



Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

Recently AAUW Florida shared its *Strategic Plan 2017-2019*, a reminder of what our organization is all about. The Mission Statement says the organization's purpose to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The Mission Statement also presents a Value Promise that AAUW Florida promotes programs and research to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Our branch promotes this end through various programs such as our STEM activities, support of Tech Trek, and Scholarship programs which provide incentives, recognition and support for young women and girls. Toward this end, we celebrate the success of our Scholarship Committee's efforts. Led by **Carolyn Johnson** and **Patty Weasel**, this year's Scholarship Committee raised \$4600 which will be used to support four young women in furthering their educations.

As we move forward and anticipate next year, we urge all of you to reflect on the Mission Statement and Value Promise and think about programs and activities which could support greater understanding of the AAUW aims and endeavors. Please share your thoughts with us or with the Program Chairs, Anne Schlick and Carolee Zoeliner, or the Presidents Elect, Susan Gold and Jacquie Latzer. The Strategic Plan will be posted on our website.

We hope to see you at the March General Meeting.

Anne Wilkins and Julee DeLaRosa, Co-Presidents

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Julee

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Lake/Sumter Monthly Meetings

March 11 General Meeting

The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 11, from 10:00 AM to noon at Bridgeport Recreation Center. Dr. Rainy Bello of Doctors Without Borders will be the guest speaker. Beverages and snacks will be provided and no reservations are required. Guests are welcome.

February Meeting Highlights

Ruth Dyer, owner of The Finishing Touch Home Decor and columnist in the Home & Garden section of The Daily Sun, was guest speaker at our February 11 meeting. With fourteen years of decorating experience, Ruth has come up with six steps for a home make-over:



1. Clear the room to start with a clean palate. Determine the focal point, usually the largest wall.
2. Arrange seating into conversational groups. U-shapes around a coffee table work well.
3. Place case goods furniture (side tables, hutches, etc.)
4. Provide adequate lighting. Consider ceiling fan lights, lamps, wall sconces or LED ribbons.
5. Place artwork, with painting or mirror centers at average eye level. Use coordinating picture frames for photo walls. Group related items together on a shelf or table.
6. Accessorize. Select larger items, and use fewer of them. Silk greenery can look real.

When painting walls, get sample colors and paint large sheets of poster paper to try in different rooms of the house. Ruth has more information on her website ruthdyer.com and on Facebook.

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 March 13 and 27. The Monday Group Leader is **Cindy Anderson** at (352) 430-5856 or email cmc37738@yahoo.com.
- The Thursday Bridge Group will play March 2 and 16, 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 mswisher@mindspring.com.

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 that chair **Pat Bays** can escort you to the meeting place. March 15 we will discuss *Emily Alone* by Stewart O'Nan. The April 19 book is *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed.

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. The reservation is entered into the tee time system on Monday, so let Carmel know by Sunday 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 south of Hwy. 466 will be played on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays and courses north of Hwy. 466 will be played on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Mah Jongg

Mah jongg is played at 1:30 PM the first and third Monday of each month. Mah jongg games will be hosted in March at the following homes:

March 6 **Carol Sellers** (352) 259-5410, 372 Hengan Place (Village of Mallory Square)
March 20 **Barbara Fisler** (352) 446-0039, 471 Gaskin Lane (Village of Amelia)

If you'd like to play, please call the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game to confirm so that she can have enough tables, game sets, etc.

Interest Groups (continued from page 3)

Finger Food & Fun

Sunday, March 26 from 6:00 until 8:30 PM **Judith Anderson** will host a Finger Food & Fun event at her home, 2906 Avalos Drive, Village of Harmeswood. Please bring either an appetizer or dessert along with your choice of beverage. We will need more appetizers than desserts. RSVP no later than March 18 to jcdukeirl@aol.com. There will be a sign up sheet for future Dine Around and Finger Food events. Judith expresses her thanks all members for their sympathy cards, phone calls and attending Robert's service at Bushnell.

