



American Association of University Women

Lake/Sumter Newsletter

March 2018

Presidents' Letter

Dear AAUW Sisters,

This has been an action packed month! Our Casino Night was a *huge* success. Laughter and cheering could be heard all night long, and the prizes won were icing on the cake. Kudos to Casino Night co-chairs **Cathy Cirocco and Liz Schweers** and to all the committee chairs and members who worked long and hard so that we could have so much fun. Many people who were not familiar with AAUW and why we raise money now know us and support the work we do. Congratulations to **June Webber**, winner of the gold bracelet donated by Gold in Art Jewelers. Let's all remember to patronize that jewelry store to show our appreciation to Gold in Art president Richie Kluesener for his support of AAUW.

On February 7, **Jacquie Latzer and Rosella Valentine** participated in a photo shoot in Mt. Dora to celebrate the \$4,800 grant awarded to our branch by Mt. Dora Community Trust for three girls to attend Tech Trek, and one college scholarship. That same day, **Susan Gold** travelled to Tallahassee with **Linda Carpenter, Gail Formanack** and Joanne Coen (our partner from Tri-County League of Women Voters) to meet with the Director of the Office of Early Learning. Susan was also able to participate in her first site visit to a VPK classroom. For more VPK information, please see the report on page 8 of this newsletter.

A new Diversity Committee has been formed with **Linda Carpenter** appointed as chair. It has seven members and many of them participated on a conference call hosted by the State AAUW's Director of Communications Antoinette Kruse. Additional members are welcome to join.

Is it summer in March? Our summer breakfasts are such a hit that we've scheduled one at Perkins Restaurant on Friday, March 23 from 9-10:30. This will be a good opportunity to introduce friends to AAUW, as well as meeting new friends and connecting with old ones in a more relaxed atmosphere! We look forward to seeing you there and at our March 10 monthly meeting.

Jacquie Latzer and Susan Gold, Co-Presidents

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Lake/Sumter Monthly Meeting

Branch Meeting Mar. 10

The speakers for our Mar. 10 Monthly Meeting will be Frank Russo and Carolyn Ruhe, co-founders of Tutors For Kids, which started with a group of six friends and now has over 400 volunteers in 12 tri-county schools who provide free tutoring to students in grades K through 5.

The meeting will be at Alamanda Recreation Center, 1515 St. Charles Place in The Villages (from Buena Vista Blvd. turn west onto St. Charles Place at the Liberty Park sign). Doors will open at 9:15 AM for socializing, with the program beginning at 10 AM. Beverages and light snacks will be provided and guests are welcome.

Please remember to bring your new and used children's book donations to this meeting. So far about 90 books have been donated by our branch. Thank you! We also thank the Mira Mesa Women's Club for their contribution of over 50 books. These books will be given to Tutors For Kids at the Mar. 10 meeting for distribution to children to keep as their own. Throughout the year tutors give books to students who are making progress or achieving goals — for many, this will be their first book.



Janalyn Peppel, left, spoke about introducing 3D printers in schools at our Feb. 10 meeting.



At right, **Jacquie Latzer** and **Rosella Valentine** accept Mt. Dora Community Trust \$4,800 grant.

Interest Groups

Bridge

Bridge Group 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 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1:00 PM. This month's games will be held on Mar. 12 and 26. The Monday Group Leader is **Cindy Anderson** at (352) 430-5856 or email cmc37738@yahoo.com
- The Thursday Bridge Group plays 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 PM, Mar. 1 and 15. The Thursday Group Leader is **Lu Michaels** at (352) 750-0246 or email lum2800@gmail.com.

Interest Groups (Continued from page 2)

Book Group

Our branch Book Group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM in the Peace Room at North Lake Presbyterian Church on Rolling Acres Road. The book for Mar. 21 is *The Violinist of Venice: A Story of Vivaldi* by Alyssa Palombo. Our book for Apr. 18 will be *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. If you have questions, call March discussion leader **Barbara Blatchford** at (352) 259-3987.

