

Time flies when you are having fun!!!! That thought struck me yesterday as I stood at the podium to open our January Meeting. Looking at the audience, I witnessed not only the renewal of friendships, but also the welcoming and fostering of new friendships. I saw a community of women working together to advance the equity of women and young girls in education, research and advocacy, and enjoying every minute of this opportunity. It is this spirit which motivates all of us and enables us to accept positions in AAUW Lake/Sumter, and actually enjoy and look forward to our responsibilities. Judy and I appreciate and admire all of you.

Our nominating committee is hard at work to prepare and present a slate of nominees for various offices and chairs. This slate will be published in the newsletter and will be presented at the February meeting. Elections will be held in March. Many thanks to this committee who willingly performs this valuable task, and to those who accept the offer.

At Saturday’s January meeting, we were treated to a wonderful presentation on The Villages Health Study. Amy Wixted, Wellness and Education Manager of The Villages Health Centers and the Specialty Care Center. Amy further enlightened us about the many health education resources offered by The Villages Health Learning Center. Many of these classes will not only improve a diagnosed health condition, but will help prevent the onset of some new illnesses. Our appreciation is extended to our excellent Program Officers and their Committees who work hard to consistently bring us timely and interesting presentations. We also sincerely thank the Hospitality Committee who not only provides us with nutritious, delicious snacks, but also extends gracious welcomes to all.

Next month, on February 13th, at Bridgeport Recreation Center, we can look forward to an interesting panel discussion on Women Who Have Worked in Male Dominated Professions. The panel will consist of some of our own AAUW members and it promises to be a lively, informative session....one we don’t want to miss!

Last, but certainly not least, be sure to watch for exciting information regarding our April Fundraiser, An Evening with Heloise!!!

Judy Bonn and Barbara Jones, Co Presidents

American Association of University Women



Presidents’ Message	1
Message from former member	2
Message from current scholarship recipient	2
Scholarship Fundraiser	3
January Meeting Pic	3
Future Program Ideas	3
Membership	4
Volunteers Needed	4
Bridge	4
Nominations	4
Golfing	5
February Meeting	5
VPK Project	6
Heloise note	6
Mah Jongg	6
Internet Sites	7

MESSAGE FROM ROSELLA ABOUT SUSAN CHRISTEN.....

Those of you who have been members of our Lake-Sumter AAUW for more than six years will certainly remember Susan Christen, who chaired the Scholarship Committee before I inherited that position. She was 91 when she left AAUW because she moved from The Villages to Maryland to be near her son in Montgomery.

I have kept in touch with Susan over the years, and she is still the vibrant and remarkable woman we all knew. She has a sharp mind, a wonderful sense of humor, and she's still giving back to her community in Montgomery, where she is very active in her local BPW Club (Business and Professional Women). In fact, she chairs the Scholarship Committee and BPW provides an annual college scholarship to a female student at Montgomery College, which the Club has aptly named the "Susan R. Christen Scholarship" in her honor. She's very proud of that!

Susan wrote me just recently that her asthma attacks have slowed her down a bit. She thanked me for sending her news from our local AAUW branch in my letters, and remarked that her time with Lake-Sumter AAUW "was an unforgettable few years" for her. She has very fond memories of her short time with us and the many friends she made in AAUW.

I want you to know that SUSAN WILL BE 97 ON MARCH 9, and I hope you will join me in sending birthday greetings to celebrate the birthday of a good friend and a truly remarkable person. Her address is:

Ms. Susan Christen  
19310 Club House Road  
Apartment #616  
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Thanks!

Rosella Todd Valentine, Chair  
Local Scholarship Committee

**Let's all support Monika by voting!**

Hello everyone! My name is Monika Lamud, and I am lucky enough to be an AAUW scholarship recipient through the Lake/Sumter branch. I recently learned of an opportunity to submit two artistic works to the AAUW art contest, and I have entered two pictures. On the AAUW website (I put the link at the bottom), my works are titled "Held in Suspense" and "Sciuridae Need To Eat Too". Starting on February 3rd, AAUW members can vote on their favorite entries, which will be shown on notecards to be sent in the spring. If anyone would like to help me by voting I would appreciate it! Thank you for all the wonderful things this branch accomplishes!

