



# American Association of University Women Lake/Sumter Newsletter

January 2018

## Presidents' Letter

Beginning a new year is often a time of goal setting. Our AAUW branch has the goal of impacting equity for women and girls in our community. We each have something to offer in support of this goal regardless of our level of physical or financial ability. There's a place for us all in our organization.

Active involvement can take many forms: committee help, hosting neighborhood gatherings; donating financially to our projects; registering college voters; contacting elected officials; advocating for voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK); donating children's books — our branch does all of these. And we can enjoy each other's company by getting together to play (bridge, mah jongg, golf), read (book group), discuss (Great Decisions), and enjoy outings (day trips, singles).

But there are times we can't or don't feel up to doing any of the above, yet there are still things we can do: reach out to a member we haven't seen for some time; offer ideas on how to continue to reach our goals; tell friends about AAUW and invite them to a meeting and/or to join; send words of encouragement to those who are unable to actively participate, as well as those who are.

We realize that many AAUW requests are made for financial support, but these are necessary to support scholarships and learning experiences for women and girls. With this in mind, ***we ask for your support of Casino Night fundraiser on Jan. 27.*** There are many ways to support this effort: help to make the raffle baskets (see **Anne Wilkins** and **Barbara Fisler**), urge vendors where you shop to become sponsors (see **Marilyn Bauer** for a packet), help the Casino Night committee (see **Cathy Cirocco** or **Liz Schweers**), buy or sell Casino tickets (see **Joyce Tisovec**) and buy chances to win the lovely gold Scholarship bracelet (see **Carolyn Johnson**).

Our next board meeting is Tues. Jan. 9 at 10 AM at the Sheriff's Annex on 466 and Morse. Interested members are welcome and encouraged to offer their ideas.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the coming months,

*Jacquie Latzer and Susan Gold, Co-Presidents*

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# Lake/Sumter Monthly Meetings

## Branch Meeting Jan. 20

Our next monthly meeting will be on Sat., Jan. 20, 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. Our program will be *Investment Strategies for Retired Women* presented by Lisa Ware of Sabal Trust Company. Thanks always to **Linda MacLeod** and her crew for refreshments. Reminder, if you have not already done so, bring your book donations for our annual children's book drive to our Jan. 20 meeting (see page 6 for specifics) and come prepared to pay for Casino Night tickets and Scholarship bracelet chances, as described on page 5.

## Holiday Luncheon Highlights

Thanks to **Anne Schlick** and **Angela Vickers** who put together a joyful holiday lunch meeting Dec. 9. Katie Reynolds, one of our scholarship winners who is now at UCF, was there and thanked everyone for supporting her. The lunch was enhanced by having **Carol Zoellner** on piano and **Dorothy Dobbs** leading a carol sing-along. After Dorothy's participatory version and humorous readings about the *12 Days of Christmas*, that carol will never be the same!!

## Nov. 11 Meeting



Program Co-Chair **Anne Schlick**, Holocaust survivor Gene Klein, and Co-President **Jacquie Latzer** beside photograph board showing Gene's family, many of whom were killed in the Holocaust. Gene is holding his daughter's book *We Got the Water*, describing her father's harrowing experiences in WWII concentration camps.

# 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. Games will be held on Jan. 8 and 22. The Monday Group Leader is **Cindy Anderson** at (352) 430-5856 or email [cmc37738@yahoo.com](mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com).
- The Thursday Bridge Group plays 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 PM. Games will be held on Jan. 4 and 18. The Thursday Group Leader is **Lu Michaels** at (352) 750-0246 or email [lum2800@gmail.com](mailto:lum2800@gmail.com).

## 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. On Jan. 17 we'll discuss *The Spy* by Paulo Coelho. Our Feb. 21 book will be *Dead Wake* by Eric Larsen. If you have questions, contact coordinator **Kate Manion** at (352) 689-2626 or [kmanion52@gmail.com](mailto:kmanion52@gmail.com).

## Day Trips

Hurricane weather cancelled our Nov. 1 AAUW Day Trip cruising the St. John's river. The trip has been rescheduled for Wed., Mar. 7. Musical entertainment will accompany a 4-course meal (appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, coffee or iced tea) and cash bar. If you have not signed up and wish to attend, contact **Katie Haviland** at [katiehaviland1@gmail.com](mailto:katiehaviland1@gmail.com). Cost of the trip is \$60 if you are a driver or \$65 per passenger. We will leave at 8:30 AM and return around 4 PM.

## Dine Around and Finger Food

Our Dine Around group enjoyed a great evening at Lopez Country Club. The next Dine Around date will be in March. A Finger Food & Fun activity will be scheduled for February — for this, we need volunteers to host a home where we can meet and have everyone bring an appetizer or dessert plus their choice of beverage. If you have any ideas for the success of the above groups, please contact chair **Judith Anderson** at [JCDUKEIRL@aol.com](mailto:JCDUKEIRL@aol.com) or (352) 751-4954.

