

Greetings to all!

You can feel it in the air...the holiday spirit is upon us. Everything and everyone around us fill us with joy, excitement and fulfillment.

For those of us who attended the November 14th AAUW Lake/Sumter General Meeting, we had the privilege of experiencing those very feelings as we listened to the words of two administrators and two students from Beacon College, Leesburg FL.

Beacon College is one of two colleges in the United States founded to admit students who have been diagnosed with Learning Disabilities. It is a fully accredited college designed to meet the learning styles of this population, and to prepare them for future career and life success. To use Beacon College's own words," the Beacon experience is one of guidance, support, challenge and purposeful struggle".

The success of this program was witnessed in the words of the two young ladies who are students at Beacon College. In their early years, they struggled in the classroom as they attempted to adapt to traditional methods of learning. However, they never let that struggle defeat themselves. They remained determined, upbeat and confident that they were bright, and they could succeed in the correct atmosphere. We, the audience, could feel the determination, perseverance, trust and joy they are now experiencing as they reap the benefits of the Beacon education. We were filled with admiration, happiness and excitement as we witnessed these young ladies moving forward on their life's journey. Cheers for Beacon College and the student population they serve so well.

Next month, as we continue the spirit of the season, we look forward to seeing all our members at the December 5, 2015 holiday brunch at Pennbrooke Fairway Grill, at 10:00 AM. All details are in our AAUW member booklet. Also, keep looking for news about our Fundraiser, An Evening with Heloise, on April 17, 2016, at the Savannah Center. Tickets will go very quickly.

In closing, Judy and I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe journey to those who will be travelling. See you in December!!

Barbara

American Association of  
University Women



December 2015

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## **BRIDGE GROUP**

This month the Monday AAUW Bridge group will meet at 11:30 at Hacienda Hills Country Club for lunch followed by Bridge at the home of Mary Ann Swisher. There will be no Bridge Monday December 28.

The Monday Bridge 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. New members are welcome! Also, the group would appreciate hearing from those who might want to be substitutes. To join this group, as a regular player or as a substitute, contact Mary Ann Swisher at mswisher@mindspring.com or 352- 259-3739.

## **Beacon College Update**

Beacon College's Steve Muller, VP of Institutional Development and Communications, Susan Ward, Coordinator of Career Development and Outreach, two students, Samantha Resnick and Hope Glesner did excellent presentations about Beacon College at our AAUW Branch General Meeting on November 14th.

- Steve Muller spoke about various ways to support students so they can continue their journey of life and learning to do good in the world and to live a life abundant. You can give today at [www.BeaconCollege.edu/Giving-Tuesday](http://www.BeaconCollege.edu/Giving-Tuesday) or call Beacon Giving at 352.638.9783

- You can volunteer to support Beacon College. Details are on our AAUW Lake Sumter Web Site.

- Beacon College will have their inaugural \$tart \$mart workshop on Thursday, December 10th. Co-Presidents Judy Bonn and Barbara Jones, Rosella Valentine and Frankie Smith will observe. Be sure and watch for information and pictures in the January Newsletter!

- Beacon College is working in getting everything necessary to host an ElectHer workshop. As they progress, information will be posted in our AAUW branch Newsletter.



Steve Muller,  
Co-Presidents  
Judy Bonn &  
Barbara Jones



Susan  
Ward,  
Hope  
Glesner,  
Samantha  
Resnick



# Lake Sumter Branch Presents:

## *Beautiful Padparascha Sapphire Pendant Necklace and Earring Set* (Valued at: Over \$3,000)

### Necklace

- 14kt Gold, 18 inch, 1.5 millimeter round Diamond-Cut Omega
- The lobster clasp actually screws on and off if needed so it can be used with a pendant whose bail is really tiny
- Valued at: \$699

### Pendant

- 14 kt Gold with almost a half carat of diamonds and a beautiful Checkerboard cut, lab-created Padparascha Sapphire
- Valued at: \$1,679

### Earrings

- 14kt Gold, over 1 inch long and also have a Checkerboard cut, lab-created Padparascha Sapphire in each
- Valued at: \$649



Proceeds go to: *AAUW Local Scholarship Fund*

Benefits women who have completed two years at LSSC or Beacon College and who plan to pursue a Bachelor's Degree at LSSC, Beacon College or another four-year College or University.

Cost per ticket: *\$5*

(Need not be present to win; drawing February 13, 2016)

Donated By:

*Gold In Art Jewelers*

Stop in any time to browse!

Corner of Rolling Acres Rd. and 441, Lady Lake, FL

Between Starbucks and Longhorn

[www.goldinart.com](http://www.goldinart.com)

For more information, contact Rosella Todd Valentine at (352) 323-8608

## **UPDATES ON PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

As you know, I make it a practice to keep in touch with our scholarship women on a regular basis, and they with me. It's a big part of what makes my job as Chair of the Scholarship Committee so rewarding. So, I thought I'd share some news from these lovely young ladies as a little holiday present for our membership.....

