

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

March 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.

President's Message



Our AAUW branch has many exciting activities planned for the spring. You will see each of them in this Newsletter. We strongly encourage you to actively participate and enjoy as many of the activities as possible. Better yet, why don't you volunteer to assist the planning groups.

Synthia Stephens-Fletcher, a member of the Daytona Beach branch of AAUW, educated attendees at the recent February General Meeting. She presented the life and legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune who was an educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian, and civil rights advocate. She also founded Bethune-Cookman College, now University, in Daytona Beach. Members are planning to visit the college and Mary Bethune's home in the near future.

The business portion of the meeting was full of reports of upcoming branch activities including fund raising, diversity, and social enjoyment activities. In March you could participate in Lobby Days in Tallahassee (March 12-13); our 40th Anniversary Celebration/General Meeting (March 16); and breakfast at Perkins (March 26). In April there will be an International Food Tasting and Dance Performance (April 2); trip to Howey-in-the-Hills (April 4); Tea & Spice Exchange Luncheon (April 5); and AAUW State Leadership Conference in Ocala (April 6-7). Contact Kathy or Liz for more details.

The jewelry raffle for the lovely opal necklace took place during the February General Meeting. The lucky winner was Anne Wilkins, one of our co-secretaries. She plans to give the necklace to her daughter who has an October birthday.

At our next General Meeting on March 16 we will also be celebrating our 40th anniversary. This will be a ticketed event because La Hacienda Catering will be providing a breakfast buffet. Cost for the event is \$25, and tickets can be purchased no later than March 5 by contacting Anne Wilkins. Please come to celebrate and to honor the efforts of so many women who have grown our branch over the years.

Liz and Kathy

March Diversity

Woman's History Month



National Women's History Month was established in order to draw attention to and improve the focus on women in historical studies. Female textile workers marched in New York City on March 8, 1857, in protest of unfair working conditions and unequal rights for women. It was one of the first organized strikes by working women, during which they called for a shorter work day and decent wages. On March 8, 1908, women workers in the needle trades marched through New York City's Lower East Side to protest child labor and sweatshop working conditions and to demand women's suffrage. Beginning in 1910, March 8 became annually observed as International Women's Day. Women's History Week was instituted in 1978 in an effort to add women's history into educational curricula. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to include all of March as a celebration of the economic, political, and social contributions of women.

The theme for 2019 is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence." For generations, women have resolved conflicts in their homes, schools, and communities. They have rejected violence as counterproductive and stressed the need to restore respect, establish justice, and reduce the causes of conflict. From legal defense and public education to direct action and civil disobedience, women have expanded the American tradition of using inclusive, democratic, and active means to end war, reduce violence and injustice, and promote the common good.

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>.

Meetings

General Meeting/40th Anniversary Celebration: Saturday March 16, 2019



Our March monthly meeting is a combined General Meeting and anniversary celebration. Join the fun on **Saturday, March 16** at Allamanda Recreation Center. Doors open at 9:15 a.m.

This is a **ticketed event**, and the last day to purchase tickets is March 5. Contact Anne Wilkins (352-430-0964), Linda MacLeod (352-633-9642), or Liz Schweers (850-247-9489) for information and/or tickets.

Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 20, 2019

Allamanda Recreation Center, 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Come at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and munchies. The program will include branch elections, installation of officers, and a speaker (to be announced).

General Meeting: Saturday, May 18, 2019

Allamanda Recreation Center, **11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** [Please note the change from our usual monthly meeting start time.] The program will feature the announcement of our new scholarship winners, and we will enjoy an indoor picnic.

Registration is required for this final meeting of our program year, and the cost is \$15 per person. Choose from two menu choices, catered by Aprons at Publix

- Executive Box: Greek salad with chips and fruit
- Sub Sandwich Box: Half a sub with chips and cookies

Payments are due by May 5 and will be accepted at the March and April General Meetings. See Dorothy Dobbs or Diane Reichert for reservations and payments.

Branch News

Membership

AAUW membership renewal forms will be given out at the April and May meetings instead of March because of the Anniversary activities.

New members can join for \$90 after March 15. At that time New Member Forms will be available. Beginning March 18 AAUW Lake/Sumter along with AAUW national and state are accepting new members for 2019-2020. As a bonus their membership includes the remaining 3 1/2 months of this year.