## Golf

The Golf Group plays Friday mornings. If you are interested in joining, contact **Carmel Leese** (352) 751-0119 or [crleese@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Interest Groups (Continued from page 3)

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions interest group begins its 8-week sessions Tues., Jan. 16 at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex on 466. There will be two groups, an early 8:30 - 9:55 session, repeating again at 10:05 – 11 AM. Topics include: *The Future of Europe; Trade, Jobs and Politics; Conflict in the South China Sea; Saudi Arabia in Transition; U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum; Latin America's Political Pendulum; Prospects for Afghanistan & Pakistan;* and *Nuclear Security*. If you would like to attend and have not already signed up, contact **Diane Jacobson** at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com). For those awaiting preordered briefing books: they will be arriving soon. Once Diane has received them she will email you about picking them up.

### Mah Jongg

Conversational Mah jongg is played at 1:00 PM the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Due to the Monday New Year's holiday, the first January game will be played on Tues. Jan 2. 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. January mah jongg games will be at these homes:

Jan. 2 **Katherine Howe** (631) 219-4289 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr. (Village of Liberty Park)

Jan. 15 **Anne Schlick** (352) 750-1027 17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terrace (Village of Piedmont)

### Singles

The Singles group enjoyed a holiday party at **June Love's** home on Dec. 10. **Carolee Litwinka** is hosting the Singles on New Year's Eve with champagne and appetizers. January plans include a get together at **Gretchen Lewis'** home on Jan. 13 and a TBD train ride and lunch in Mt. Dora. If you have questions or would like to be added to the Singles email list, call Carolee Litwinka (352) 750-0617 or email [mctwinka@yahoo.com](mailto:mctwinka@yahoo.com).

On Dec. 3, **Carolee Litwinka, Kathy Mason, Judy Black, Kate Manion, Gretchen Lewis, Ginny Rivera, Liz Schweers, Barbara Worthington, Anne Schlick, June Love,** and **Marianne Bender-Powers** saw the play *Nine to Five* at the Bay Street Theatre in Eustis and had dinner at Tillie's Tavern and Grill.

Singles attending the St. Petersburg Mannheim Steamroller Christmas show (L to R): **Anne Schlick, Helen Ware, Myra Mervine, Kate Manion, Liz Schweers, June Love** and **Kathy Mason**.



# Special Events

## Casino Night Jan. 27



Casino Night is more than just a Lake/Sumter AAUW fundraiser! Don't miss out on the fun at Lake Miona Rec. Center beginning at 5:30 PM. We have put together some wonderful prizes that you might win. We're making ourselves known to the greater community. Company and individual sponsorships are helping us, not only with funds but with letting the area know who we are. This goodwill and community involvement is priceless in helping AAUW become better known as an important organization for helping girls and women.

Mark your calendars for: Sat., Jan. 27, 2018 5:30-8:45 PM Lake Miona Recreation Center

While normal casino games are gambling, this night is about having fun playing the games with no risk of losing. We are all winners — the money we raise during Casino Night enables us to help girls and women further their educations. Casino Night tickets are \$25 each. For only \$25 you, too, can make a difference! Have you gotten your ticket for the event? If not, mail a check made out to AAUW Lake/Sumter for the number of tickets you're buying to: **Joyce Tisovec**, 2427 Kingstree Place, The Villages, FL 32162. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you'd like for Joyce to mail the tickets to you, or pick them up at our Jan. 20 Monthly Meeting. Lots of tickets are still available. To make it easy for your friends and any members of clubs you attend to support this great Casino Night cause: collect their checks, obtain the tickets from Joyce, and distribute the tickets to the buyers. Remember also that the winner of our 18-carat gold Scholarship bracelet will be drawn that night.

## Branch News

### Scholarship Bracelet

27 DAYS! Just 27 days before our beautiful 18-carat gold bracelet could be yours. You will still be able to *buy chances for \$5 each* at our Jan. 20 monthly meeting and at our Jan. 27 Casino Night. If neither of these times works for you, call **Carolyn Johnson** (352) 751-4103. Remember: *all the proceeds go to our Scholarship Fund*. Please mail your sold ticket stubs and/or payment for tickets to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 or call Carolyn (352) 751-4103 to have them picked up. Make the AAUW Scholarship Fund your first contribution of 2018!



# Branch News (Continued from page 5)

## Children's Book Drive

Our annual Book Drive for children in grades 2 through 6 has been extended to March 2018. Unwrapped new or well-loved books of all types except religious, coloring and game books are acceptable. *Please bring your book donations* to our Monthly Meetings or drop them off to **Emily Holman**, telephone (352) 750-0883. We also take previously owned books. Our books this year will go to Tutors for Kids, which has quite a large distribution area with tutors throughout Central Florida. The program for our March meeting will feature speakers who are Tutors for Kids volunteers.

## Membership

A few members still need to pick up their AAUW Lake/Sumter 2017-18 membership booklet. **Diane Jacobson** (352) 750-0032 will have them at our Jan. 20 Monthly Meeting.