FAITH GADSON (2015) is off to a good start in her program in Psychology at UCF and tells me she is training to become a peer mentor and possibly a UN ambassador for the Orlando Campus in the spring term.

MONIKA LAMUD (2015), just completing her first semester at Stetson University, had the opportunity to perform in two theatrical productions at the University ("Laughter on the 23rd Floor" and "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds"). She's enjoying her studies, the small school size, has made several friends she likes spending time with, and is maintaining all A's in her classes.

ANA RUIZ (2014) employed as a nurse at Bayfront Hospital in Dade City, and her fiancé, Santos Torres, will be married on December 19 at the Ruiz family home in Bushnell. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple from all of us at Lake-Sumter AAUW!!!

SHARON PRYOR (2014) returned to her classes in Organizational Mgmt. at Lake-Sumter State College after a break to address some medical issues. She says she's delighted to get back to college and hopes to get her BAS degree this May.

ASHLEY PARKHURST (2013) is loving her first teaching job at Clermont Elementary! It's what she's always wanted to do.

AMBER SODE (2013) will complete her final teaching internship in December and graduate from UCF on 12/18 with her BS in Elementary Ed. She reports that she has accepted a full-time teaching job after graduation at Groveland Elementary School.

EVELYN GUZMAN (2012) was nominated for "Rookie Teacher of the Year" at Triangle Elementary School in Mt. Dora, came in a very close second, but considers it a real honor just to have been nominated. She tells me she loves her students and is very happy in her first full year of teaching at Triangle.

MICHELLE BENGHTT (2012) who was working in Orlando has relocated to the Ft. Myers area and is now working in Public Relations for Granny Nannies.

So....that's the news from our scholarship women. I know that you are just as proud of them as I and our Scholarship Committee are. I want to thank you for all the support you've given me in this most rewarding work. Happy Holidays to you all!

Rosella Todd Valentine, Chair  
AAUW Scholarship Committee



Picture of our past scholarship recipients taken at the May 2015 meeting.

#### **AMBER' S GRADUATION PARTY.....**



Amber Sode, one of our AAUW scholarship winners, whom we have helped financially to get through her unpaid teaching internships at UCF this year, will complete her final internship and graduate from UCF on December 18, 2015! And.....the best news is she has a full-time teaching job after graduation at Groveland Elementary School!!! So, it's time to celebrate!!!

Rosella Todd Valentine, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, is planning a graduation celebration at Habanero's Mexican Grille (10601 US Highway 441, Leesburg) on Monday, December 21, at 12 noon. Anyone who would like to attend, enjoy lunch, and congratulate Amber on her many successes should make a reservation with Rosella (323-8608) by December 18. We will pay for our own lunches and AAUW will, of course, pick up her check.

## Great Decisions 2016

Topics are: Middle East, The Rise of ISIS, The Future of Kurdistan, Migration, The Koreas, The United Nations, Climate Change and Cuba and the U.S.

Registration with Diane Jacobson and payments for books deadline is December 5th.

Carol Richardson will facilitate the group; however, participants are asked to volunteer to 'lead' the discussion for at least one of the topics. The sessions are planned to be held at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex (Hwy 466) Tuesday's starting at 10 am until 11:30 am beginning January 19th and run weekly (except for February 2nd and March 1st) until March 22nd.



**Hosted by  
Linda  
Carpenter**

## Neighborhood Coffees



**Hosted by  
Judith  
Reinhardt**

## ANGEL BOOK COMMITTEE

We have wonderful books for our designated angels. December the 5th is our last day to collect. After that we will be busy sorting and delivering them to Lake and Sumter school districts. I understand that the Spanish Springs Publix has a large display of children's books for sale. Looking forward to collecting the rest at the December meeting.

Emily Holman

## From our Webperson:

Looking for a new volunteer job - Check out our branch website. /lakesumter-fl.aauw.net There are numerous opportunities to help out with the web - content development, reviews, proof reading, usability testing and so on.

AAUW-National provides us with website support and we will be undergoing a review of the site, looking for changes etc. to give it a more modern look. I would like to have several pairs of eyes to join in. If you are interested in helping with this - send me an email with Subject Matter - AAUW WEB Review. As soon as I get a date/time for the review, I'll get you in our loop. Or send me any ideas/input for changes etc. that you think would improve our site.

Thanks/Diane Reichert ; Webperson

The AAUW golfing group plays on Friday and the tee time varies from mornings to afternoons depending on the weather. The reservation is entered into the tee time system on Monday so let Carmel Leese (352-751-0119, crleese@gmail.com) know by Sunday evening if you are interested in playing. The requested time is 9:00 A.M., with a window of 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M in the fall and 11:30 to 3:00 in the winter. Golf courses are alternated weekly between those north or south of Hwy 466.

