

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

December, 2018



Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW is committed to a diverse community that stimulates a culture of learning and understanding and enhances a member's experience. We aspire to create an inclusive and equitable branch that represents, supports, and celebrates diversity of all kinds.

Presidents' Message



Just a few days are left to resupply your pantry and purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends while contributing funds for our scholarship and tech trek programs. See further details about the Tea and Spice Exchange donations to AAUW in the Fundraising section of this newsletter. And a special thanks is extended to Jacquie Latzer who coordinated this event for us again this year.

We will welcome the New Year with the January Membership Meeting which will be held on January 19th, at the Allamanda Recreation Center. Everyone is welcome to join together at 9:15 for some socializing before the 10:00 start of the business meeting and monthly program. Two special presentations will be made at this meeting. Further details are presented in the January Meeting section of this newsletter.

Reflecting back on the November Membership meeting we were delighted to learn more about Title IX, the Equal Opportunity in Education Act, as well as the Equity and Diversity Programs in college and university settings. Arina Muniza, who has experience at both Lake Sumter State College and the University of South FL was the speaker. The topic was a timely one as the federal Department of Education has just announced changes in the regulations that have significant implications for student's civil rights and for federal enforcement of the law. National AAUW is sending us more details and strongly encouraging us to become proactive in this area of public policy. We were also delighted that 5 new members joined us for the meeting.

We would like to thank the many members of our AAUW branch who purchased coupons for shopping at Belk's recently. The fundraiser was highly successful and a special note of appreciation is extended to Linda Ferens for her leadership in coordinating this event.

Tickets are still available for the raffle of the beautiful diamond enhanced fire opal with the 14 Karat gold chain. The funds support scholarships for local college students and the young girls who are fortunate enough to participate in state AAUW summer camp which promotes STEM educational programs. Further details are presented in the Scholarship News section of this newsletter.

Our interest groups have been very busy and have plans for more activities in the New Year. Be sure to keep up with them and actively participate in the groups that suit your preferences. Read more in the Interest Groups section of this newsletter.

Kathy Mason and Liz Schweers, Co-President

December Diversity



Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. According to the Talmud, the Temple was purified and the wicks of the menorah miraculously burned for eight days, even though there was only enough sacred oil for one day's lighting. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, this year commencing at sunset on December 2 and continuing until nightfall on December 10. The festival is observed by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, called a menorah. One branch is typically placed above or below the others and its candle is used to light the other eight candles. Each night, one

additional candle is lit until all eight candles are lit together on the final night of the holiday. Other Hanukkah festivities include singing special songs, reciting the Hallel prayer, playing the dreidel game, giving children gelt (chocolate coins), and eating foods fried in oil, such as sufganiyah (round jelly-filled doughnuts) and latkes (grated potato pancakes).



Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the month and date of Jesus' birth are unknown, most Christians celebrate on December 25; however, some Eastern Christian Churches celebrate Christmas on December 25 of the older Julian calendar, which currently corresponds to January 7 in the Gregorian calendar. Moreover, for Christians, the belief that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity, rather than the exact birth date, is considered the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas. Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift-giving, Christmas music and caroling, exchange of Christmas cards, church services, and the display of various decorations, including Christmas trees, lights, nativity scenes, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many of the world's nations.



Kwanzaa is a celebration honoring African-American culture and history created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a major figure in the Black Power movement of the 1960s and 1970s. It is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following core principles of African heritage: *Umoja* (Unity), *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination), *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility), *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics), *Nia* (Purpose), *Kuumba* (Creativity), and *Imani* (Faith). Kwanzaa celebratory symbols include a mat (Mkeka) on which other symbols are placed: a *Kinara* (candle holder),

Mishumaa Saba (seven candles), *mazao* (crops), *Muhindi* (corn), a *Kikombe cha Umoja* (unity cup) for commemorating and giving shukrani (thanks) to African ancestors, and *Zawadi* (gifts). Corn is the primary symbol for both decoration and celebratory dining.

Public Policy

Now that the mid-term elections are over, it is very important that as many of our members as possible participate in Lobby Days this year. We need to be sure that our state legislature is made aware of our AAUW goals and objectives, and that our voices are heard by our new governor as well. This is an opportunity that we should not miss. Judy Bonn, our branch public policy chair, will try to keep all branch members up to date on anything that comes from State.

Fundraising

The Spice & Tea Exchange

Once again, Jody Nelson, the owner of The Spice & Tea Exchange in Brownwood, will **donate 10% of her week's net sales** to us for the week of **December 2 - 8**. Jody stated that is a good week because it includes the tree lighting at Brownwood and she is also having an open house during that time.

