



## Presidents' Letter

Dear Lake/Sumter AAUW members,

How strange it is to write 2017! We are halfway through our AAUW year and already so much has been happening. In addition to our regular monthly meetings, our interest groups and committees have been engrossed in their activities. These are the places where we get to know each other better.

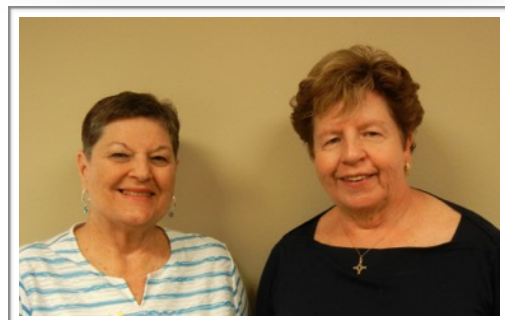
Among the many social and philanthropic doings, the Angel Books have been delivered and **Emily Holman** tells us that compliments were made on the quality of the books. Thanks to all who contributed books. The Single Women's group has been successfully launched with a dinner at Katie Belle's and the Neighborhood Coffees are in full swing. Tech Trek with has been getting ready to solicit applications for the summer program, which we support financially as well as through meeting students and interviewing them. The By-Laws Committee is on target to complete their revision task by January 1. The first special event of our year, Wine and Design, was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended as was the trip to Winter Park in November. Look for other events to come. We are a busy group! As we enter 2017, we are confident that our Branch will continue to grow, work together and be a positive force in our community.

We wish all of you a Healthy, Happy New Year and hope to see you at our meetings.

*Anne Wilkins and Julee DeLaRosa, Co-Presidents*

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*Julee*

*Anne*

# Lake/Sumter Monthly Meetings

## Jan. 21 General Meeting

**NOTE: Our January meeting date and location have been rescheduled. The meeting will take place at the Bradenton Rec. Center, 1300 Pinellas Place in The Villages, at 10:00 AM on Sat., Jan. 21, 2017.** Our program will be “Education in the Federal Prison System.” Program speaker Jack Swisher was employed for 20 years as Education Counselor at the Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, PA. He will share information about that educational program and some experiences with the inmates. Beverages and snacks will be provided and no reservations are required. Guests are welcome.

## December Meeting Highlights

Members attending our Dec. 3 luncheon at Glenview Country Club enjoyed a delightful program by the Coventry Carolers. Leader Mary White (*pictured center*) shared the history of many holiday traditions as the group performed seasonal carols.



## 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 on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:00 PM. This month games will be held on Jan. 9 and 23. The Monday Group Leader is **Cindy Anderson** at (352) 430-5856 or email [cmc37738@yahoo.com](mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com).
- The Thursday Bridge Group will play Jan. 5 and 19, the first and third Thursdays of the month, at 1:00 PM. The Thursday Group Leader is **Mary Ann Swisher** at (352) 259-3739 or email [mswiper@mindspring.com](mailto:mswiper@mindspring.com).

## Interest Groups (Continued from page 2)

### Diversity Book Group

Our Book Group meets at Freedom Pointe at 10:30 AM 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 Jan. 18 the book to be discussed is *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. The discussion on Feb. 15 will be about *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf.

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions eight-week sessions will begin Jan. 17 with a full roster of participants. The Foreign Policy Association topics that will be discussed are The Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, U.S. Foreign Policy & Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Nuclear Security. If you have any questions about the program contact **Diane Jacobson**, (352) 750-0032 or [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com).

### Golf

The Golf group plays on Friday mornings. If you are interested in joining, contact **Carmel Leese** at (352) 751-0119 or [crleese@gmail.com](mailto:crleese@gmail.com). The reservation is entered into the tee time system on Sunday, so let Carmel know by Saturday evening if you are interested in playing. The requested time will be based on the weather forecast each week. It will start with a request for a 10:00 AM tee time with a window of 10:00 to 3:30. Golf courses are alternated weekly from north of Hwy. 466 to south of Hwy. 466.

### Mah Jongg

Mah jongg is usually played at 1:30 PM the first and third Monday of each month. We will NOT be having mah jongg on Jan. 2, but will be playing on Jan. 16 at the home of **June Love**, 1225 Morton Lane in the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter. If you will be coming please call June at (352) 259-3967 by Jan. 13 to let her know, so that she can plan accordingly.

