

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

February, 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



The Lake Sumter branch of AAUW is off to a strong start in 2019! The January General Meeting presented all the elements of a vital, dynamic organization. With many guests the room was filled to seating capacity. The program included presentations by three of the five Tech Trek campers from 2018. It was quite rewarding to learn about their experiences which included living in college dorms at Florida Atlantic University for a week. They learned to program robots and were educated a wide range of topics including biologic sciences, finance, and personal responsibility. They were most appreciative of the opportunity to participate and expressed their appreciation to all AAUW members who supported the program as well as to their parents who were present at the meeting. Their career goals ranged

from aspirations to become an eye surgeon to marine biologist to veterinarian. The program also included a hands-on STEM activity led by Sumter County's 4H Coordinator Kalan Taylor. See details of the fun filled experience later in this newsletter. We extend a special note of thanks to Diane Reichert and Dorothy Dobbs for planning and coordinating such a valuable program. And to Connie Konatsotis for leading the Tech Trek program, from contacting teachers and parents to coordinating with state level AAUW leaders in the selection of campers each year.

The business portion of the meeting was full of reports of upcoming activities that support fund raising, diversity goals, and branch members' social enjoyment. Be sure to note the details later in this newsletter about The Good Stuff Festival that occurred in January as well as the chance drawing for the necklace from Gold in Art that will occur at the General Meeting in February; Lobby Days, the mah jongg fundraiser, and our branch 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in March; the International Food Tasting and Dance Performance, the Tea and Spice Exchange Luncheon, and the day trip to Hovey-in-the-Hills in April. We learned more good news with an announcement that the Tea and Spice Exchange fundraiser that occurred in December brought over \$1,000 to the funds that support our efforts in educating young women and girls.

The February General Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 16, at the Allamanda Recreation Center. Everyone is welcome to gather at 9:15 a.m. for some socializing before the 10:00 a.m. start of the business meeting and monthly program. Further details are presented in the February Meeting section of this newsletter.

Kathy Mason and Liz Schweers, Co-Presidents

# February Heritage Month: Black History



Black History Month first originated as part of an initiative by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who launched Negro History Week in 1926. Woodson proclaimed that Negro History Week should always occur in the second week of February — between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

The theme for Black History Month in 2019 is "Black Migrations," which follows the continuous movement of African-Americans from the American South to the industrialized Northeast and Midwest. In *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson documents this great migration. Around 1916, when the Great Migration began, a factory

wage in the urban North was typically three times more than what blacks could expect to make working the land in the rural South.

The period quickly gave rise to a growing number of black educators, scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs. The Harlem Renaissance in New York signaled a blossoming of the visual and literary arts, along with the emergence of new musical genres like ragtime, blues, and jazz.

By 1970, when the Great Migration ended, its demographic impact was unmistakable: Whereas in 1900, nine out of every 10 black Americans lived in the South, and three out of every four lived on farms, by 1970 the South was home to less than half of the country's African-Americans, with only 25 percent living in the region's rural areas.

Meanwhile, African-American millennials have reversed the historic trend in recent years with an uptick in black populations in Atlanta, Houston, and other southern communities, bringing the North-South migration full circle.

**Editor's Note:** We have been running Heritage Month articles since September. Let us know what you think by sending comments and suggestions to <http://aauwdiversitycom@gmail.com>.

## February Meeting: February 16, 2019

The Programs Directors have invited Synthia Stephens-Fletcher to be our guest speaker at the February 16 General Meeting. Her topic will help us recognize Black History Month as she will talk about the history and accomplishments of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. Synthia is a native of Daytona Beach and was a classroom teacher in Volusia County for 34 years. She has been very active in her community and AAUW: She is a member of New Life Church Ministries, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Council of Negro Women, NAACP, AAUW Daytona Beach branch where she has served as president and programs chairman, and she is currently the Diversity Chair for AAUW Florida.

The meeting will be held at the Allamanda Recreation Center. The meeting doors open 9:15 a.m. for social time - coffee and munchies will be supplied. There will be a short business meeting at 10:00 a.m. followed by the program. Please invite potential members and, remember, men are also welcome to join.