We can help her and help those we support with our AAUW dollars by shopping at her store. Please mark your calendars and tell your friends to patronize her shop between December 2 and 8. In addition to spices, teas, sugars, and salts, she has related gifts that would work well for stocking stuffers, hostess gifts, grab bags, or whatever.

This is a very generous offer and last year she donated \$970 to AAUW. Let's see if we can help her donate more than that this year.

Holiday Party December 8, 2018

Allamanda Recreation Center Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Check in and, if you ordered a special meal, pick up your SPECIAL TICKET. BYOB to enjoy with lunch. Reservations closed on November 30. If you have a ticket, see you there. Please remember to bring and wear your nametag! There will be no assigned seating for the December holiday lunch.

January Meeting: January 19, 2019

Two special presentations will occur at the January General Membership Meeting. First, the branch will meet the 2018 Tech Trek campers who will make a presentation on their experience. AAUW-FL Tech Trek is a week-long science, technology, engineering, and math summer camp for girls entering 8th grade. If you want to support a girl at a 2019 Florida Tech Trek Camp, contact Connie Konatsotis for additional details for a tax-deductible donation.

AAUW-FL will host two camps in 2019:

June 9th – 15th Camp at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida

June 16th – June 22nd – Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, Florida



Second, Kalan Taylor of the 4-H Sumter Extension Service STEM programs will give a special STEM presentation. Kalan's specialty is Youth Development, and she presents the Sumter County Library STEM events which are free for area children.

Florida 4-H aspires to be the leading youth development program that creates positive change in youth, families, and communities. Bring your friends and neighbors to this meeting and expect to have a little fun.

Singles Group

The group took a day trip to Stetson Mansion to see the Christmas decor and, as you can see in the photo below, they also enjoyed lunch in downtown Deland.

Early December activities included a bus trip together to St. Augustine to see the holiday lights and dinner with the Singing Servers at Katie Belle's. The group will start the 2019 events with a pot luck dinner and social at Jan Barone's home on January 20.



L front to back: June Love, Kathy Mason, Ginger Ryan, Meredith Morgan
R front to back: Marge McQueston, Jan Barone, Kate Manion, Carolee Litwinka

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee has been busy identifying groups in The Villages with which our branch may partner for fundraising and/or programming or that may be interested in our soon-to-be-developed Speakers' Bureau. One such group is the Girl Scouts Alumnae Silver Trefoil. RaeAnn Bethel, chair of that group, spoke at our recent General Meeting about their pajama and book drive. And pending Board approval, in January we will be participating in The Good Stuff Festival, a Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

Another group the committee identified is the Chinese Asian Dance Performance troupe. On February 19, they will usher in 2019's Year of the Pig at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. Their performance

features elaborate costumes to accompany songs and dances from an array of Asian countries and is open to the public. Contact Van Thompson (714-548-2372) for more information.



The Fundraiser Committee needs members. We will work as a team to generate small and big ideas and make plans to raise money for women and girls. Contact Carolee Litwinka (352-759-0617) or Linda Ferens (352-633-3175).

Co-Directors of Programs need assistants (2-3) to plan themes for monthly General Membership Meetings, plan meals for special events, and manage ticket sales. Contact Diane Reichert (352-391-6467) or Dorothy Dobbs (352-461-0776) for more information.

Chair Public Policy is the backbone of grassroots advocacy for AAUW's priorities, including voter education/registration and legislative lobbying to promote public policies that empower women and girls. The chair informs local membership about AAUW's priorities and encourages members to support public policy initiatives.

The following **committees or positions** are also in need of assistance, so please consider offering your time and talents as you support our organization: Tech Trek, Hospitality, Webmaster.

Membership

Neighborhood Coffees. Start 2019 by getting to know some of your AAUW neighbors a little better. Consider hosting a Neighborhood Coffee. It's simple!! We will provide the names and contact information of members who live in your area. You pick a date and invite them to your home for coffee/tea OR choose a lunch spot and invite them to go to lunch with you. Contact Carolee Litwinka (mctwinka@yahoo.com) or Linda Ferens (lindamarie255@hotmail.com) for more information.

Membership News from National. There will be no half-year dues for those joining in January; all members must pay the full year dues of \$90. In years past we asked interested applicants to wait for the "half-year" special when joining towards the end of the calendar year. With the special no longer available, all interested applicants are encouraged to join as soon as they are able. Because National is accepting 2019-2020 dues beginning in March, we will register any new member joining after February for the 2019-2020 membership year. All paid members old and new are welcome to fully participate in all branch activities no matter when they join.

Member Updates

Please change Judy Bonn's email address in your AAUW directory to judybonn1942@gmail.com

Five new members joined us since our last meeting, bringing our total to 148.

