

Well, spring is in the air! Soon things will be blooming and the warm weather will be back. At this moment I am sitting at my desk in Annapolis, Maryland looking at the huge piles of leftover snow outside my window. It is all of 14 degrees out there and the wind blows in gusts up to 22 mph. Brrr! I want to come home!

At home in The Villages it will soon be time to elect new officers for our branch. We have a slate of nominated candidates as follows:

Co-President Elect Susan Gold and Jacquie Latzer

Co-Program Chairs Anne Schlick and Carol Zoellner

Co-Finance Directors Joan Irwin and Diane Reichert

We will hold our election this year at our March meeting and the installation of new officers at the May meeting since our April meeting will be devoted to our "Evening with Heloise". This will be a fundraiser to remember!

Congratulations to the winner of the beautiful jewelry donated by Gold in Art. I understand she is a friend of Susan Gold's and was not at the meeting. She is a very lucky lady!

Our next meeting will be at the Bridgeport Rec Center again on March 12, 2016, from 10:00 – 12:00. The topic is the PBS Women's Series Discussion.

Barbara and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Judy Bonn

American Association of University Women



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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



HELD IN SUSPENSE



SCIURIDAE NEED TO EAT TOO

Hint from 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.

Tickets on Sale to Public February 18th

All Tickets \$25.00 – Assigned Seating

Cash Bar

**Members can pick up vouchers at the February 13th
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**

Sandy Karlan, member of our Lake-Sumter AAUW, is the winner of the padparascha sapphire necklace and earrings from Gold-in-Art Jewelers. Congratulations to Sandy! She looks absolutely beautiful! And she's a proud supporter of our local college scholarships through her purchase of tickets. Thanks, Sandy!



2016 Tech Trek

All the applications have been reviewed and ranked and the twelve nominees from the six local middle schools have been submitted to the State coordinators for final selection for the 2016 summer Tech Trek session.

Our committee has gone the extra mile by also reviewing and ranking the six West Pasco Branch nominees due to a tragedy in their coordinator's family. We should be notified by April 1st as to the final selection.

The 2017 Tech Trek program will need new co-Coordiators as I and Linda Carpenter will be stepping down after spearheading this project for three years. If anyone is interested in finding out more about these positions, please see one of us for further information.

Our sincerest thanks go out to our wonderful committee who were invaluable in this process which is so important to our goal of seeing more women in the STEM professions. They are Kathleen Buckley, Linda Clark, Susan Gold, Carolyn Johnson, Connie Konatsotis, Carmel Leese, Diane Starr and Arlene Stein.

Cathy Cirocco
Tech Trek co-Coordinator

MONDAY BRIDGE

This month, the Monday Bridge Group will play at 1 p.m. March 14 and 28. 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

How time flies! At the March meeting we will be passing out the Renewal letters for the 2016-2017 AAUW year. Please make any changes necessary on them as that is the information which will be published in the 2016-2017 Member Handbook.

If you want to renew at the meeting, Carolee Litwinka will be able to use your credit card with her smart phone or you can write a check for \$80 made out to AAUW Lake/Sumter.

If you pay at a later date you will have to pay with a check or use your credit card only by renewing online.

Whether you pay by check, renew online, or even choose not to renew, please return your renewal form.

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.

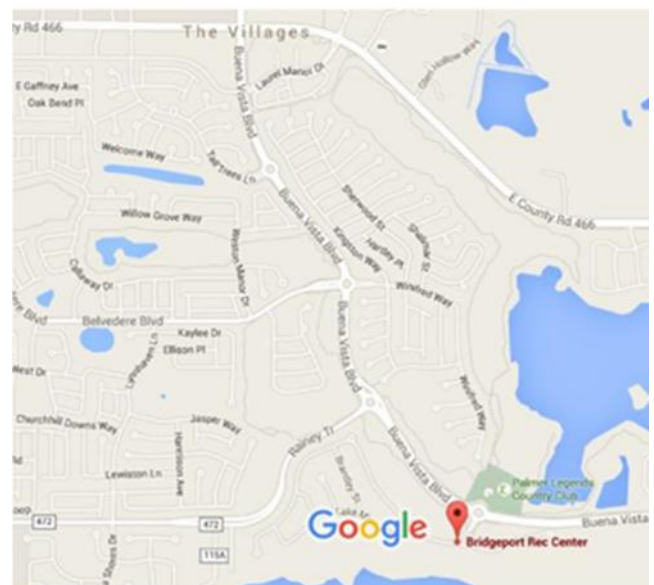


MARCH MEETING

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, March 12th
 10:00 to noon
 Bridgeport Rec Center
 1670 Lake Miona Drive
 The Villages
 352-259-6590
 No reservations required;
 Light refreshments

Bridgeport Rec Center



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

Book Club:

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 March 16 the book to be discussed is **We Got the Water** by Jill Garbrielle Klein. On April 20 the book to be discussed is **The Girls of Atomic City** by Denise Kiernan.