# Diversity Committee Notes

## International Food Tasting and Dance Performance

The Diversity Committee is delighted to present an opportunity to celebrate diverse cultures in our first (and maybe annual) International Food Tasting and Dance Performance. The event will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Fish Hawk Recreation Center. The food tasting will include a sampling of dishes that each participant will bring, with each dish representing a culture, country, or diverse cuisine. The International Folk Dancers will entertain us and teach us some of their dances. All members, guests, and friends are invited to participate in this occasion; Villages IDs are not required.

Here's how it will work:

1. Pre-registration is required and must be accompanied by \$10 per person. We will take cash or a check.
2. Each participant will bring a dish (or dishes), with each dish serving 12 – 16 people.
3. At least two weeks before the event, participants will provide the recipe for their dish(es), where they got the recipe from, and its heritage/country of origin.
4. When participants check in the evening of the event, they will receive a compilation of all the recipes included in the tasting.
5. At the end of the event, participants will be asked to evaluate it with suggestions for future offerings.

Registration forms will be available at our February General Meeting and on our branch website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>). Registration deadline is March 19, 2019. Checks should be made to Lake/Sumter AAUW. For more information, contact Linda Carpenter. Send ground mail registrations to:

Linda Carpenter  
1828 Harding Path  
The Villages, FL 32162

## Indo-American Club

People of Indian – Asian Indian, not American Indian – heritage have started a new club in The Villages. The Indo-American Club meets at 5:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pimlico Recreation Center, and all Villagers are welcome to join. The group plans to celebrate Indian holidays such as Diwali. In a recent article about the club in the *Daily Sun*, one of the group's officers said "the biggest reason for becoming a member is love of Indian food." So, if that describes you, check out the Indo-American Club.

# Fundraisers

## Jewelry Chance Drawing

Last chance! The winner of the beautiful opal necklace will be announced at our February meeting. If you have outstanding tickets, please get them to Carolyn Johnson. If you need more contact her. There will be LAST MINUTE sales the day of the meeting. We are SO CLOSE to funding two scholarships through the ticket sales!

## Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration

Calling all mah jongg players! The 2019 mah jongg cards will come out in April, but here's a chance to bid farewell to your 2018 card and play for a purpose. This fundraiser for our scholarships and Tech Trek camperships will be Thursday, March 21, 2019, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Bradenton Recreation Center in The Villages. This event is open to all players with a Villages ID or guest pass. In addition to playing mah jongg, we will also have tickets available at the event for chance and 50-50 drawings.

Registration is \$20 per person and payment must accompany the registration form. **We ask that all participants register as foursomes as we can't guarantee being able to create foursomes for individual registrants.** This differs from information reported in the January newsletter; we apologize for any confusion. The registration deadline is March 14, 2019.

Registration forms are available on our branch website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>) and will be available at our February General Meeting. Members may also send registrations by ground mail to Linda Carpenter. And contact Linda if you have questions.

## Tea and Spice Luncheon

We invite members to sign up for a fundraiser luncheon on April 5, 2019 at 12 noon. This will take place at Tea and Spice in Brownwood. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the February Meeting. There are only 24 spaces, so please contact Gay Birchard, 425 Canterbury Court, 231.742.6230 for reservations or more information.

## Spring Outing to Howey-in-the-Hills Mansion

This will be an enjoyable tour in our own backyard – less than an hour drive away? We are planning early for our trip on **Thursday, April 4, 2019**, so we can reserve the date at the mansion for two tour guides. Here's some information about the mansion and the plan for the outing.

Come and step back in time in Lake County Florida where citrus was just beginning to become king. This beautiful Mediterranean-style home was built by Mary and William Howey in the 1920s. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was designed by architect Katherine Cotheal Budd of New York. Construction took place from 1925 to 1927 and features Florentine marble, a dome ceiling, stained glass, brass sconces and carved stone fireplaces. The mansion has 7,199 square feet and 20 rooms of Mediterranean Revival Style on two floors. **There are no elevators.**

10:30 a.m.	Depart Eisenhower Recreation Center in designated car pools
11:30 a.m.	Group Lunch at the Mission Inn (individual lunch checks)
1:30 p.m.	Howey Mansion Group tour
3:30 p.m.	Arrive back at Eisenhower

The cost is \$30 / passenger and includes transportation, tour, and tip. We have enough volunteers to be drivers. Directions and passenger lists will be provided to the drivers.

