

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

January, 2019



*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



Greetings and Best Wishes for a wonderful holiday and Happy, Healthy New Year!

The December Christmas celebration was a big success with over 60 participants. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the many members who planned and presented such an enjoyable event. First to Diane Reichert and Dorothy Dobbs, co-Program Directors, who developed the concepts and organized the event. The program included singing holiday songs with members of the Dulcimer Club. We extend appreciation to the Dulcimer Club, especially our member Ruth Martin who coordinated their participation in our party. Marianne Bender-Powers then presented a poem

that was both personal and humorous, highlighting caring for others, which is such an important theme for these holidays. Sharon Squires, Patti Dubois, Gay Birchard, and Linda Macleod decorated the room and each table. Thanks to each of them for surrounding us with such festive décor.

We will welcome the New Year with the January General Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, January 19, at the Allamanda Recreation Center. Everyone is welcome to gather at 9:15 for some socializing before the 10:00 a.m. 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.

We would like to thank the many members of our AAUW branch who purchased items from the Brownwood Tea and Spice Exchange earlier this month. The fundraiser was very popular, and we extend a special note of appreciation to Jacquie Latzer for her leadership in coordinating this event.

Tickets are still available for the chance drawing of the beautiful diamond-enhanced fire opal with the 14K gold chain. The funds support scholarships for local college students. Further details are presented in the Scholarship News section of this newsletter.

Kathy Mason and Liz Schweers, Co-Presidents

# January Diversity



Many of the monthly observances in January are related to the beginning of a new year and the desire of many people to improve themselves and their surroundings by means of new year resolutions. January is National Get Organized Month, Shape Up US Month, National Be On-Purpose Month, Financial Wellness Month, National Personal Self-Defense Awareness Month, International Quality of Life Month, and Self-Help Group Awareness Month.

January is the perfect time to start appreciating the lives that we lead and the blessings that come to us every day. Celebration of Life Month is an opportunity for you to unwind from the holidays, take a few days to rest, and prepare yourself for the next journey around the sun. Celebration of Life Month reminds you that you need to take some time to revitalize yourself if you want to experience life to its fullest. So, sit back and relax, re-assess the past year, and plan what you're going to be doing moving forward with this year. Enjoy your favorite leisure activities, and get back together with family and friends who support you throughout the year. Have a very happy new year in 2019!

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Tech Trek camps in 2019:

*June 9 – 15 – Stetson University in DeLand, Florida*

*June 16 – June 22 – Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, Florida*



For the second presentation, 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.

# Diversity Committee Notes

## The Good Stuff Festival

On January 26, our branch will participate in The Good Stuff Festival. This event is a Girl Scout Gold Award Project that will celebrate the good going on in our community. Our branch's participation will increase recognition of AAUW and elevate our visibility locally.

The festival will be an outdoor event held at the east parking lot of New Covenant United Methodist Church from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Members of the branch Diversity Committee will staff our booth, and we anticipate displaying posters about our activities and having bookmarks, pens, and other literature available for visitors to the festival. There is no admission charge, and all members are invited to attend.

## Lunar New Year 2019

The Asian American Club in The Villages will celebrate the Lunar New Year on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, with a dinner theater performance. The event will be at La Hacienda Recreation Center; the doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and reservations are required. Contact Bob Trask ([rbtrasko8@aol.com](mailto:rbtrasko8@aol.com); 352-450-3111) for more information or to make a reservation.

## Fundraiser: Play Mah Jongg for a Purpose

Mah jongg players know that the new cards come out at the beginning of April. So, on **March 21, 2019, at Bradenton Recreation Center from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** we will be hosting a **Farewell-to-the-Old-Cards Mah Jongg Celebration**. The event is open to all with resident IDs or guest passes. Registration is \$20.00 per person; we encourage you to register as a table of four so you can play with your friends, but we will also take individual registrations and will match you up with other individual registrants. We are also planning to have door prizes and a 50-50 drawing, with tickets for sale the night of the event. All funds raised will go to our Tech Trek camperships and college scholarships

So, save the date and plan on joining us to play mah jongg for a purpose on March 21, 2019. Look for more information about this fundraiser in the February newsletter. And if you'd like to help produce this event, contact Linda Carpenter ([linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com); 352-259-1464); she needs a committee.

