

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

April 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



Kudos to Anne Wilkins and her 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee for a very memorable and enjoyable celebration. It is important to remember that Lake/Sumter Branch is as strong as it is because of outstanding leadership from our founders and continuing members and supporters. At the celebration we acknowledged one particular member and supporter, Joan Krick, as a recipient of the Named Gift Award, which is the highest award given by AAUW Florida for her generosity in support of the goals and missions of AAUW. We also recognized Jody Nelson, owner of The Spice & Tea Exchange, and Richie Kluesener, owner of Gold in Art Jewelers, for their continuing financial support. Please thank these supporters personally whenever you see them and continue to patronize both business establishments.

The Branch has several upcoming events including Breakfast at Perkins on Tuesday, March 26; Finger Food and Fun at Ellen Gagnon's home on Saturday, March 30; Howey-in-the-Hills day trip on Thursday, April 4; and The Spice & Tea Exchange light luncheon on Friday, April 5.

At the April General Meeting, Saturday, April 19, we will be voting and installing new officers for 2019-20. We will also hear from a gentleman who benefitted from LAF (Legal Action Fund) support. His is a compelling story and one which will help us all understand how important our mission is in practical terms. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. at Allamanda Recreation Center.

Kathy and Liz

May 18, 2019, General Meeting

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

See Page 6 for details

40th Anniversary Celebration



Branch member Linda Schnoll created the beautiful table decorations

On Saturday, March 16, over 70 women, members of the Lake / Sumter branch of AAUW, gathered at the Allamanda Recreation Center to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the branch's founding. An excellent and tasty breakfast was catered by Hacienda catering. Tables were adorned with logo-colored ribbons and napkins and every place was set with a program and "swag bag,"



which contained an AAUW mug and pen. Every attendee pinned a ribbon indicating her place of birth on a map.



Our own co-President Liz Schweers and AAUW-FL President Pat Ross

While we recognized past-presidents, supporters, and long-time members, the focus was on the history of the branch, where we are now, and where we are going. Pat Ross, the president of AAUW Florida complimented the branch on its many activities and contributions to the community and to women. She also spoke to the need to be aware of current established policies and laws and regulations that must include, and address, the needs of women in the workplace and in society at large. Ginny Rivera made an excellent presentation tracing the history of the branch. Ginny presented a verbal picture, augmented by slides, of the founding and building of the organization through the years. Pictures themselves showed not only activities and events, but the changes in our society over time. Jacquie Latzer and Susan Gold moved the focus to a chronology of more modern-day concerns and activities. They also gave a slight glimpse to

the future, emphasizing the incorporation of attention to diversity. Jody Nelson, owner of the Brownwood Tea and Spice Exchange, received a certificate of appreciation for her support of our branch. Near the end of the event Ann Marie Lombardi rose to remind us of the success of the Taste and Bid events that raised considerable funds to support our contributions to women and girls. She also brought attention to the year we sponsored the State Convention, which brought together women from around the state. Dorothy Dobbs closed the day with a return look at the map, noting where we are all from.

Co-chairs Liz Schweers and Anne Wilkins congratulate the committee, Susanne Beason, Linda Clark, Dorothy Dobbs, Joan Irwin, Barbara Jones, Susan Gold, Jacquie, Latzer, Linda Macleod, Diane Reichert, Linda Schnoll, Sharon Squires and Mary Ann Swisher on a job well done.

Letter from AAUW National

Dear Leaders,

This Women's History Month, let's make salary inequity a thing of the past. You are our best advocates. In fact, your commitment to building women's economic security inspired the Coca-Cola Foundation to invest in AAUW last August, when AAUW received its largest corporate grant in recent history to build an online platform to train women in salary negotiation.

Now we need your help to reach our first benchmark goal of registering 20,000 women to take the free tool by Equal Pay Day, April 2. We can do this if every leader reading this message does three things:

1. [Registers for AAUW's Work Smart online](#). We recently improved registration so it's fast and easy.
2. Ensures every member of your branch registers.
3. Shares AAUW's Work Smart online with other friends and family members via [email](#) or [social media](#). Even enlisting five women you know can make a difference.

We must get these registrations to meet our mission and fulfill the terms of our generous grant from Coca-Cola. So, please, do your part to ensure this corporate partnership is just the beginning of a long and productive relationship devoted to achieving equity for all.

