

During our beautiful spring season, hopefully we are all enjoying the birds singing, flowers blooming and breezes blowing. All these beauties of nature renew us with a sense of commitment, inspiration and motivation.

Such was the atmosphere at our March AAUW Lake/Sumter meeting. The program featured a film on women's advancement through the 60's, 70's and 80's. We then witnessed our own members sharing their stories of personal endeavors to achieve success despite barriers of the time.

All of us continue this drive to break today's barriers which deter women's advancement in science, technology, engineering and math. We are committed to strengthening our confidence and our will power which will enable us to be leaders in our chosen professions and in our society. AAUW values encourage us as we aspire to be role models for our young girls in today's world.

This theme carries over into our April fundraiser, "An Evening with Heloise". We will be fortunate to meet and hear the sage advice from Heloise, herself, on management, business, health and wellness.

Keep watching for all the information on this event which will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at The Savannah Center from 7:00-9:00 PM. Bring your friends and family and let's all enjoy this evening! Let's make this event a sell out! See you there!

Judy and Barbara

American Association of University Women



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Look who's making the news!

The Daily Sun celebrated women "movers and shakers" in various categories a few weeks ago. Our own Rosella Valentine was recognized. Congratulations, Rosella! It is well deserved!



Graduation Invitation extended to AAUW Members

Good morning Rosella,

As always, I enjoyed speaking with you the other day. As I mentioned, Beacon's graduation will be held at Lakes Reception (Tavares) on Saturday, May 7th beginning at 11:00am. We would be honored if you or other members of AAUW would like to attend.

I hope you have a wonderful and enjoyable trip.

Best,
Steve Muller
Vice President of Institutional Development
and Communications

Reminder: Still Time to Get Your Tickets to See Heloise

Don't miss "An Evening with Heloise" on Sunday, April 17th at 7:00 pm The Savannah Center

Heloise, the premier lifestyle management expert, engages audiences around the country with her sage advice, great wit and Texas charm. From Life 101 how-to on household management, business to health and wellness.

Sponsored by AAUW (American Association of University Women). All proceeds go to support local scholarships and AAUW programs which create an environment where girls are encouraged to expand their knowledge.

Seat Assigned Tickets on Sale Now at

The Villages Box Office!!

All Tickets \$25.00 - Cash Bar



**LAKE SUMTER
(FL) BRANCH**

Reservations for May Meeting

It's time to celebrate as we install our new officers and scholarship winners at our annual luncheon on Saturday, May 21. Festivities will begin at 11:30 at the Continental County Club, 50 Continental Blvd, Wildwood, FL 34785. (Telephone: 352-748-0050). Located just east of Brownwood on CR 44 the Country Club has undergone a major renovation and the new manager, Tammy Todd, has greatly improved the food and decor in a picturesque setting which is sure to delight our members. Although this is not a high tea, if you would like to add a fancy hat to your fancy outfit please do so.

Reservations can be made by sending a check for \$15.00 made payable to Lake/Sumter AAUW. Mail to Linda Ferens, 1192 Fort Mill Court, The Villages, FL 32162. (Telephone 352-633-3175) Your check must arrive no later than May 17. Remember there is no general meeting in April.

Please indicate on your check your menu choice by number 1, 2, 3 from the following: All are served with tomato bisque soup, coffee or tea. A cash bar is available.

1 Veggie Hoagie: Ranch dressing, grilled mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, green peppers, black olives, banana peppers, provolone cheese.

#2 Chicken Salad Salad: Two large scoops of chicken salad on lettuce with tomatoes, cucumbers, grapes, walnuts, and choice of dressing.

#3 1/2 Breaded Pork Tenderloin on a bun. This is their house specialty.

See you there as together we celebrate!

MONDAY BRIDGE

This month, the Monday Bridge Group will play at 1 p.m. April 11 and 25. Hosts will be announced before the meetings.

The group plays on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1:00 P.M.; it is open to any interested member who wishes to play regularly. Location is scheduled on a date-to-date basis, with members volunteering to host in their homes.

Questions? Call Mary Ann Swisher at 259-3739.

Membership Update

Welcome to new member:

June Webber

3951 Neighborly Way

The Villages, FL 32163

352-633-0933

budweb@comcast.net

San Diego State University, BA

University of North Florida, MED

Member new address:

Nancy Bell

14221 N. 51st Ave., Apt. 1175

Glendale, AZ 85306

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The AAUW LAKE/SUMTER branch has experienced a great year of activities, programs, community involvement with extensive participation by so many members. Providing for all of this takes volunteers from our membership to make each meeting and activity happen.

Listed below are some areas where we need volunteers for 2016-2017. Please consider where your talent may contribute to plans for 2016-17. Perhaps you would like to "co" with another member. To volunteer, or if you have questions, contact Anne Wilkins at 352-430-0964 or ancwilk@yahoo.com.

Tech Trek/STEM AWARDS

Scholarship Fund

Hospitality

Newsletter Creator

A newsletter creator will be needed starting with the September 2016 issue. The newsletter publication is covered through May 2016, and there are no issues during the summer months. Articles are supplied by the various committee members. You can use this format or create a new one! So, step up to spread all breaking news! Contact the Co-Presidents to volunteer!

