:00 PM	Call Cindy Anderson for location (352) 430-5856
Monthly Meeting	Sat. Oct. 14	9:30 AM	Allamanda Rec Center, 1515 St. Charles Place, The Villages
Mah Jongg	Mon. Oct. 16	1:00 PM	17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terr. The Villages (352) 750-1027
Diversity Book Group	Wed. Oct. 18	10:30 AM	Peace Room, North Lake Presbyterian Church (352) 430-0245
New Members Coffee	Sat. Oct. 21	10:00 AM	755 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages (352) 750-0032
St. Johns River Cruise	Wed, Nov. 1	8:30-4:00	Call Katie to be wait-listed for this trip (352) 674-0171
Casino Night Fundraiser	Jan. 27, 2018	5:30-8:45	Lake Miona Recreation Center (see Casino Night, page 4)

AAUW Web Sites

National Web Site: aauw.org

State Web Site: aauw-fl.aauw.net

Branch Web Site: lakesumter-fl.aauw.net

NOTE

If you use the Pages word processing application on an Apple device, please call me. I need your advice.

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joannekelch@yahoo.com