April Diversity

Deaf History Month

Deaf History Month, observed from March 13 through April 15 annually, celebrates contributions made by the deaf community and the hearing impaired to American culture and society. Deaf History Month, by design, spans three key events in American history that impacted the deaf community:



- March 13, 1988--The Deaf President Now movement succeeds when King Jordan becomes president of Gallaudet University.
- April 8, 1864--Gallaudet University is founded as President Lincoln signed the charter establishing a college for the deaf.
- April 15, 1817-- American School for the Deaf, the first public school for the deaf, opens.

Deaf History Month had its genesis March 13, 1996, when two deaf employees at Washington, D.C.'s Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library taught sign language to their colleagues. In 1997, the first annual Deaf History Month was celebrated. There is currently an effort underway by the American Library Association and the National Association of the Deaf to get the White House to declare the month an official national event. During Deaf History Month, libraries are encouraged to host events, from art installations to online learning activities, that raise awareness of hearing loss and deafness.

Tech Trek

In December 2018 we received 12 nominations for camperships from STEM teachers at four Lake and Sumter schools. We then interviewed the six nominated 7th grade girls who had applied to attend the camp. Our committee met to assess the applications and to finalize the paperwork which was then submitted to the state AAUW for consideration and its review. There were 95 statewide openings for the camp sessions, and five of our six candidates were accepted into the program. The Mount Dora Foundation will fund a grant for the one camper selected from the Mount Dora Middle School, and our branch will fund the four girls selected from the Villages Charter Middle School applicants. Congratulations and many thanks to our members who worked on the committee.

Previous Scholarship Recipients

We recently sent out inquiries to our scholarship recipients asking how they were doing in school; what they liked and did not like; their plans on continuing; and decisions to change their majors. This is a summary of their answers.

HALEY MARINER: Haley's favorite class was Intro to Biomedical Engineering. The hardest thing she had to do was achieve balance between class work and volunteering and activities. She enjoyed meeting and getting to know other students around campus who come from all over the world. She anticipates a 3.5 GPA and has learned she did not want to become a medical researcher and is looking into different engineering options.

SELINA HICKEY: Selina is in all upper level classes. She plans to graduate this fall. She added a minor in Psychology. She also plans on changing her focus to law school rather than Criminal Justice and will probably take a semester off to prepare for law school. "I would like to thank you all for helping me with my career. With the support of each of you and the financial help that you have given me...you have been a great help. I am very thankful and blessed for this opportunity, to be supported by such wonderful women. Thank you again for believing in me and my education."

DEANNA HAMMETT: School is going along very well. She has received all A's so far. "I am really loving the Organizational Management B.A.S. program at LSSC. The program has been teaching me so much in the business world with group work and real-life scenarios. AAUW has blessed me with so many gifts with your generosity. I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship you provided."

SUZANNE CHAAR Her favorite classes are physiology and anatomy. They give her a chance to apply what she is studying in real life. Suzanne shadowed a neurologist while taking both classes and was able to see patients with diseases she was studying. "I think my major in Health Sciences is giving me a good understanding of medicine..." Balancing between school and studying for the MCAT is the hardest thing she has to do. The most fun has been being part of the LEAD Scholars Academy. She participated in the Women's Leadership program, did research about Islamophobia towards Muslim women and won second place for a presentation at the Social Change Showcase. This semester she is part of the Lead Out Loud program discussing issues of gender, equality and other leadership topics. Suzanne's career goals have not changed. "I still want to be a physician." She expects her GPA for the school year to be 3.75. She is taking the MCAT in May.

Carolyn Johnson, Chair, AAUW Scholarship Committee

Meetings

Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 20, 2019

Doors open at **9:15** a.m. for social time, munchies and coffee at the Allamanda Recreation Center, 1515 St. Charles Place, The Villages, FL 32162. During a short business meeting, the members will elect 2019-2020 directors and perform an installation ceremony. The program, which will focus on LAF, will follow.

We will vote and install the following slate. Thanks to Barbara Jones and the nominating committee.