Special Events

World Travel Talk

Those who attended the Travel Talk given by **Diane Jacobson** on January 30 shared travel tips and saw some exciting places as we went 'around the world'. Everyone was asked to make a donation to any of our branch AAUW causes as a fundraiser. A total of \$390 was donated to the following causes: Florida Tech Trek, Lake/Sumter local Scholarship fund and Lake/Sumter general funds. *Thank you to Diane and to all who made this mini-fundraiser a great success!*

April 11 Day Trip to Gainesville

We'll tour the Butterfly Museum rain forest and Harn Art Museum on Tuesday, April 11, with lunch at the Camilla Cafe at University of Florida and a stop at Trader Joe's on the way home. Price of \$40/person includes lunch, transportation, and museum entrances. Two spaces remain. If interested, email **Katie Haviland** at katiehaviland1@gmail.com

Branch News

Neighborhood Coffees

Enjoying a recent District 9 Neighborhood Coffee are, seated (left to right): **Brenda Mohr, Irma Benner, Katie Haviland**, standing (left to right): host **Liz Schweers, Connie Taylor, Anna Whipple, Linda Macleod**



Branch News (continued from page 4)

Scholarship Fundraiser

Our exquisite 8" 18K gold bracelet, donated by Gold in Art Jewelers at the corner of 441 and Rolling Acres Road, was a very successful fundraiser for our AAUW Scholarship Fund. The Board set a goal of \$4000 and we collected \$4500. The winning ticket was sold by **Arlene Stein** and **Susan Gold** to their friend, Kathy Ziegler.

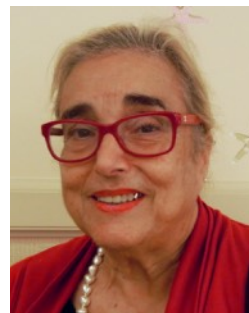
Thank you to all the 60+ members who participated in the sale of tickets, to bracelet donor Richie Kluesener of Gold in Art Jewelers, and to **Carolyn Johnson** and **Patti Weasel** for chairing this important fundraiser. New scholarship recipients will be selected soon, and it is hoped that they will be able to attend our May General Meeting.

Membership

At the March General Meeting we will begin the distribution of membership renewal forms for the AAUW Lake/Sumter membership year 2017-2018. *Please note any changes to your personal information on the renewal form, to update next year's membership booklet.* Membership dues will again be \$80 for the year. Collection of dues will begin in April through July 1, 2017 when our new fiscal year begins.

Please write this information for new member **Rosemary Huang** in your membership booklet:

Rosemary Huang 781-309-3164
926 Medira Drive
The Villages, FL 32159 (Del Mar)
rhuang3@comcast.net
College of New Rochelle, NY BA Hist./Ed.
Brandeis University, MA MA Amer. Civ.



Travel Presentation Opportunity

The theme of the Sumter County Library's summer reading program will be "Build a Better World." Mary GaNun, Programs/Outreach Coordinator, is asking for assistance from AAUW members in presenting travel programs for kids in June and July of 2017. She is looking for presentations, about 45 minutes in length, that would introduce children to other cultures around the world. If you have Powerpoint slideshows, souvenirs, photo books, and/or other items to share from trips you have taken, please contact Mary at mary.ganun@sumterlibrary.org for further information. She would be very grateful for your help in expanding the horizons of Sumter County students.

March 2017 Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION & CONTACT
Thursday Bridge	Mar. 2 & 16	1:00 PM	Call Mary Ann Swisher for location (352) 259-3739
Mah Jongg	Mon. Mar. 6	1:30 PM	372 Hengan Place, Villages (352) 259-5410 (see page 3)
Monthly Meeting	Sat. Mar. 11	10:00 AM	Bridgeport Rec. Ctr, 1670 Lake Miona Dr. Villages (page 2)
Monday Bridge	Mar. 13 & 27	1:00 PM	Call Cindy Anderson for location (352) 430-5856
Great Decisions	Mar. 14 & 21	10:00AM	Sumter County Sheriff's Annex, Villages
Diversity Book Club	Wed. Mar. 15	10:30 AM	Freedom Pointe, 1550 El Camino Real, Villages (see page 3)
Mah Jongg	Mon. Mar. 20	1:30 PM	471 Gaskin Lane, Villages (352) 446-0039 (see page 3)
Fashion Show Lunch	Wed. Mar. 22	11:00 AM	Francesco's, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield (tickets sold out)
Finger Food & Fun	Sun. Mar. 26	6:00 PM	Email jcdukeirl@aol.com by Mar. 18 (see page 4)
Gainesville Day Trip	Tues. Apr. 11	TBD	Email katiehaviland1@gmail.com if interested (see page 4)



On January 21 two of our Lake/Sumter AAUW members from Leesburg participated in the "Women's March on Orlando". **Rosella Todd Valentine** (far right) and **Barbara Prescott** (second from right) donned their pink hats and joined a group of friends from Pennbrooke Fairways, as well as thousands of other women (and men and children) who marched that day in support of protecting and promoting women's rights. The day was beautiful, pink hats and interesting signs were everywhere, and the enthusiasm was palpable! Rosella, Barbara, and their Pennbrooke friends were proud to add their voices to the many others gathered to put the president-elect on notice that we will not allow him to roll back women's rights that are so important to us.

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