### Single Women

The Single Women's group met for drinks, appetizers and great conversation in October at Carolee Litwinka's home. We decided we would enjoy going out to dinner, plays, musical performances and travel together. When possible we would like to gather monthly in one of our homes on a weekend evening. Fourteen of us enjoyed dinner with the Singing Servers at Katie Belle's in November. We have plans to enjoy *La Boheme* in January and two plays in February. To date, 23 members have expressed interest in participating. To join, please contact **Carolee Litwinka** at (352) 750-0617 or **Anne Schlick** at (352) 750-1027.

## Special Events

Our Wine & Design event on Dec. 9 was a fun evening with AAUW members, friends, and one spouse. And we raised \$270! At the Jan. 21 General Meeting, you'll be able to meet the artists and see their paintings up close and personal — an opportunity not to be missed!



### Travel Event Jan. 30

**Diane Jacobson** will give a slide show presentation about her experience of long-term travel and highlights from a six-month Around the World cruise on Monday, Jan. 30 from 10 AM until noon at Pinellas Plaza Library, 7375 Powell Road, Suite 162. Those attending are asked to make a donation in any amount to one of the following: AAUW Lake/Sumter branch general operating cost or local scholarship fund, Florida AAUW Tech Trek program, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund or Educational Opportunities Fund. Seating space is limited for this event; contact Diane at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) if you would like to attend.

### Save the Date: Mar. 22

The AAUW Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held at Francesco's Italian Restaurant in Baylee Plaza on Wednesday, Mar. 22, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. The luncheon menu will feature a two-course meal with a wide variety of main course options and include either soup or salad plus entrée and soft drink. Tickets will be presold for \$25 beginning in January. Clothing from Marie Rose Fine Consignment Shop in Baylee Plaza will be modeled by AAUW members. Contact **Katie Haviland** [katiehaviland1@gmail.com](mailto:katiehaviland1@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a model. We will accept the first 10 who respond. Restaurant reservations are limited to 80 seats. This would be a good opportunity to invite a guest who might be interested in joining AAUW.

# Branch News

## Neighborhood Coffees

The second month of Neighborhood Coffees are taking place and we thank all those that are hosting and will be hosting. Almost all of the Villages Districts have had coffees, and **Joan Krick** hosted a December coffee in Mt. Dora for members outside The Villages. If you have not received a coffee invitation please contact **Jacquie Latzer** at [jacquie.latzer@gmail.com](mailto:jacquie.latzer@gmail.com).

Having successive coffees together builds closer bonds as we get to know each other and feel more connected. We also discover meaningful ways that we can be part of AAUW. The new ideas generated at these gatherings strengthen our branch and what it offers to its members. Hopefully all neighborhoods will continue their coffees. Remember at each coffee to find a host for the following month. By the way, congratulations to District 5 who have hosts committed through April — nice going!



District 6 coffee (left to right): *Diane Jacobson, Roz McHugh, host Linda Ferens, Carol Sellers, Pat Taylor, Linda Clark, Ginny Rivera*



District 9 coffee (left to right): *Irma Bennett, Angela Vickers, Katie Haviland, Ruth Martin, Brenda Moore, host Anna Whipple, Kathleen Manion*

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Initiative

Our Nov. 12 general meeting featured a panel discussion on Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) project, a joint effort of Tri-County League of Women Voters and Lake/Sumter AAUW. To date, the project has 26 volunteers. Some volunteers will be working on checklists for use when classrooms are observed. Others will be developing questions to ask of teachers and directors of child care centers. Most volunteers will also observe in VPK facilities. All these data, as well as child assessment data that the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) directors are sharing with us, will be entered into a data base that we will build. A number of volunteers will be working on data analysis. If you would like to join this effort, email **Susan Gold** at [susangold28@gmail.com](mailto:susangold28@gmail.com) or **Linda Carpenter** at [linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com).

## New Members

**Mary Ann Swisher** and **Diane Jacobson**, co-membership officers, had the pleasure of inviting 24 new members to **Carol Zoellner's** home for a new member's coffee Oct. 29. Several branch members participated by sharing how they contributed as members of Lake/Sumter AAUW. New members introduced themselves and shared why they joined the branch. We all enjoyed getting to know each other better.