Sincerely,  
Monika

Link to art contest: [svc.aauw.org/contests/NoteCardEntries\\_wp.cfm](http://svc.aauw.org/contests/NoteCardEntries_wp.cfm)

**Hint from Heloise:**

**Don't miss "An Evening with Heloise" on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
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.

**Tickets on Sale to Public February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**All Tickets \$25.00 – Assigned Seating**

**Cash Bar**

**Members can pick up vouchers at the February 13<sup>th</sup>  
General Meeting to exchange for purchase of tickets at the  
Box Office before they go on sale to the public on  
February 18th.**



**LAKE SUMTER  
(FL) BRANCH**



Amy Wixted from The Villages Health System presented a very informative session at the January 2016 meeting. Thank you, Amy!

**Thinking Ahead for 2016-2017 PROGRAMS**

Each year the Co-Program Officers plan great programs on a variety of topics which we all enjoy at our monthly meetings. While the ideas and actual programs have been great, the thought has occurred to us that maybe the members might like to offer some ideas for speakers or topics for next year's programs.

So, please put your thinking caps on. At the February meeting a questionnaire will be distributed asking for your input regarding programs you might like. There will be a list for you to check the ideas you like, and more importantly, there will be spaces asking for your suggestions of topics and even of speakers or formats.

While we cannot guarantee that every suggestion will make the list, every suggestion will be seriously considered.

All ideas welcome!

Anne Wilkins and Julee De La Rosa

## **MONDAY BRIDGE**

This month, the Monday Bridge Group will play at 1 p.m. February 8 and 22. 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. 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.

## **OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

New co-chairs for the 2016-2017 offices of President Elect, Program, and Finance have been nominated and will be elected at the March meeting. Nominations also may be made from the floor at the time of election, provided consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Nominees are:

Co-President Elect: Susan Gold & Jacquie Latzer

Co-Program: Anne Schlick & Carol Zoellner

Co-Finance: Joan Irwin & Diane Reichert.

## **Membership Update**

Welcome to our new member:

Barbara Ann Prescott

1024 Eagles Landing

Leesburg, FL 34748

352-728-4049

Barbarap34@gmail.com

University of Maine; B.A.; History & Gov't

Member Change of Address:

Barbara Blatchford

2457 Merida Circle

The Villages, FL 32162

Village of Santo Domingo

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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 - 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

## **GOLFING**

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. She must know by Sunday evening if you are interested in playing for that week. 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.

The other group playing is on a Championship course on Monday afternoon with a tee time of 1:30 PM. We play a 9 hole round of golf and the cost between \$22.00 and \$29.00 in the winter. This reservation is entered into the tee time system on Thursday so let Carmel know by Wednesday if you are available.

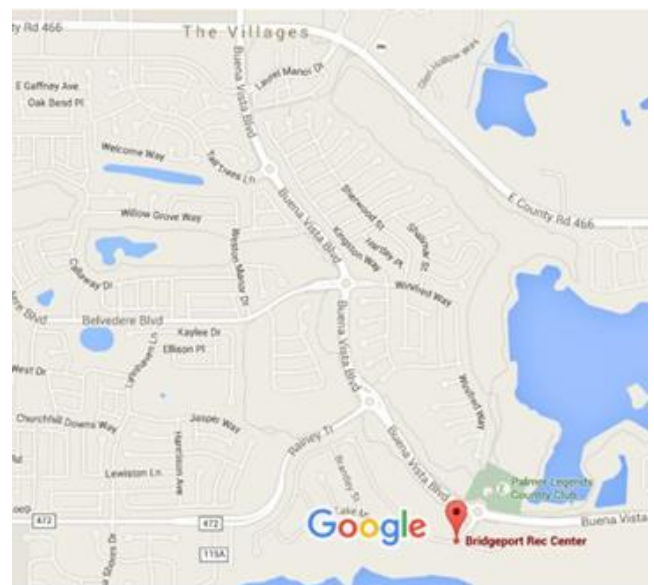
An email is sent to regular participants each week for Executive and Championship golf. Participation can be weekly or when your schedule allows as there is no weekly commitment required. If you haven't participated in the past, please include your Villages ID number since this is needed for entry into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

