

# Lake/Sumter Hi-Lites



## Presidents' Letter

It hardly seems possible that we are entering the 2014 holiday season!. Like us, we are certain you are looking forward to celebrating these special times with families and friends. As we anticipate the new year, we can't help but feel grateful for our many new and old friends who share our AAUW goals and principles.

Membership continues to grow as our message to women stands clear and strong. Currently we have 141 members. *Thank you* to Connie Konatsotis and Priscilla Millier for their recruitment diligence: Your many efforts do not go unnoticed and are appreciated by everyone.

We hope you have your ticket for the Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon fundraiser on Saturday, December 6 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. It is going to be a gala event! Carmel Leese has done a phenomenal job utilizing her organizational skills to coordinate the many aspects of the occasion. Fifteen AAUW members will model two outfits each from Anthony's, and a more than special treat will be AAUW member Sheryl Genco playing the violin as the models walk the runway! Sheryl is a member of the prestigious Villages Philharmonic Orchestra and in the past, the Buffalo Philharmonic. We are fortunate to have Sheryl share her talents with us.

Thank you, too, to Linda Ferens and Ginger Ryan and their Program Committee for the November program on migrant workers and homeless people. One of our scholarship recipients, Anna Ruiz, announced she will graduate in December. Anna told Rosella Valentine, Scholarship Chair, that the program at the meeting was of particular interest to her as her parents were migrant workers with almost no education. Her parents wanted their five children to get an education and have a better life; Anna will be the first of her siblings to graduate from college. What a wonderful display of how we are touching the lives of young women in such a positive way! And see page 5 for information about a celebration for three of our scholarship winners who are graduating this month.

Efforts of the members mentioned here – Connie, Priscilla, Carmel, Sheryl, Linda, Ginger – bring to mind Carmel's challenge at the November General Meeting. Those of you in attendance heard Carmel urge you to get involved in AAUW by accepting a committee assignment. To help us learn of your unrecognized talents

### Inside this issue:

Meetings and Programs	2
Special Interest Groups	3
Branch News	4
State and National News	7
General Meeting Minutes	8
Calendar	9



Co-Presidents Margaret Kaufman (L) and Beverly Grappy

*(Continued on page 2)*

---

## Presidents' Message *(Continued from page 1)*

and how you can share them with Lake / Sumter AAUW, Cathy Cirocco and Linda Carpenter have put together a survey, which will be distributed again at our January meeting. So be sure to fill it out and, the next time you are asked to serve, please consider saying "Yes."

Now, as you prepare to celebrate your traditions, whatever they may be, may each of you experience a sense of peace during this joyous season, and may your tomorrows be graced with gratitude and sweet memories.

Our sincere blessings to all.

*Beverly Grappy and Margaret Kaufman*

Co-Presidents

## Meetings and Programs

### November General Meeting Follow-up



Lillian Lopez's passion to serve and assist others less fortunate instead of simply collecting a paycheck was evident in her presentation to us at our November meeting. As the Migrant/Homeless Resource Advocate for Lake County Schools, her dedication and work ethic have propelled her to excel in her outreach efforts to better serve the families in our schools. We all came away more hopeful.

### December General Meeting: Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon

December 6 at 11:00 A.M. is the date and time for our Holiday Fashion Show and Luncheon at Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center in The Villages. Hopefully you have purchased your tickets and plan to attend this gala event, our major fundraiser for the year.



As a reminder, don't forget to bring your ticket to display at your seat as your food selection is indicated on the back of your ticket. Also, plan to purchase your raffle tickets for the numerous beautiful baskets to be given away.

A special thank you to our own Lake/Sumter AAUW models, committee chairs, and all who have given their time and talents to promote this activity.

**Directions:** Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center is located on the northeast corner of CR 466A and Morse Boulevard, at 510 Colony Boulevard. *From the north* end of The Villages, take Morse Boulevard to Colony Boulevard (1 short block before the traffic light at Morse and 466A). Turn left onto Colony Boulevard; the recreation center will be on your right. *From the south*, if Morse Boulevard is open to CR 44, then take Morse going north. If Morse Boulevard is not open to CR 44, get to 466A and take it going west from 441/27 or east from Buena Vista Boulevard to Morse Boulevard and go north. Take the first right after crossing CR 466A at the traffic light; the recreation center will be on your right.