Terri Slotterback
922 Tarrson Blvd
Lady Lake, FL 32159
Phone 610-392-0474
Email: maryslotterback@yahoo.com

Spouse: Barry
Village of Silver Lake
Kean University in NJ; BS Science Management

Emily Ware

3319 Veltre Way,
The Villages, FL 32163
Phone: 301-641-1239
Email: emily_ware@msn.com

Spouse: Thomas
Village of Pine Hills
University of Kentucky; MA Elementary Education

Margaret J. Quinn

1514 Vandam Street,
The Villages, FL 32162
Phone: 352-633-5944
Email: judgemarge@msn.com

Village of Sunset Pointe
State University of Buffalo; JD Law
State University of Buffalo; BS Pharmacy

Luanne Deppa

2437 Bachman Path
The Villages, FL 32162
Phone: 240-876-3245
Email: luannedeppa@gmail.com

Village of Tamarind Grove
Atlantic Christian College in NC; BS Elementary Education

Lenita Epinger Smiley

3896 Picciola Rd. #425,
Fruitland Park, FL 34731
Phone: 217-255-3875
Email: lepinger@gmail.com

Spouse Thomas J. Smiley
Illinois State University; BS Elementary Education
Illinois State University; ME Counselor Education

Sights from the November Meeting



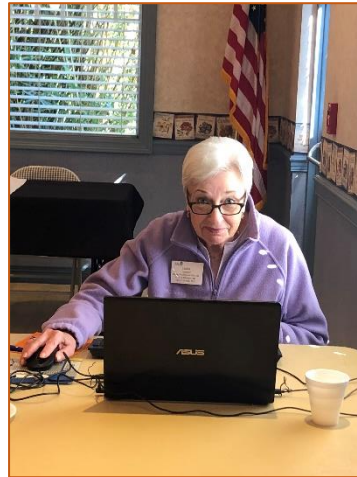
Left: Liz Schweers, Kathy Mason, RaeAnn Bethel from the Girl Scouts Alumnae Silver Trefoil stand near the box that their group has at every Recreation Center to collect pajamas and books for children of need.

Right: RaeAnn sits near the box. She explained at our general meeting and asked people to remember to donate PJ's anywhere in The Villages.





Diane Reichert introduced our guest speaker, Araiña Muniz, who spoke about Title IX and the need for us to help AAUW prevent ratification of new guidelines.



Linda Carpenter is ready to take minutes of the meeting.



Diane Jacobson is poised to distribute membership books. Barbara Fislser and Carolyn Johnson are ready to sell tickets and jewelry chances.

Scholarship News



Support our local scholarship for women and possibly win a **14 Karat Gold Chain with a Diamond-Enhanced Fire Opal (Valued at over \$4,000) donated by Gold in Art Jewelers (www.goldinart.com).**

Tickets will be available at our General Membership Meetings. Please be generous with your donation and increase your luck to win. The minimum donation per ticket is \$5. The Scholarship Committee asks for your help in making this campaign a success: Consider signing out a packet or two of 10 tickets and collect donations from your friends and neighbors. The drawing will be held February 16, 2019 - no need to be present to win this beautiful necklace.

Contact Carolyn Johnson (352-775-0084) for more information

Richie Kluesener of Gold-in-Art Jewelers has announced the Grand Opening of their new store in the old Anchor Home Furnishings building on Route 466 between Rolling Acres Road and Route 441. As you know, Gold-in-Art Jewelers is a good friend to AAUW and donates the jewelry item that we auction off to support our Scholarship winners. In turn we would like to support them.

40th Anniversary Celebration



40th Anniversary Committee Hard at Work

Lake/Sumter AAUW will hold a celebration in honor of the 40th anniversary of this branch on Saturday, March 16, 2019, at Allamanda Recreation Center with an early brunch and program. Tickets for this special event will go on sale at our next General Membership Meeting. The cost is \$25. Look for our table at the fall meetings and don't miss out.

Interest Groups

Bridge

Lake/Sumter AAUW offers two bridge groups. Dates of the bridge games are emailed to members. Members must respond to emails to get notification of the next bridge game. Game locations are scheduled on a date-to-date basis, with members volunteering to host in their homes. Days before the 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.

- The Monday Bridge Group plays on the 2nd and 4th Monday's at 1:00 P.M. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
- The Thursday Bridge Group plays on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's at 1:00 PM. For the present time, contact Cindy Anderson (see above)

AAUW Singles Group

AAUW Singles Group welcomes all single branch members to join our group. It's a great way to get to know other single women with common interests and have some fun. We currently have 37 members. Please contact Carolee Litwinka (mctwinka@yahoo.com) if you are interested in learning more about our group.

Diversity Book Club.