Golf

The Golf Group plays Friday mornings. If you are interested in joining, contact **Carmel Leese** (352) 751-0119 or crleese@gmail.com. Reservations are entered into the tee time system on Monday, so let Carmel know by Sunday evening if you want to play. Monday requested tee times vary each week depending on the weather forecast, within a window of 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Golf courses north of Hwy. 466 will be played the 1st and 3rd Fridays and courses south of Hwy. 466 will be played the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Mah Jongg

Conversational Mah jongg is played at 1:00 PM the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. If you'd like to play, *please call the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game* so that she can have enough tables, game sets, etc. March mah jongg games will be at these homes:

Mar. 5 **Barbara Fisler** (352) 446-0039 471 Gaskin Lane (Village of Amelia)

Mar. 19 **Carol Sellers** (352) 259-5410 372 Hengan Pl. (Village of Mallory Square)

Singles

Carolyn Johnson hosted a cards and games evening on Feb. 24 for the AAUW Singles group. The group will celebrate St Patrick's Day together at the home of **Linda Ferens** and enjoy a play at the Melon Patch theater and dinner on Mar. 25. We are planning a ride on the Royal Palm Railway and lunch in Mt. Dora on Apr. 7. If you have questions or want to be added to the Singles email list, call **Carolee Litwinka** (352) 750-0617 or email mctwinka@yahoo.com.

Diversity Committee Forming

Lake/Sumter AAUW branch has established a Diversity Committee which will be developing a Diversity and Inclusion Plan for the branch. Current committee members are **Linda Carpenter** (chair), **Jacquie Latzer**, **Bonnie Marcoccia**, **Kathy Mason**, **Diane Reichert**, **Laurel Rowen**, and **Ginger Ryan**. Additional members are welcome. If you would like to join the committee contact Linda Carpenter (352) 259-1464 or linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com.

Special Events



Casino Night Fundraiser

Our Jan. 31 Casino Night fundraising event was a great effort by many of our AAUW members. Thank you to Casino Night co-chairs **Cathy Cirocco and Liz Schweers** and the following committee chairs who worked long and hard with their supporting committee staff to provide an entertaining evening as well as a very successful fundraising outcome.

Sponsorships: **Marilyn Bauer, Dorothy Dobbs & Frankie Smith**

Jewelry Raffle: **Diane Jacobson & Carolyn Johnson**

Prizes: **Anne Wilkins and Barbara Fisler**

Promotions: **Ginny Rivera & Connie Konatsotis**

Registration: **Carolee Litwinka**

Hospitality: **Linda McLeod**

Event Tickets: **Joyce Tisovec**

Media: **Kathy Mason**

Casino Cash: **Char Griffith**

Net proceeds from Casino Night were \$6,958 — just \$42 short of \$7,000. Members and sponsors provided 25 prizes for which chance tickets were sold; the grand prize was won by Jackie Hardwick, and two prizes were awarded to the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament winners.



Casino Night Volunteers

Row 1: **Helen Ware, Carolyn Pasquale, Liz Schweers, Carolyn Johnson, Joyce Tisovec, Dorothy Dobbs, Marilyn Bauer**

Row 2: **Susan Gold, Carolee Litwinka, Anne Wilkins** Row 3: **Jester Diane Jacobson, Jacquie Latzer, Cathy Cirocco,**

Linda Clarke Row 4: **Jester Sharon Edwins, Connie Konatsotis (hidden), Diane Geach, Linda Macleod.** Thanks, ladies!



Liz Schweers, left, congratulates grand prize winner Jackie Hardwick. The prize was a mixer.



Winners of two prizes, Joan and Andy Peet, left, with Lou and **Dotty Sasmor**

Special Events

Casino Night Fundraiser (Continued from page 4)

We thank the following Casino Night sponsors:

Gold Sponsors at \$1,000:

- Senior Financial Security, Inc

Silver Sponsors at \$500:

- Reality Executives in The Villages
- Tea and Spice Exchange Brownwood
- Anonymous AAUW member

Bronze Sponsors at \$200:

- Spice and Tea Exchange Brownwood
- The Villages Ear
- Wyland Accounting Services
- Unitarian Universalist Church Fellowship of Marion County
- Great Decisions AAUW Group
- Keith and **Beth Hicks**
- **Charlene Griffin and Linda Carpenter**
- **Bonnie Marcoccia**, for artist Dale Feigle & poet Jackie Warren Moore
- The Villages Philharmonic (donation by two AAUW members)
- plus three AAUW members wishing to remain anonymous



Bud and **June Webber** with bracelet donor **Richie Kluesener** of Gold in Art Jewelers (southwest corner of 441 and Rolling Acres Rd). Bud's winning chance ticket was drawn at Casino Night. Chance ticket sales generated \$3,500 for our Scholarship Fund.