From our Webperson:

Looking for a new volunteer job? - There are numerous opportunities with the web - content development, reviews, proof reading, usability testing and so on. Content is supplied by Committees and the Newsletter. All content is submitted to AAUW-National website support for updates so you do not have to learn any software or be technical. If you are interested in taking on any part of this activity, please contact the Co-Presidents Elect.

AAUW Book Club is held at Freedom Pointe at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Please be there at 10:20 so chair Pat Bays can escort you to the meeting place.

For April 20 the book to be discussed is *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. For May 18 the book is *Skeletons at the Feast* by Earnest Hemingway.

Mah Jongg

April 18; Hostess – Laurel Rowen
1:30-3:30
1640 Latta Ct (Sunset Pointe)
352-633-7883

If you plan to play, please call Anne Schlick at 352-750-1027 the Friday preceding the date to play.

The **AAUW golfing group** plays on Friday and the tee time is in the morning. The reservation is entered into the tee time system on Monday. Carmel must know by Sunday evening if you are interested in playing for the week. The requested tee time is between 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Golf courses are alternated weekly between those north or south of Hwy 466.

Participation for playing on a Championship course on Monday afternoon is no longer coordinated due to no members interested. It can be reinstated if more individuals become interested at a later date.

An email is sent to regular participants each week for Executive golf. Participation can be weekly or when your schedule allows as there is no weekly commitment required. If you haven't participated in the past, please include your 6 digit Villages ID number. This number is required for entry into the tee time system. If you are interested in joining, contact Carmel at (352)-751-0119 or crleese@gmail.com.

Diane Reichert helped to further the mission of AAUW by having her daughter visit with local students. Following is the newspaper article highlighting the informative session. *Heidi Reichert Robes, a Senior Director with Biogen of Cambridge, MA, presented to 7th graders at The Villages Charter Middle School in FL on April 4. The presentation provided an overview of the Biotechnology Sector, Drug Product Development, and how many different careers paths were specifically available in Biomanufacturing from research scientists, to manufacturing, engineering, marketing, finance, public relations and others. Heidi gave a comprehensive overview on her career path which began with this new business sector in the early '90s. Biogen develops, manufactures and markets innovative therapies for patients living with serious neurological, autoimmune and rare diseases and studies the variations in genetics that may influence treatments/drugs for diseases. The students were engaged with questions and got to conduct a simple laboratory experiment prepared by Biogen. The students investigated the genetic basis of taste by testing their ability to taste a bitter compound. With this activity, students had first hand involvement on the dramatic differences in how individuals experience taste and also discussed how genetic differences can influence an individual's taste perception. Pictured with Heidi (center) are classroom teachers Dr. Gary Brodeur and Gretchen Reardon.*



The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Project

The Lake/Sumter American Association of University Women (AAUW) in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area (LWV) undertook a project to examine and summarize the voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) programs in Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. The members of the committee from AAUW were Linda Carpenter and Susan Gold with valuable editing help from Ginny Rivera. Those from the LWV were Joanne Coen and Margy Barrett.

VPK was mandated in 2002 with a constitutional amendment that required high quality programming for all 4-year-olds in the State of Florida. We were the first state in the United States to offer free voluntary pre-kindergarten statewide. All children who turn 4 by September 1 of any given year are eligible. Our committee was interested in how VPK programming is implemented in the tri-county area.

Currently, Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for declaring children eligible for VPK, for processing childcare applications, and for monitoring their compliance with state-mandated programmatic requirements. Three ELCs operate to oversee the VPK program in the tri-county area. They are Lake, Marion and Nature Coast ELCs. Our committee began by meeting with the directors and staff of the three ELCs in our catchment area.

A questionnaire was developed and distributed to the three directors of the ELCs. Subsequently, meetings were held with each ELC to determine responses to the questionnaire and learn more about how the ELCs operate. We were interested in: Children, Facilities, Teaching Staff, Child Assessment, Curricula, Funding, and Infrastructure.

The full 17page report which was written by Linda Carpenter and edited by Ginny Rivera is available on the Lake/Sumter AAUW website.

At the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters on Monday, March 21, 2016, they voted to continue the project for another year by visiting pre-kindergarten classrooms, seeing what other leagues in the state are doing re: VPK, and asking AAUW for continued partnership.

Both the full report as well as a summary are also available on the website for the local League of Women Voters (www.lwvtri.org).

Member update from Rosella:

Hi, Liz!

Did you know that former member, Priscilla Millier, who used to co-chair the AAUW Membership Committee, will be undergoing heart valve replacement surgery at Emory U. In Atlanta on 4/26?

It would be very thoughtful if you could get a card out to her from all her friends at Lake-Sumter AAUW, letting her know that we'll be thinking of her and wishing her well. Thanks!

Rosella

Stay connected with us!

REMINDER: Some of our branch members do not use Facebook, but we still want you to see what we are posting. There is also a lot of shared information from AAUW National on our page.

Anyone can view a public page on Facebook. The branch's Facebook page is available for you to view even if you do not have your own personal page.

Here are ways to access the branch's page:

1. Facebook members can go to their page and search for AAUW Lake Sumter Area - FL Branch.

OR

2. If a branch member does not have a Facebook account, they can go to: www.facebook.com/AAUWLakeSumter

OR

3. Go to our web page: <http://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net> for the link to the Facebook page.