## International Food Tasting and Dance Performance

The Diversity Committee has scheduled an **International Food Tasting and Dance Performance** on **April 2, 2019, at Fish Hawk Recreation Center from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** for our branch to celebrate diverse cultures. The food tasting will include a sampling of dishes that each participant will bring, with each dish representing a culture, country, or diverse cuisine. Each person will receive a copy of all the recipes included in the tasting. We will also enjoy dances performed by the International Folk Dancers, who will also teach us some of their dances.

We invite all members to put this event on their calendars and to bring their significant others and friends for an evening of international food and dance on April 2, 2019. While this event is not a fundraiser, tickets will cost \$10.00 per person to help us defray costs associated with the room rental. Watch the February newsletter or contact Linda Carpenter ([linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com); 352-259-1464) for more information.

## Singles Group



Members of the Singles Group enjoyed a trip together to St. Augustine where they took tram tours to learn about the history of the city and to view the holiday lights. A delicious dinner at the Columbia restaurant was also a highlight of the trip.

The Singles Group in St. Augustine. Pictured l-r: Helen Ware, Carolee Litwinka, Kate Manion, Cheryl Hahnfeldt, Kathy Mason, and Ginger Ryan

## Website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>)

Websites change frequently and ours did get a fresh coat of paint with some detailing.

- If you do a lot of web surfing on your smart phone, take a look at the renovations. Under a home button, you will see AAUW News which is a direct news feed from AAUW National.
- It is now easier to find our newsletters, old and new.
- Also, there is a generic web address for anyone trying to reach our webmaster: [AAUWLSweb@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWLSweb@gmail.com)

We are still looking for a member to oversee the site.



## Tutors for Kids

Frank Russo and Carolyn Ruhe (pictured at left with Liz), cofounders of Tutors for Kids, presented Liz Schweers with a plaque thanking AAUW for supporting area schools with book donations. Started 10 years ago with seven neighbors, Tutors for Kids now has 500 tutors in schools in Sumter, Lake, and Marion Counties.



**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.

**Website needs a member to oversee the website.** See Kathy or Liz if you are able to help with this job.

## 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](mailto:mctwinka@yahoo.com)) or Linda Ferens ([lindamarie255@hotmail.com](mailto: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

Arlene Stein's home phone number has changed to 352 693 3122

## New Member

Sue Egloff  
2333 Midnight Pass Court  
The Villages FL 32162  
703 798 1325  
[sueegloff@gmail.com](mailto:sueegloff@gmail.com)

Spouse: John  
St. Charles

Pace University, NY; BBA Business

## December Celebration Highlights

### By Request...Invocation from December Celebration by Jacquie Latzer

How blessed and fortunate we are. May this holiday season remind and inspire us to express and demonstrate our gratitude. Thankful for our health, our loved ones near and far, our friends, our beautiful surroundings, let us celebrate and demonstrate our ability to open our arms wide to embrace all, respecting and our differences, and join together for a higher purpose. We know we are still relevant, have much to offer and have work to do. May our strength and resolve increase so that we can change the world by being of service to others.

### Scenes from the Celebration



Holiday music from the Dulcimer Club



Beautiful table decorations from the Hospitality Committee.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

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 General Membership Meetings. The cost is \$25. Look for our table at the fall and winter meetings and don't miss out.

# 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](http://www.goldinart.com)) and pictured at left.

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

## Interest Groups

### Bridge

Both Monday and Thursday Bridge Groups will meet as usual in January. See Calendar for details.

### 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](mailto:mctwinka@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in learning more about our group.

### Diversity Book Club

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
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

## 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.

## 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.

## January 2019 Calendar of Events

Event	Dates	Time	Location and Contact
Thursday Bridge	January 3 and 17	1:00 p.m.	Contact Cindy Anderson for information (352.430.5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
Board Meeting	January 8	10:00 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	January 19	Doors open at 9:15.	Allamanda Rec Center
Monday Bridge	January 14 and 28	1:00 p.m.	Call Cindy Anderson for location 352.430.5856
Singles		TBD	Call Carolee Litwinka for information (352.750.0617)
Great Decisions	8 Mondays, starting January 7	8:30 – 9:55 a.m. 10:05 – 11:30 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Mah Jongg	January 7	1:00 p.m.	
Mah Jongg	January 17	1:00 p.m.	



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## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Happy New Year to all!

It would be VERY helpful if you sent articles to me in Georgia font, size 12. If that makes no sense to you, don't worry. If you understand and could oblige, I would be eternally grateful!

Deadline for the February newsletter will be January 20. On time is ALWAYS appreciated.



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