Do you know of anyone who would like to join our branch? We will be accepting NEW member applications for ½ year dues of \$40 during January and February. The ½ year membership rate applies only to those are new to AAUW. All of our branch memberships will expire on June 30, when payment for the year 2018-19 will be due. For membership application forms, contact **Mary Ann Swisher** at [mnjswisher@icloud.com](mailto:mnjswisher@icloud.com).

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

### **Maureen E. Dimmer**

297 Norris Way  
The Villages, FL 32162 Caroline  
317-447-9519  
[medimmer@gmail.com](mailto:medimmer@gmail.com)

U. of Texas at El Paso, TX BA in Math  
Wayne State Univ., MI MA Teaching Secondary Math  
University of Michigan, MI MBA in Business Admin.

### **Jan Lessard** Spouse: Ron

1952 Dipper Loop  
The Villages, FL 32162 Amelia  
603-438-4679  
[iliketreasures@aol.com](mailto:iliketreasures@aol.com)

Fitchburg St. Teachers Coll., MA BS in English Ed.

### **Arlene E. Martin**

884 Ridgeville Road  
The Villages, FL 32162 Sabal Chase  
773-960-5210  
[valish@thevillages.net](mailto:valish@thevillages.net)

Northwestern University, IL BA in Philosophy  
John Marshall Law School, IL JD in Law

### **Ellen W. Thompson**

7851 SE 173rd Panorama Place  
The Villages, FL 32162 Chatham/Sherwood  
410-353-1053  
[ethompson53@gmail.com](mailto:ethompson53@gmail.com)

Boston College, MA BS in Nursing  
U. Of Pennsylvania, PA MSN, DNS in Psychiatry

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

## Neighborhood Coffees

Creative women that we are, our AAUW Neighborhood Coffees sometimes morph into other types of gatherings as shown in the photos below. Not all districts are organizing these. The important thing is to get together informally with AAUW branch members in your area. If you have not been invited to a neighborhood gathering and would like to be part of one, call **Frankie Smith** at (352) 259-4318 or email [frasmith1@gmail.com](mailto:frasmith1@gmail.com).



Diane Jacobson and Jo Anne Kelch organized an AAUW Neighborhood Salad Lunch at Diane's home in early Nov. Enjoying the day are (seated, L to R) **Ginny Rivera, Diane Jacobson, Irma Benner,** (standing, L to R) **Ann Marie Lombardi, Carol Sellers, Blanche Browne Boyne and Jo Anne Kelch.**



Branch members who live outside The Villages met for lunch at Stavros in Fruitland Park on Nov. 30. Pictured (L to R) are: **Carolyn Pasquale, Joan Krick, Barbara Prescott, Josanna Katz, and Rosella Valentine.**

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

Since our last update, a total of 14 volunteers have been trained in both observing in pre-k classrooms (more difficult than you might think) and interviewing techniques for classroom teachers and center directors. This training is necessary to ensure that all volunteers are looking for the same things whether they are in Lake, Marion or Sumter County. There's room for more volunteers; if interested, call **Linda Carpenter** (352) 259-1464 or **Susan Gold** (352) 633-9967.

Eleven visits to Pre-K sites have been assigned to pairs of volunteers, and five have been scheduled. By next May, we intend to have observed in 26 classrooms. Each center will be presented with a "Bucket of Books" as a thank you for allowing us into their center.

Since all analyses from the summer pilot data have been completed, Linda, Susan and League members Joanne Coen and Gail Formanack have been busy meeting with legislators from Lake and Sumter counties, explaining our project and its preliminary results. We are discussing trips to Tallahassee to attend hearings, possibly to testify, and to further meet with our legislators to discuss Pre-K issues.

## January 2018 Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION & CONTACT
Mah Jongg	Jan. 2 & 15	1:00 PM	(see page 4 for host and location)
Thursday Bridge	Jan. 4 & 18	1:00 PM	Call Lu Michaels for location (352) 750-0246
Monday Bridge	Jan. 8 & 22	1:00 PM	Call Cindy Anderson for location (352) 430-5856
AAUW Singles	Sat. Jan. 13	TBD	Call Carolee Litwinka (352) 750-0617
Great Decisions	Tues. Jan. 16	TBD	(see page 4 for details and sign-up procedure)
Book Group	Wed. Jan. 17	10:30 AM	Peace Room, North Lake Presbyterian Church (352) 633-0241
Monthly Meeting	Sat. Jan. 20	9:30 AM	Allamanda Rec Center, 1515 St. Charles Place (see page 2)
Casino Night Fundraiser	Jan. 27, 2018	5:30-8:45	Lake Miona Recreation Center (see Casino Night, page 5)
River Cruise Day Trip	Wed. Mar. 7	8:30 AM	(see Day Trips on page 3 for details and sign-up procedure)

*Note:* Lobby Days, a chance to address our elected officials in Tallahassee, are Jan. 24 and 25. Contact **Judy Bonn** at (352) 217-0319 or [judybonn@centurylink.net](mailto:judybonn@centurylink.net) for more information.

Send questions or suggestions about the newsletter to the Editor:  
Jo Anne Kelch    [joannekelch@yahoo.com](mailto:joannekelch@yahoo.com)    (352) 391-1182