Neighborhood Coffees

Time to get 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.

Fund-Raising

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



Time and tables are running out, so register soon for our mah jongg celebration. The fundraiser will be on Thursday, March 21, 2019, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Bradenton Recreation Center; the deadline for registering is March 14, 2019. This is NOT a tournament, so register with your friends to play as a foursome. You can download a flyer describing the event as well as a registration form from our branch website.

Send registrations by ground mail to Linda Carpenter (1828 Harding Path, The Villages, FL 32162). Contact Linda if you have questions.

Spice and Tea Luncheon

We invite members to sign up for a fundraiser luncheon on April 5, 2019 at 12 noon. This will take place at Spice and Tea Exchange in Brownwood. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the February Meeting. There are only 24 spaces, so please contact Gay Birchard (231-742-6230) for reservations or more information.

Activities

International Food Tasting and Dance Performance

Don't forget to register for our International Food Tasting and Dance Performance sponsored by the Diversity Committee. The celebration of diverse cultures will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Fish Hawk Recreation Center.

If you did not get a registration form at the February General Meeting, you can download one from our branch website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>). You can also download a flyer that provides details of the event.

The registration deadline is March 19, 2019. Because side tables will not be available at the March General Meeting, please send registrations by ground mail to Linda Carpenter (1828 Harding Path, The Villages, FL 32162). Contact Linda, too, if you have questions.

Singles Group



Members of the Singles Group enjoyed dinner and attended a play at the Bay Street Theatre in Eustis on February 17.

Pictured left to right: Gretchen Lewis, Anne Schlick, Anne's sister Martha, Carolyn Johnson, Carolee Litwinka and Kathy Mason

Ginger Ryan, Jan Barone and Gay Birchard also attended the show.

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 March bridge dates are March 11 and 25.

The Thursday Bridge Group plays on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. The Thursday Bridge Group Leader is Anne Schlick (352-217-2716, aroyrogers@centurylink.net). The March bridge dates are March 7 and 21.

Finger Food and Fun

A reminder that on March 30 at 5:30 p.m. Ellen Gagnon has graciously offered her home to host the Finger Food and Fun group. This announcement was sent out a month ago and as of February 27 we have 24 persons signed up. Please email or call Judith Anderson, chairman, if you would like to attend. (jcdukeirl@aol.com, 352-638-1370 or 352-751-4954)

Mah Jongg

Our March mah-jongg games will be held at 1:00 p.m. Members wanting to play should call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for tables, game sets, etc.

- March 4th Anne Schlick
17301 SE 82nd Pecan Terrace (Village of Piedmont)
The Villages, FL
Home phone: (352) 750-1027
Email: aroyrogers@centurylink.net
- March 18th Carol Sellers
372 Hengan Pl. (Village of Mallory Square)
The Villages
Home phone: (352) 259-5410
Email: robertsellers@embarqmail.com

Book Club

The Diversity Book Group meets in the Peace Room of the North Lake Presbyterian Church (on Rolling Acres Road behind Home Depot) at 10:30 a.m. on the below dates. All members are welcome.

Date	Title	Author	Discussion Leader
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 Boyone

Calendar

Event	Dates	Time	Location and Contact
Board Meeting	March 5	10:00 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	March 16	Doors open at 9:15 a.m. Ticketed Event	Allamanda Rec Center
Singles	TBA		Call Carolee Litwinka for information (352.750.0617)
Great Decisions – Last Meeting	Monday March 4	9:30	Sherriff Annex Building
Mah Jongg	March 4 and 18 th	1:00 p.m.	See Activities (page 4) for location
Monday Bridge	March 11 and 25	1 :00 p.m.	Cindy Anderson (352-430- 5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
Thursday Bridge	March 7 and 21	1:00 p.m.	Anne Schlick (352-217- 2716; aroyrogers@centurylink.net)
Book Club	March 20	10:30 a.m.	North Lake Presbyterian Church

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Deadline for the April newsletter will be March 20. I leave on March 28 for a 4-week cruise, so on-time is CRUCIAL this month. Many thanks to those who submit!



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AAUW Websites

National: www.aauw.org

State: aauw-fl.aauw.net

Local: lakesumer-fl.aauw.net