Please inform **Diane Jacobson** at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) of any errors or changes in your personal information, and *make the following correction in your booklet*:

\* **June Love's** new email address is [june@junelove.net](mailto:june@junelove.net)

We have three new Lake/Sumter branch members. Please write their information into your membership booklet:

**Ann Cusano** 215-791-2565  
1976 Altamonte Way  
The Villages, FL 32162 (Pennecamp)  
[Cusano.A@gmail.com](mailto:Cusano.A@gmail.com)  
Nova Southeastern Univ., FL BS Education  
Gwenydd Mercy Univ., PA MS Education

**Sharon Edwins** 352-446-2084  
1144 Ardsley Place (Fernandina)  
The Villages, FL 32163  
[design361@yahoo.com](mailto:design361@yahoo.com)  
Cal. State Univ., Long Beach, CA BA  
Nova Southeastern Univ., FL MS

**Gloria Thesen** 352-638-3312  
3092 Charlevois St. (Collier/Alden Bungalows)  
The Villages, FL 32163  
[gloria@thesen.org](mailto:gloria@thesen.org)  
Univ. of Wisconsin, WI BSN Nursing

# Branch News (Continued from page 6)

## Scholarship Fundraiser

Win a \$6000 gold bracelet for \$5 and help a young woman complete her college education in the process — are you kidding? NO! Time is running out to get your packet of 10 AAUW scholarship fundraiser tickets to purchase or sell to friends. Get tickets at our monthly meetings or by contacting either **Carolyn Johnson** at (352) 751-4103, email [cgjohnson4103@gmail.com](mailto:cgjohnson4103@gmail.com) -or- **Patti Weasel** at (352) 787-8812, email [weapatrif@aol.com](mailto:weapatrif@aol.com). If you can't afford 10 tickets, buy or sell what you can. Let's make this a banner year for our local AAUW Scholarship Fund!



*This year's scholarship fundraising bracelet in 18-carat gold was donated by Richie Kleusener of Gold in Art Jewelers, corner of 441 and Rolling Acres Road. Stop by and thank him!*

## National News

### AAUW National Convention June 14-17, 2017

AAUW's National Convention, held every two years, is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain inspiration, and connect with other women leaders. The 2017 convention will be held in Washington, D.C. June 14-17. Registration rates are shown below. Jan. 14, 2017 is the deadline for getting the lowest rates.

2017 Registration Rates	Best Value Oct 1, 2016 – Jan 14, 2017	Early Bird Jan 15, 2017 – Mar 31, 2017	Regular April 1, 2017 – June 14, 2017	Daily Oct 1, 2016 – June 17, 2017
Member	\$549	\$575	\$625	\$300

AAUW has negotiated a special rate for all convention attendees at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C. The special rate is \$229/night plus tax (14.5%). Book your hotel room online or call the hotel directly at (202) 898-9000. This special rate is only available until May 22, 2017. Rooms fill up quickly so book your reservation early. By booking an AAUW room, attendees will receive complimentary in-room Wi-Fi and fitness center use.

# January 2017 Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION & CONTACT
Thursday Bridge	Jan. 5 & 19	1:00 PM	Call Mary Ann Swisher for location (352) 259-3739
Monday Bridge	Jan. 9 & 23	1:00 PM	Call Cindy Anderson for location (352) 430-5856
Mah Jongg	Mon. Jan. 16	1:30 PM	1225 Morton Lane, Villages (352) 259-3967 (see page 3)
Great Decisions	Tues. Jan. 17, 24, 31	10:00 AM	Sumter County Sheriff's Annex, Villages (see page 3)
Diversity Book Club	Wed. Jan. 18	10:30 AM	Freedom Pointe, 1550 El Camino Real, Villages (see page 3)
Monthly Meeting	Sat. Jan. 21	10:00 AM	Bradenton Rec. Ctr, 1300 Pinellas Pl. Villages (see page 2)
World Travel Event	Mon. Jan. 30	10:00 AM	Pinellas Plaza Library, 7375 Powell Rd. (see page 4)
Fashion Show Lunch	Wed. Mar. 22	11:00 AM	Francesco's, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield (see page 4)



Enjoying a boat ride on our Nov. 10 Winter Park day trip:

*Left side:* **Lu Michaels & son Rob, Cathy Cirocco & Irma Benner, Dorothy Dobbs & Gretchen Lewis, Angela Vickers & Bev Hawkins**

*Right side:* **Georgiann Ackley & Katie Haviland, Laurel Rowen & Susan Gold, Carolee Litwinka & Anne Wilkins, Liz Schweers & Beth Hicks, Kate Manion & Diane Starr. Missing from the photo: Carolyn Pasquale.**

Send questions and suggestions about the newsletter to the editor,  
Jo Anne Kelch: joannekelch@yahoo.com (352) 391-1182