Make your reservation before February 15 by mailing your \$30 **CHECK made out to CASH** to Katie Haviland, 1985 Veranda Place, The Villages, FL 32163  
 Questions? Contact Katie ([katiehaviland1@gmail.com](mailto:katiehaviland1@gmail.com), 518 275-9466). Thank you to Carolyn Pasquale for the Howey Mansion suggestion and write up.



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

## Suffrage Centennial Planning Steering Committee

Are you in Washington, DC, at the end of February? Interested in getting in on the ground floor of planning for the special celebration of?

The Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending no later than 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, but preregistration is required. Any individual who wishes to attend the meeting should register via email at [rebecca@womensvote100.org](mailto:rebecca@womensvote100.org).

Congress passed the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission Act, a bill “to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of the United States providing for women’s suffrage.” The duties of the Commission, as written in the law, include:

- (1) To encourage, plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment;
- (2) To encourage private organizations and State and local Governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment;
- (3) To facilitate and coordinate activities throughout the United States relating to the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment;



- (4) To serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans for the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment; and
- (5) To develop recommendations for Congress and the President for commemorating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

## Out and About in January

### Good Stuff Festival



Judy Bonn and Liz Schweers (wo)manned our table at The Good Stuff Festival

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, our branch – represented by Liz Schweers, Judy Bonn, and Linda Carpenter – participated in The Good Stuff Festival. This event was created by Amanda Perrone, a Senior level Girl Scout, to earn her Gold Award. Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards are the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. Amanda’s idea was to bring together groups from the community that are doing “good stuff” to facilitate each group sharing the good stuff it does. Approximately 25 groups participated, Including Kiwanis/Key Club, Relay for Life, Wildwood Food Pantry, among others. Many visitors to the festival stopped at our table and were pleased to

learn about AAUW. . .most had never heard of us! And we may have recruited a few new members, too.

### Singles Group



Singles Group at Jan Barone’s home, seated L to R: Peg Tabor, Kate Manion, Liz Schweers, Marianne Bender-Powers, Myra Mervine, Marge McQueston; standing L to R: Gretchen Lewis, Carolyn Johnson, Barbara Fieldman Lu Michaels, Carolyn Pasquale, Jan Barone, Gay Birchard, Ginger Ryan

Our Singles group enjoyed a lovely afternoon sharing good conversation and delicious homemade food at the home of Jan Barone on January 20. We are going to see *Souvenir* at the Bay St. Players in Eustis on February 17. Future plans include a Cabaret performance and dinner at La Hacienda Restaurant and a game night at Carolyn Johnson's home.

## The AAUW “Outsiders”



The AAUW “Outsiders” group named themselves because their members live outside The Villages. They met for lunch on Thursday, January 24, at Naples Italian Restaurant in Leesburg.

The Outsiders at the restaurant in Leesburg (L to R) Carolyn Pasquale; Josana Katz; Joan Krick; Bonnie Marcocchia; Rosella Todd Valentine; Lynn Scott; Barbara Prescott; guest of Joan Krick; and Frankie Smith

## 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.

# January Meeting Sights and Summary



Presenter Kayan Taylor (pictured at left) talked about 4-H and how it helps young people develop in their communities. The 4-H program is the nation's largest youth development organization. The program uses a learn-by-doing approach and caring adults to help youth gain the knowledge, life skills, and leadership abilities youth need to be responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce.

Studies have found that youth who participate in 4-H are less likely to engage in at risk behaviors, contribute more to their family and community, and state they are more likely to attend college (Lerner, et al., 2012).

Sumter County 4-H has over 250 community club members and reaches approximately 2,600 students each year through school enrichment programs

Our program offers a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities through club meetings, day and residential camps, field days, workshops, and school enrichment programs.