*(Continued on page 3)*

---

## Meetings and Programs *(Continued from page 2)*

### Future Meetings: Save the Dates

**January 2015:** The first General Meeting of the new year will be on January 17 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon at Allamanda Recreation Center. The program will feature a presentation about Elizabeth Van Lew, who was a Union Spy during the Civil War. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it.

**February 2015:** Our AAUW State Presidents will visit with us for our General Meeting on February 14. It will be your chance to ask them about something that has been on your mind. Please email your questions to our co-Program Chairs, Ginger Ryan or Linda Ferens. No names will be used unless you want a personal response.

### Board Meeting



The Lake / Sumter Executive Board will not meet in December. The next Board meeting will be in January 2015. See the January newsletter for more information.

## Special Interest Groups

### Bridge Groups

Lake / Sumter AAUW offers two Special Interest Bridge groups:

- ◆ 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! And 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](mailto:mswisher@mindspring.com) or 352-259-3739. The Monday Bridge Group will meet at 11:30 A.M. on December 8 at Hacienda Hills Country Club for lunch before playing bridge at the home of Mary Ann Swisher. There will not be a bridge game on December 22.
- ◆ The Thursday Bridge group meets on the first and third Thursdays every month at 1:00 P.M.; this month, they will play on December 4 and 18. The group is comprised of 12 regular members. Currently they have openings and are always in need of substitutes. If you would like to join us or substitute, please contact Carolyn Johnson at [cgljohnson@comcast.net](mailto:cgljohnson@comcast.net) or 352-751-4103.



### Diversity Book Club



The Diversity Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 A.M. at Freedom Pointe. This month's meeting is on December 17, but no book will be discussed. Instead, the group will celebrate the holidays with a lunch at Freedom Pointe. It will cost \$10.00 per person, and reservations are required. Contact Pat Bays (751-3777) to save a space at the luncheon.

Book discussions will resume in January, but there has been a change in the book to be read. The book for January 2015 will be *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert. *Me Before You* by Jo Jo Mayes, originally scheduled for January, is now the book for May 2015.

*(Continued on page 4)*

---

## Special Interest Groups *(Continued from page 3)*

### Conversational Mah Jongg



The Conversational Mah Jongg group — it's relaxed and talking is permitted — usually plays at 1:30 P.M. on the first and third Mondays of each month. However, due to the holidays, no mah jongg games are scheduled for December; play will resume in January. Contact Anne Schlick (aroyrogers@centurylink.net, 750-1027) for more information about this group.

### Finger Food and Fun

Diane Jacobson and her husband Charlie will host the next Finger Food and Fun at their home in Malory Square on January 4. They have space for a limited number, so RSVP *soon* to chasanddi@embarqmail.com.



### Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2015



Thank you to Carol Richardson for facilitating the Great Decision 2015 sessions. The briefing books are on order and will be shipped to Joyce Swaffield early in January. Diane Jacobson will be sending an email in mid-December to all those who have signed up and paid for the session with complete information about the discussion group.

### Golf Anyone?

The group is golfing on Friday mornings, with golf courses alternating weekly between those north of 466 and those south of 466. The requested tee time is 8:30 A.M., with a window of 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. The reservation is entered into the tee time system each Sunday, so let Carmel Leese (352-751-0119, crleese@gmail.com) know by Saturday evening if you are interested in playing the following Friday. All levels of players are welcome. This month, the group will play December 5, 12, and 19; play will resume after the holidays on January 9. Contact Carmel for additional information, or stop by and see her at the monthly meetings.



## Branch News

### Spotlight on Philanthropy: STEM



AAUW raises funds to support its various initiatives intended to empower women and girls. STEM Education is one such initiative. "STEM" refers to "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," areas in which women are underrepresented, and AAUW's STEM initiative encompasses an array of programs intended to build "a STEM pipeline for girls and women." AAUW's 2010 groundbreaking research report, *Why So Few? Women in Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, serves as the foundation for the initiative as the report documented the environmental and social barriers that impede women's participation in STEM fields. Other AAUW research efforts expand that foundation by examining how community colleges can more effectively encourage and support women to pursue study in STEM areas as well as why women are so underrepresented in specific STEM fields, such as computer sciences.