Purchase for a Purpose

Plans are in place for our next fundraiser. Although the name has changed from "Shop for a Cause" (because it has been used previously) to "Purchase for a Purpose," the concept is the same. Changes Boutique in Lake Sumter Landing will contribute 15% of net sales to Lake/Sumter AAUW and provide light refreshments when we organize a group of women to shop in their store. Co-chairs **Diane Starr** and **Char Griffin** have come up with three ways you can participate:

1. Ask at least six of your friends to join you at the store any Monday-Friday from 10 AM to noon, or any Saturday or Sunday from 1 to 3 PM.
2. Sign up for one of the AAUW Shopping Excursions we will be organizing in the near future.
3. Shop at Changes Boutique with an AAUW Promotional Coupon beginning this fall.

Changes Boutique stocks a full range of sizes including Women's. The store also sells accessories, so everyone should be able to enhance their closet while raising money to support the women and girls in Lake and Sumter counties. Hence the name: Purchase for a Purpose.

So why wait? Think about who you might invite and contact Char or Diane for more details about how to organize a "purposeful" party. An email with ideas of how to promote this fund raiser with your friends will be sent soon. For more details, contact:

Char Griffin (616) 826-9343 char.griffin@me.com
or **Diane Starr** (330) 219-8648 dwstarr929@gmail.com

Branch News

Membership

Please welcome these two new members who recently joined our branch and update your 2017-2018 membership handbook with their information:

Darlene Frank Spouse: Jim
603 Reevesville Lane
The Villages FL 32162 Mallory Square
352-753-8708
darlene.frank.ca@gmail.com
Univ. of Alberta, Canada B.Ed Math

Rita Moore
3598 Auburndale Avenue
The Villages, FL 32162 Summerhill
216-952-9003
ritamoore49@gmail.com
Smith College, MA BA History/English

Also, please change **Char Griffin**'s email to char.griffin@me.com and add this membership renewal to your handbook:

Bonita Bazler Marcoccia
5017 Harbor Heights
Lady Lake, FL 32159 (Harbor Hills)
315-559-4186
bmarcoccia@aol.com
Northern Illinois Univ. BA in Psychology
Syracuse Univ. NY PhD in Psychology

Note: Lake/Sumter AAUW members' names appear in **bold** type in this Newsletter.

Rosella Todd Valentine writes:

Former member of our Lake-Sumter AAUW, Susan Christen, will be celebrating her 99th birthday on March 9! I keep in touch with her and she is still "sharp as a tack" and pretty active for someone of her age. Won't you please take a moment to send her a birthday card?

Here's Susan's address:

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

I know Susan would love to hear from any of the members of our branch. She loved our AAUW group and still talks fondly about her time with us.

Branch News (Continued from page 6)

Membership Dues

Starting in March we will be accepting AAUW membership renewals and new memberships for the year beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Checks are payable to AAUW Lake/Sumter. Portions of our annual dues go to National and State AAUW as well as to our local Lake/Sumter branch. After a decade of not increasing dues, National AAUW has raised dues by \$10 to \$59 this year. Florida State AAUW remains at \$12 and our Lake/Sumter branch at \$19, bringing the total dues for 2018-2019 to \$90. In case this proves to be a hardship for any of our members, we are establishing an “Angel Fund” to help anyone who finds they are unable to continue their membership due to the increase. Details of this are being finalized by the board.

In January Nancy Bell, a former Life Member of AAUW and a long time active member of our Lake/Sumter branch, died as a result of an accidental fall. She was living in Arizona to be near her family. In remembrance of Nancy Bell, \$50 was donated to the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund by our Lake/Sumter AAUW branch.

Neighborhood Coffee



Pictured L to R at a Jan. 30 Neighborhood Coffee at the home of **Marilyn Bauer** are: Anita Furman, **Frankie Smith**, **Georgiann Ackley**, **Marilyn Bauer**, **Dorothy Dobbs**, **Anna Whipple**, **Linda Macleod**, **Pat Atwood-Yates**, **Laurinda Pereira** and **Liz Schweers**.

Informal Breakfast Friday Mar. 23

Ladies: Please mark your calendars for an informal breakfast meeting Mar. 23 from 9-10:30 AM at Perkins Restaurant on Hwy 441. Come, and invite your friends. This is a great opportunity to bring someone who is a potential member as well as a chance to meet new and returning members — a time for all of us to get to know one another better while enjoying a delicious breakfast. In order to get a private room, we need 15 attendees. Please RSVP to **Liz Schweers** at eas42__mh@hotmail.com (that's 2 underscores) or (850) 247-9489.