The AAUW Diversity Book Club will be hosting its holiday party on Wednesday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Ricciardi's in Brownwood. If you have not already made a reservation but wish to attend, RSVP to Kate Manion (kmanion52@gmail.com).

January's read is *Writing my Wrongs: Life, Death and Redemption in an American Prison* by Shaka Senghor. Our January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Peace Room at the North Lake Presbyterian Church. February's read is *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara.

All AAUW members are welcome.

Date	Title	Author	Discussion Leader
November	No Meeting		
December	Holiday Luncheon		
January 16	Writing my Wrongs	Shaka Senghor	Judy Reinhardt
February 20	A Little Life	Hanva Yanghilara	Diane Jacobson
March 20	Educated	Tara Westover	Linda Carpenter
April 17	The Soul of America	Jon Meacham	Carolyn Moores
May 15	Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey	Candice Millard	Kate Manion
June 19	The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia	Mary Helen Stefaniak	Kathy Mason
July 17	The House of Broken Angels	Luis Alberto Urrea	Blanche Boyne

Great Decisions - Topics for 2019

Refugees and Global Migration; The Middle East: Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?; The Rise of Populism in Europe; Decoding U.S.-China Trade; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested; State of the State Department and Diplomacy

Contact Diane Jacobson (chasanddi@embarqmail.com) if you would like to participate in the Great Decisions sessions. The sessions are free to members. Members may invite a guest to participate; non-members are asked to donate \$20 to participate. The group size is limited due to space limits of the room.

Carol Richardson and Diane Jacobson will facilitate the group; however, participants are welcome to volunteer to lead a discussion if they wish. There will be two sessions each week: one from 8:30 a.m. until 9:55 a.m. and the second from 10:05 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We will meet at the Sumter County Sheriff's Annex (Hwy 466) on Monday's starting January 7 and run weekly for 8 weeks.

Mexican Train Dominoes

Ellen Gagnon would like to offer her home to AAUW members to play Mexican train dominoes during the months of January, February, March, April, and maybe May 2019. She lives at 975 Fairhope Lane in the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona.

Ellen has two sets and could accommodate 14 people. However, if there are more interested, she could get more sets. Please call Ellen (856-296-8161) if you would like to join the group.

Mah Jongg

December mahjongg games will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the following members' homes.

The December 3 game will be held at the home of Anne Schlick, 17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terrace in the Village of Piedmont. You can reach Anne by phone: (352-750-1027) or email: (aroyrogers@centurylink.net).

The December 17 game will be held at the home of June Love, 17880 SE 89th Natchez Avenue in the Village of Piedmont. You can reach June by phone (352-259-3967) or email (12dlove99@embarqmail.com).

Please remember to call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for enough tables, chairs, and game sets.

Golf

AAUW's golf group will begin again on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Play will be on Wednesday with a tee time request of 10:00 a.m. and a window of 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact Carmel Leese (crleese@gmail.com; 352-751-0119) for information required to play. Play will be split between the courses north and south of Hwy 466 on alternating weeks. North courses will be requested on the 2nd and 4th weeks and south courses will be requested on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month. Hope to see you in the new year.



December 2018 Calendar of Events

Event	Dates	Time	Location and Contact
Thursday Bridge	December 6 and 20	1:00 p.m.	Contact Cindy Anderson for information (352.430.5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
Board Meeting	December 4	10:00 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	December 8	10:00 a.m.	Allamanda Rec Center
Monday Bridge	December 11	1:00 p.m.	Call Cindy Anderson for location 352.430.5856
Singles		TBD	Call Carolee Litwinka for information (352.750.0617)
Book Group	Holiday Luncheon Dec 19	11:30 a.m.	Ricciardi's in Brownwood RSVP to Kate Manion (kmanion52@gmail.com) by December 1.
Mah Jongg	December 3	1:00 p.m.	Anne Schlick, 17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terrace, Village of Piedmont (352-750-1027; aroyrogers@centurylink.net)
Mah Jongg	December 17	1:00 p.m.	June Love, 17880 SE 89th Natchez Avenue, Village of Piedmont (352-259-3967; 12dlove99@embarqmail.com)



Season's Greetings

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Committee Chairs...PLEASE send updates for your news articles. I am not a mind reader who "knows" what should run for a second month and what needs to be updated. Thanks so much to all for your support on this! A special thank you to Linda Carpenter for her great job of correcting my mistakes and to Jacqui Latzer for her photographs of the November meeting.

Enjoy your holiday season. There will be an abbreviated January edition with a schedule of what is happening. Please get dates to my NO LATER THAN December 20 so that I can enjoy MY Christmas season.



AAUW Websites

National: www.aauw.org

State: aauw-fl.aauw.net

Local: lakesumer-fl.aauw.net

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com