AAUW's STEM education programs include Tech Trek – a week-long science and math summer camp for rising eighth-grade girls – and Tech Savvy – a day-long STEM conference for girls in middle school and their families. In

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

## Branch News *(continued from page 4)*

addition, AAUW funds graduate women in STEM fields: According to [aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), 43% of AAUW fellowships and grants support STEM fields. Finally, AAUW's STEM initiative includes advocacy in Washington, DC, and in each State to increase access to STEM education for women and girls. For more information about AAUW's STEM initiative, visit the Web site at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/>.

Lake / Sumter AAUW branch brings National's STEM initiative to the local level with several awards. We have a long-standing relationship with local educators to provide some funding for an elementary school-level chemistry lab. Our STEM Eighth Grade Awards are given to girls in eighth grade who have shown the most improvement in math or science during the academic year. Recipients are identified by their schools, and \$50.00 along with a certificate are awarded to two girls – one in math and one in science – from each of four schools: Carver Middle School and Oak Park Middle School in Lake County, and Wildwood Middle-High School and The Villages Charter Middle School in Sumter County. The current STEM Eighth Grade Awards committee is comprised of Kathleen Buckley and Diane Starr who contact the schools to initiate the process; they bestow the awards and are often assisted by other branch members in that happy task.

Our branch is also actively engaged in the Tech Trek program. The local Tech Trek committee, currently staffed by Judy Bonn, Linda Carpenter, Cathy Cirocco, and Carmel Leese, recruit applicants for the camp and encourage fundraising through the branch. (See page 7 for an update on this committee's activities.) In addition, a donation to Tech Trek Florida is a line item in the Lake / Sumter AAUW branch budget.

### Angel Books



The Angel Book Committee has been collecting new children's books to deliver to Lake and Sumter County schools before the holidays, and December 6 will be your last chance to donate to the Angel Book Project. Each member is asked to donate two or more new books to this project.

We are looking for books, either hard cover or paperback, suitable for children aged 5–10 years. Books should not be wrapped and should be appropriate for reading, so we do not want workbooks, coloring books, sticker books, board books, used books, or religious books. However, picture books, easy readers (fiction or non-fiction), and mid-grade novels are all fine.

### Scholarship Fundraiser

Don't forget to see one of the Scholarship Committee members — Rosella Valentine, Joyce Tisovec, or Patti Weasel — for tickets for the drawing for our beautiful ring from Gold in Art Jewelers (pictured at right). Tickets are \$5.00 each, but take a packet of 10 and sell them to your friends and family over the holidays. The drawing will be February 14 and ticketholders don't need to be present to win.



### AAUW Graduation Luncheon



Rosella Todd Valentine has put together a luncheon celebration in honor of Evelyn Guzman, one of our AAUW scholarship recipients, who will complete her teaching internship at Leesburg Elementary School in early December and graduate from University of Central Florida (UCF) with her BS in Elementary Education on December 12.

*(Continued on page 6)*

---

## Branch News *(Continued from page 5)*

This celebration initially was designed by Rosella and co-President Beverly Grappy to bring together those specific members of AAUW as well as the other generous individuals and organizations within our community who have helped to support Evelyn financially over this past year while she completed two unpaid internships for her degree. Happily, the party has now expanded to include Anna Ruiz and Michelle Benght, two other scholarship winners who will also graduate with their baccalaureate degrees this December: Anna from UCF and Michelle from University of South Florida (USF).

Our celebratory luncheon will take place on Monday, December 15, at Habanero's Mexican Grille, 10601 US Highway 441, Leesburg, at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be "Dutch Treat" (you'll pay for your own lunch check), but AAUW will take care of the graduates' lunches. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate three lovely ladies' college graduations, to congratulate them on their successes, and to wish them well in all their future endeavors. If you would like to join us in congratulating Evelyn, Anna, and Michelle on their graduation, please contact Rosella Valentine (352-323-8608, theValentines@cfl.rr.com) to make a reservation as the restaurant needs to know how many people to prepare for.

### Member Updates

- ◆ Phyllis Williams recently moved to Homewood, the assisted living area at Freedom Pointe. Then, her son died in an automobile accident. Phyllis needs all the thoughts, prayers, and positive vibes we can send her way – and phone calls and/or cards from her AAUW friends would be great.
- ◆ Ken McGray has established an endowment in honor of his late wife, Lake / Sumter AAUW member Ardelle McGray. The endowment, focused on pancreatic medicine, is at the University of Florida's College of Medicine.