Branch News (Continued from page 7)

Opportunities

One of the great things about AAUW is the opportunity we have to make a difference in our community and to interact with like-minded women. To that end we are looking for a few good women to co-chair or serve on committees for the 2018-19 year which begins in September. Please give a little of your time so that a lot can be accomplished. Here are the opportunities:

PUBLICITY—Connect with local media to arrange coverage of programs. This involves approximately 2 hours per month to connect with local media outlets.

WEBMASTER—Maintain the AAUW Lake/Sumter website by periodically updating information.

DIVERSITY—Help this newly-formed committee develop a diversity and inclusion plan for our branch.

40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE CELEBRATION—Co-chairs and committee members are needed to plan this exciting event.

FUNDRAISING—Co-chairs are needed to organize small events throughout the year. No major events are planned for 2018-19.

NEWSLETTER—Collect info from co-chairs and put it into a PDF file to email to our branch members each month from September to May.

Please volunteer by contacting **Kathy Mason** at kmason0826@gmail.com or (850) 556-7986 or **Liz Schweers** at eas42__mh@hotmail.com (that's 2 underscores) or (850) 247-9489.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

To date, 12 of the 30 planned site visits to Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs in the tri-county area have been completed. Site visitors work in teams of two; each visit includes a 3-hour observation in the classroom as well as interviews with the program's owner/director and VPK teacher. This project is on-track to complete before the end of the school year in June. We would like for more people to join our group. We still need site visitors, so contact **Gail Formanack** at formanag@gmail.com if you would like to help with the visits. We also will need people who are interested in advocating for VPK when the project is completed. Contact **Linda Carpenter** at linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com or **Susan Gold** at susangold28@gmail.com if you would like to participate with advocacy.

The entire Steering Committee – Susan Gold and Linda Carpenter from Lake/Sumter AAUW and Joanne Coen and Gail Formanack from the League of Women Voters – recently met in Tallahassee with Rodney MacKinnon, the Director of the Office of Early Learning. Rod suggested a representative who may be willing to serve as our “champion” in the legislature.

Silent Auction Donations Needed

“Stepping Forward Together” is the theme of our State (AAUW-FL) Convention Apr. 22-24, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota, FL. It is now up to AAUW-FL to take the initiative to finance our Tech Trek camps as well as other projects we may attempt in the future. To that end an AAUW-FL Supporting Foundation has been created. This foundation’s 501(c)3 tax status has been finalized and all donations are tax deductible.

The Supporting Foundation’s fundraiser, “Bidding for the Future Together,” is a silent auction to be held during the convention. It is being organized by branch member **Judy Bonn**, who is AAUW-FL’s current Director for Development. All items contributed should be worth at least \$50.00. All items must be new and either purchased or handmade. We already have a lovely handmade stained-glass table lamp. The daughter of one of our members is a potter who will be making something for us. We are not looking for gift baskets or gift cards at this time, or for any used items. We will accept monetary donations as well as auction items! Because our Tech Trek needs are so great, all the money from this year’s auction will go to Tech Trek. Please contact Judy Bonn (352) 217-0319 or judybonn@centurylink.net to contribute.

March 2018 Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION & CONTACT
Thursday Bridge	Mar. 1 & 15	1:00 PM	Call Lu Michaels for location (352) 750-0246
Golf	Friday AM	TBD	(see page 3 for details and sign-up procedure)
Mah Jongg	Mar. 5 & 19	1:00 PM	(see page 3 for host and location)
River Cruise Day Trip	Wed. Mar. 7	8:30 AM	coordinator: Katie Haviland (352) 674-0171
Monthly Meeting	Sat. Mar. 10	9:30 AM	Allamanda Rec Center, 1515 St. Charles Place (see page 2)
Monday Bridge	Mar. 12 & 26	1:00 PM	Call Cindy Anderson for location (352) 430-5856
Singles	Mar. 17 & 25	TBD	Call Carolee Litwinka (352) 750-0617 (see page 3)
Book Group	Wed. Mar. 21	10:30 AM	Peace Room, North Lake Presbyterian Church (352) 259-3987

AAUW Web Sites

National Web Site: aauw.org

State Web Site: aauw-fl.aauw.net

Branch Web Site: lakesumter-fl.aauw.net

NOTE: Lake/Sumter AAUW will not have a Newsletter in 2018-19 unless someone volunteers

Jo Anne Kelch joannekelch@yahoo.com (352) 391-1182