March Mah Jongg

3/7 hostess Anne Schlick
17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terr. (Piedmont)
1:30-3:30
352/730-1027

3/21 hostess Carol Zoellner
1804 LaPinta Place (Harmeswood)
352/753-4711
1:30-3:30

If you can play, please call the hostess the Friday proceeding the game

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. Carmel must know by Sunday evening if you are interested in playing for the week. The requested tee time is between 11:30 to 3:00 during the winter months and is based on Friday's weather forecast. 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. Play is for a 9 hole round of golf only. The cost is for 9 holes varies between \$22.00 and \$29.00 in the winter and depends on the course. 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 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.

THINKING AHEAD TO 2016-17 PROGRAMS

Each year the Program Committee does an excellent job of organizing programs for our monthly meetings. However, this is a large task and sometimes difficult. This year we can all help out by making suggestions about topics you may want to hear about, or discussions in which you may want to participate. A survey was distributed at the meeting on February 12 and we had a 75% return.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can still give your suggestions by e-mailing them to Anne Wilkins at ancwilk@yahoo.com. Either list your own ideas or tell us which of the following that were on the survey you would like to suggest: financial matters; staying healthy and strong; overcoming gender bias; education today: the scope of meeting the needs of tomorrows citizens; education today: how is technology incorporated into instruction at all grade levels; what happened to the women's movement...is it alive and well or is there a new viewpoint; Doctors without Borders; how local government works; speaker from state AAUW on current issue. If you have a speaker to suggest please include the name and contact information if you know it.

Please understand that not all suggestions will be met since we only have meetings once a month. However, all suggestions will be considered.

Thank you for your participation

Julee DeL Rosa and Anne Wilkins

from Rosella.....

The February 13 meeting at Bridgeport Rec Center was a resounding success! The panel discussion featured three of our own members who shared their experiences working in predominately male-dominated fields.....and those stories and the discussion afterwards were both so very interesting!

Members definitely heard my request and showed up in their red, white, and/or pink Valentine colors and the committee decorated our section of the room with Valentine decor of all kinds. It was a sea of lovely Valentine colors! Recognition and Valentine gifts were given to the top sellers of tickets in this year's campaign, and Richie Kleusener of Gold-in-Art was also recognized for donating jewelry for our fundraiser for the past five years. He drew the winning ticket from the huge bag of over 800 sold tickets and announced that this year's winner is SANDY KARLAN, one of our own Lake-Sumter AAUW members! Sandy wasn't in attendance at the meeting but was notified and has picked up her lovely padparascha sapphire necklace and earrings set from Gold-in-Art. Sandy.....we look forward to your wearing your beautiful Valentine gift to an upcoming meeting so that we can all see it on you! Congratulations!

Scholarship winner, Monika Lamud, was with us on Saturday. She's a junior at Stetson U and is getting straight A's there, as she always did at Mt. Dora High School and LSSC. She announced that she has two entries in the AAUW National Art Contest, and she encouraged all members to go on line to the national website (aauw.org) to vote for her two entries. (See Monika's message concerning this). Be sure to go on line and vote for Monika's entries!

Another former scholarship recipient, who is now a member of AAUW, Evelyn Guzman, stopped in to see me recently. She informed me that she is in charge of Triangle Elementary School's 4th Grade STEM team and that the team recently participated in the Co. STEM Bowl and had a great time and an excellent learning experience. Good work, Evelyn! Evelyn is a Grade 4 teacher at Triangle Elementary in Mt. Dora, loves her teaching job, and is another AAUW "success story."

Did you know that Nancy Bell (a 50+ year member of AAUW) will be leaving us very soon and moving to Arizona to be near her daughter? We really hate to lose her but we wish her well in her new location. Nancy.....please stay in touch with me and let us know how AZ compares with FL. I plan to have a card for Nancy at our March meeting, so please make sure you see me to sign it.

My special thanks to those of you who bought or sold jewelry tickets this year. We had a very successful campaign and look forward to awarding four \$1,500 college scholarships at our May meeting. Because of your support, we are "changing lives.....one scholarship at a time!" See you at the March meeting!

Rosella Todd Valentine

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.