## **FEBRUARY and MARCH MEETING**

You won't want to miss the next AAUW meeting on February 13th at the Bridgeport Rec Center. Our very own Carmel Leese and Frankie Smith will be starring on a panel of women along with another resident from The Villages, Donna Taylor. AAUW - Sumter's Program Committee member, Kay Bogolin, will moderate the panel with a discussion on women who succeeded in industries that continue to be male dominated. These courageous women will talk about their experiences, lessons learned, and what drove them to success. The presentation will also feature a short clip from the PBS MAKERS Series Video on Women in Business. In celebration of Women's History Month, our March 12th meeting will carry on the theme of strong women with the original PBS MAKERS movie Women Who Make America. This PBS special presentation tells the remarkable story of the most sweeping social revolution in American history, as women have asserted their rights to a full and fair share of political power, economic opportunity, and personal autonomy in the last 50 years.

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 to noon  
Bridgeport Rec Center  
1670 Lake Miona Drive  
The Villages  
352-259-6590  
No reservations required;  
Light refreshments

### **Bridgeport Rec Center**



## VPK Project

At their January 25, 2016, meeting, members of the League of Women Voters Tri-county Area/The Villages heard the results of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) project that has been conducted in recent months. A collaborative undertaking between the League and the Lake / Sumter AAUW branch, the project was designed to examine the VPK program in the tri-county area.

Branch members who participated in the project are Susan Gold (who is also a member of the League), Linda Carpenter, and Ginny Rivera. Susan suggested the idea to the League and the project was selected as a focused issue for the last year. Susan and Linda worked with League members Joanne Coen and Margy Barrett to develop a questionnaire which was distributed to the Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) in the tri-county area. Susan, Linda, Joanne, and Margy conducted follow-up meetings with directors of each ELC to learn answers to the questionnaire items. Linda wrote the final report, and Ginny performed the technical edit of the document. Susan and Margy wrote a summary of the full report; members can read a copy on the Lake / Sumter AAUW Web site.

The results indicate that the VPK program, although mandated as a constitutional amendment in Florida, is seriously underfunded. While it boasts a high rank for access on a national survey of pre-kindergarten programs – clearly the result of the constitutional mandate – Florida’s VPK ranks 36th of 41 programs surveyed for resources devoted to it. Moreover, the State’s program meets only three of 10 quality standards specified by the National Institute for Early Education Research.

While the summary report is available now, the League will not release the full report until their annual meeting in March. At that time, decisions will be made about continuing the project. If approved, the next phase will involve site visits to VPK programs in Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties.

In addition to learning the results of the project, meeting attendees heard ELC directors Roseann Fricks (Marion), Leshia Buchbinder (Lake), and Sandra Woodard (Sumter) talk about their programs.

Several Lake / Sumter AAUW branch members, some of whom are also members of the League, attended the meeting – including Anne Wilkins, Nancy Bell, Lou Michaels, Dotty Sasmor, and Laurel Rowen – and their interest in the project was appreciated.



Linda Carpenter provided this:

### **An Evening with Heloise: Side Bar**

Lake / Sumter AAUW members who read the Daily Sun may recall seeing "Hints from Heloise" in the January 26 edition of the paper. In her response to a hint submitted by a reader in The Villages, Heloise put in a plug for her April 17 appearance here. While she didn't mention AAUW, we know who is sponsoring the event and welcome the free advertising to the larger community.

### **Mah Jongg for Feb.**

Feb. 1st Kathy Howe hostess  
631/219-4289

Feb. 15th June Love hostess  
352/259-3967

All games begin at 1:30P & end at 3:30. If you are able to play, please call the hostess the Friday prior to the date playing. For questions, call Anne Schlick, 353/750-1027.

## 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.