There is also a group that is playing a 9 hole round of golf on a Championship course on Monday afternoon with a tee time of 1:30 PM. The cost is ½ of the 18 hole rate which will range between \$17.00 and \$23.50 in the fall and between \$22.00 and \$29.00 in the winter. Please plan on joining us for a socializing after your game. This reservation is entered into the tee time system on Thursday so let Carmel know by Wednesday if you are available.

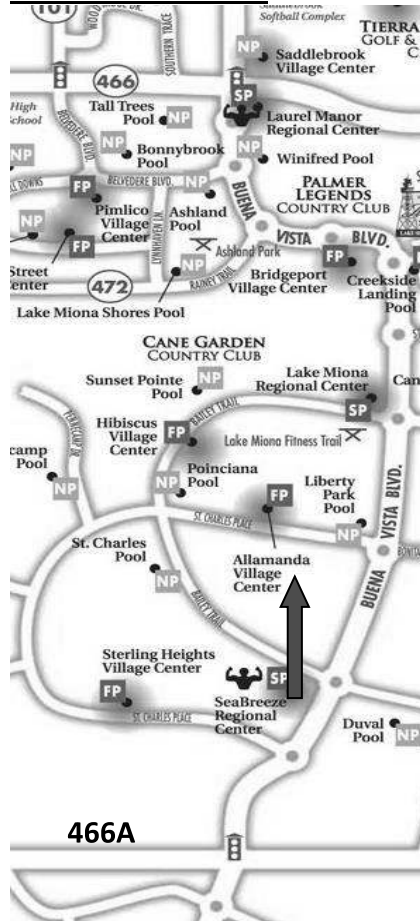
There will not be any golf December 19th and January 7. Play will resume on January 8th for Executive and January 11th for Championship. An email is sent to regular participants each week for Executive and Championship golf. Please respond by Sunday for Executive or Wednesday for Championship golf each week. You can participate weekly or when your schedule allows as there is no weekly commitment required. But if you haven't participated in the past, please include your Villages ID number when you contact her all since this is needed for entry into the tee time system. If you are interested in joining, contact Carmel.

### DECEMBER MAH JONGG

Dec. 7th 1:30-3:30 Anne Schlick, hostess, 17301 SE 82nd Pecan Ter, Piemont. 352-750-1027

If you are planning to play, please call Anne Schlick the Friday proceeding the date playing. 352-750-1027.

### JANUARY MEETING



Saturday, January 16  
10 AM – Noon  
Allamanda Rec Center  
1515 St Charles Place  
The Villages  
Program by USF: The Villages Health Study  
Beverages and light snacks will be provided;  
No reservations

From 466A, go north on Buena Vista Blvd to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round-about. Make a left into Village of Liberty Park. Allamanda Rec Ctr will be on your right.

From 466, go south on Buena Vista Blvd to the 8<sup>th</sup> round-about. Make a right into Village of Liberty Park. Allamanda Rec Ctr will be on your right.

## December Meeting

Several members asked about the location of our December meeting. Below is a map of Pennbrooke Fairways, which is accessed via Route 44. From The Villages, drive south on Morse Blvd or Buena Vista Blvd until the intersection of Rte 44. Turn left. Pennbrooke will be on your left. From CR 468, drive south until the intersection of Rte 44 and turn right. Pennbrooke will be on the right.

Saturday, December 5, 2015; Time: 10AM – Noon; Holiday Brunch and Sing-a-Long  
Pennbrooke Fairways Grille, 32900 Countryside Blvd. Leesburg, FL 34748

**Reservations Required; Reservation deadline date is November 30, 2015**

\$15/person, payable by check to **Lake/Sumter AAUW**; checks will be collected at the Pennbrooke door.  
To make a reservation, contact Ginger Ryan at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, or phone 518-421-4454.







**SAVE THE DATE!!! SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016**

**AN "EVENING WITH HELOISE"**

**The Savannah Center – Scarlett O’Hara Theater - 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

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. [www.heloise.com](http://www.heloise.com)

*All proceeds will go to support scholarships and AAUW programs which create an environment where girls are encouraged to expand their knowledge and ability in STEM through fun and educational activities.*

**More Details Will Be Provided Over The Next Few Months**

## ABOUT HELOISE

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### EDUCATION

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
1974 B.S. EDUCATION, A  
DOUBLE MAJOR IN BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION AND  
MATHEMATICS, WITH A  
TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE

### AWARDS

Communicator of  
Achievement 2009,  
National Federation of Press  
Women Headliner Award,  
Women in Communications  
Mental Health Mission Award,  
National Mental Health  
Association's first award for  
outstanding contribution to  
mental health education,  
Distinguished Alumnus  
Award, Southwest Texas  
State University (now Texas  
State University)



LAKE SUMTER  
(FL) BRANCH

FOR MORE DETAILS  
CONTACT:

Kathy Keul:

[kathleenkeul@aol.com](mailto:kathleenkeul@aol.com) or

352.633.7132

Kay Bogolin:

[kmbogolin@aol.com](mailto:kmbogolin@aol.com) or

847.420.8640

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWLakeSumter)

OR

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