Please make the following changes to your membership booklet:

- ◆ Linda Ferens's current email address is lindamarie255@hotmail.com
- ◆ Pat Stephenson's new phone number is 352-633-3994
- ◆ Dotty Sasmor's new email address is dlsasmor@gmail.com

Please welcome the following new members and add their information to your membership booklet:

- ◆ Linda Clark            1011 Quarry Place  
                                 The Villages, FL 32162  
                                 Village of Virginia Trace  
                                 352-753-4827  
                                 lmeclark2@frontier.com  
                                 Kent State University, BSEd  
                                 Baldwin Wallace University, MAEd

*(Continued on page 7)*

---

## Branch News *(Continued from page 6)*

- ◆ Ruth Jenkins      1807 San Gabriel Street  
The Villages, FL 32159  
Village of Palo Alto  
352-205-8181  
rjenkins5@embarqmail.com  
Kent State University, BA  
Kent State University, MEd  
Kent State University, PhD
  
- ◆ Sandy Rib      7291 SE 171st Brookhaven Place  
The Villages, Fl 32162  
352-430-0088  
352-638-3420 (cell)  
dyano2@embarqmail.com  
State University of New York, AAS
  
- ◆ Marilyn Watts      1917 Del Norte Drive  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
Village of Palo Alto  
352-205-7117  
352-638-0560 (cell)  
MarilynWatts0503@comcast.com

## State and National News

### Tech Trek 2015



Tech Trek Committee members have already contacted principals at local middle schools to begin the process of recruiting campers for Tech Trek 2015. A STEM-focused summer camp for rising eighth grade girls, Tech Trek will be held June 27 through July 3 at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Committee members have solicited nominations from math, science, and technology teachers at The Villages Charter Middle School, Wildwood Middle-High School, Oak Park Middle School, and Carver Middle School. Those nominations are due by December 15, and the committee will send applications to all nominated girls; those applications will be due to the committee by January 15. After that date, the committee will work with applicants and their families to continue the recruitment process.

### Policy: Women in Congress

As a result of the November mid-term election, there will be 100 women in Congress, which is the highest number in history. Contributing to that record high, West Virginia and Iowa elected women to the Senate for the first time, and Rhode Island elected its first woman governor. In addition, a 30-year-old from New York is the youngest woman elected to Congress, and Utah's Mia Love is the first African American female Republican elected to Congress. AAUW will be interested to observe how these women will influence policy in the coming term.



---

# General Meeting Minutes

## AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch General Meeting November 8, 2014

- Welcome** Co-President Margaret Kaufman opened the meeting at 10:05 A.M., welcomed the membership, and introduced new members and guests.
- Minutes** Minutes from the October General Meeting were accepted and passed unanimously.
- Finance** Barbara Fisler reported:
- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of October 10, 2014 | \$ 9,474.90 |
| Income                         | \$ 2,469.00 |
| Expenses                       | \$ 239.42   |
| Balance                        | \$12,495.54 |
- Neighborhood** Barbara Jones reported that about half of the anticipated coffees have taken place. Several others have been scheduled.
- Fashion Show** Carmel Leese reported that plans are proceeding. There are only 53 tickets remaining. Anyone wanting to purchase tickets should do so as soon as possible as she needs to give the Hacienda caterers a count by next week. A member, Sheryl Genco, a violinist, will be playing at the event. All baskets are complete.
- Angel Books** Emily Holman reported that many Angel Books have already been donated by the members and that donations will be accepted through the December meeting.
- Program** Linda Ferens introduced the speaker, Lillian Lopez, Migrant/Homeless Advocate who presented a program describing the services of the Migrant Education Program and the Homeless Education Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Wilkins





Empowering Women  
Since 1881



# Seasons



# Greetings

Send questions, comments, and suggestions  
about the newsletter to the editor, Linda Carpenter, at  
[Linda.J.Carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.J.Carpenter@gmail.com)

## December 2014 Calendar of Events (clip and save)

Thursday Bridge	December 4	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Golf	December 5	TBA	TBA
General Meeting	December 6	11:00 A.M.	Colony Cottage Recreation Center
Monday Bridge	December 8	11:30 A.M.	Hacienda Hills Country Club
Golf	December 12	TBA	TBA
Diversity Book Club	December 17	10:30 A.M.	Freedom Pointe
Thursday Bridge	December 18	1:00 P.M.	Host: TBA
Golf	December 19	TBA	TBA