If you would like to volunteer your time and help contribute to the success of our youth please contact Mrs. Kalan Taylor at (352) 569-6874 or [kagerso2@ufl.edu](mailto:kagerso2@ufl.edu).

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the AAUW. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you and was thoroughly impressed by the magnitude of educators and knowledge within the room. The Tech Trek program is a fantastic program that you are offering young girls and I thank you for offering that opportunity for our youth. We greatly appreciate the support and donation. We will be using the funds to continue our community STEM programming.

Members also had the opportunity to meet and hear from some of the girls who went to Tech Trek last summer. The girls shared a PowerPoint presentation that they developed during camp. Pictured below are the girls and their families.





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

Please join the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Lake/Sumter Branch on Saturday, March 26, 2019, Allamanda Recreation Center. This special program will be held at the regular monthly General Meeting and requires a ticket to attend; tickets are \$25 each. The doors open at 9:15 a.m., as usual; brunch will be at 10:00 a.m. Our AAUW State President will be speaking and we will have other special presentations. It will be great fun to celebrate our member who has been a part of this branch the longest. You can purchase your ticket as late as March 1<sup>st</sup> by contacting Anne Wilkins (352-430-0964), Linda Macleod (352-633-9642), or Liz Schweers (850-247-9489).

## 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

February's book is *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara. The group will meet to discuss this book on Wednesday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Peace Room at the North Lake Presbyterian Church.

The reading for March is *Educated* by Tara Westover. The club will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20 in the same location to discuss this book.

All AAUW members are welcome.

Date	Title	Author	Discussion Leader
February 20	<i>A Little Life</i>	Hanva Yanghilara	Diane Jacobson
March 20	<i>Educated</i>	Tara Westover	Linda Carpenter
April 17	<i>The Soul of America</i>	Jon Meacham	Carolyn Moores
May 15	<i>Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey</i>	Candice Millard	Kate Manion
June 19	<i>The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia</i>	Mary Helen Stefaniak	Kathy Mason
July 17	<i>The House of Broken Angels</i>	Luis Alberto Urrea	Blanche Boyne

## Mah Jongg

Our February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> games will be held at the home of Katherine Howe, 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr. (Village of Liberty Park), The Villages, FL 32162. Phone: (631) 219-4289.

Please e-mail Katherine at: [kamphowe@aol.com](mailto:kamphowe@aol.com) or call her at (631) 219-4289 to let her know you will be attending.

## Bridge Group

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Games in February will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; [cmc37738@yahoo.com](mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com)).
- The Thursday Bridge Group plays on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Games will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The Thursday Group Leader is Anne Schlick (352-217-2716; [aroyrogers@centurylink.net](mailto:aroyrogers@centurylink.net)). We play 4 rounds of 4 games each starting at 1:00 p.m. and usually ending between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. We play in members' homes. We play rubber bridge and our snacks are tasty. We are a friendly group of good players who enjoy playing and being with one another.

We welcome new players and subs.

## February 2019 Calendar of Events

Event	Dates	Time	Location and Contact
Board Meeting	February 5	10:00 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	February 16	Doors open 9:15 a.m.	Allamanda Rec Center
Singles	February 17	Play in Eustis	Call Carolee Litwinka for information (352.750.0617)
Great Decisions	Eight Mondays starting January 7	8:30 and 10:05 a.m.	Sherriff Annex Building
Mah Jongg	February 4 and 18	1:00 p.m.	Katherine Howe, 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr Phone: (631) 219-4289
Monday Bridge	February 11 and 25	1:00 p.m.	Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; <a href="mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com">cmc37738@yahoo.com</a> )
Thursday Bridge	February 7 and 21	1:00 p.m.	Anne Schlick (352-217-2716; <a href="mailto:aroyrogers@centurylink.net">aroyrogers@centurylink.net</a> )
Book Club	February 20	10:30 a.m.	North Lake Presbyterian Church

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## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

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 March newsletter will be February 20. On time is ALWAYS appreciated.



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