Nominees for Office 2019-2020

Co-Presidents: Linda Ferens, Carolee Litwinka
Co-Presidents-elect: Katie Haviland, Anne Wilkins
Co-Secretaries: Sharron Albrecht, Gretchen Lewis
Co-Membership: Susan Gold, Liz Schweers

Board Appointed

Co-Finance Ellen Thompson to replace Bea Newell
Co-Program Marianne Bender-Powers to replace Diane Reichert

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Program. If you have ever been a member of a faculty or worked with students, do you think that you could be punished for reporting Title IX violations and sexual harassment? Paul Thein, our guest speaker for our April meeting, was fired when he voiced concerns about the college's Title IX compliance related to treating the women's basketball coaching staff equally with the men's team. The story has a few twists and turns but ultimately Paul prevailed.

Paul now travels around the country promoting AAUW's LAF and his travels are supported by National AAUW. His presentation to our branch is sponsored by Florida AAUW. Paul wants to thank all who make donations to National's LAF. Donations to AAUW Fund 3999 are tax deductible (Tax ID 52-6037388). LAF is for everyone and not just AAUW members. Donation Envelopes will be distributed to attendees.

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 April General Meeting. See Dorothy Dobbs or Diane Reichert for reservations and payments.

Branch News

Membership

Pick up your renewal form at the April or May general meetings. Dues for 2019-2020 are \$90 (\$59 National, \$12 State, \$19 Local). The AAUW fiscal year begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020. Dues can be paid by check made out to AAUW Lake/Sumter or on line at AAUW.org. Before and after the April 20 meeting, Diane Jacobson will have a “help” station set up for anyone who would like to renew on line using their credit card. While dues can be paid at any time, to ensure that you are included in the membership booklet your renewal must be paid by June 30.

Nametags

Ann Marie Lombardi will be stepping down from the nametag/meeting check in role at the end of this fiscal year. If anyone is interested in taking over the job, please contact Ann Marie at amlombardi@embarqmail.com. The responsibilities are quite easy to handle. Thank you.

Ann Marie Lombardi
Cell 352-638-0550

Community News



Daughters of the American Revolution

The local DAR is sponsoring a “Votes for Women” nonpolitical rally on May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Lake Sumter Landing Town Square. Come help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Contact Diane Starr for more information.

Beacon College Salon Series

The final presentation in this year's Beacon College Salon Series will be April 10 at 7:00 p.m. James C. Clark, a UCF faculty member, will talk about The Hidden History of Florida. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with "heavy hors d'oeuvres" beginning at 6:15 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required. See Beacon College Web site for more information: <https://www.beaconcollege.edu/news-events/beacon-salon-series/>

Do *you* have news of general interest? Send it in!

Fundraising

Grand Fundraiser: An Elegant Gala Event

Save the Date!!! A grand fundraiser is in the works for February 23, 2020.

Sunday, February 23, 2020
5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
Dancing, dinner, and a show

Contact Diane Jacobson chasanddi@embarqmail.com if you would like to be on the committee. We have the date, venue, and entertainment secured. The committee will concentrate on details to make it a successful fundraiser.

Mah Jongg Fundraiser

Our Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration fundraiser was a smashing success! Sixty people played mah jongg for 2 hours at Bradenton Recreation Center. When play ended, we drew tickets for 50/50 and gifts. Players enjoyed the event and an "exit poll" suggested we should host the event again next year. . .if not sooner. Between registration fees and ticket sales, we made a profit of \$1,483, which will go toward scholarships and camperships.



Sixty people played mah jongg



We used the event for recognition and branding as well as fundraising. On our snack table (pictured at left), we displayed two tri-fold posters that depict our mission-driven activities. We also exhibited the prizes on a separate table, and we displayed our mission/vision poster next to it.

I would like to thank members Ann Marie Lombardi, Carmel Leese, and Kathy Howe as well as non-member Bonnie Nicholson for their donations of gifts for prizes. These beautiful handmade gifts were so impressive that ticket purchases for the prize drawings contributed close to \$300 to our total.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members who came to assist with the event: Kathy Mason, Liz Schweers, Kathy Howe, Mary Terrazas, Lucie Jones, Sharon Squires, Patti DuBois, and Cathy Cirocco. All helped arrange the room and clean up afterward. Sharon and Patti greeted players in the lobby of the recreation center and checked them in on our players list. Mary and Lucie – helpers extraordinaire – sold 50/50 and prize drawing tickets in the lobby while players waited for the doors to open as well as throughout the evening. They also, along with Kathy, Cathy, and Liz replenished players coffee, water, and snacks throughout the evening. All these women worked hard and contributed enormously to the success of this event. Thank you, my friends; I couldn't have done it without you!

Linda Carpenter, event organizer

Activities

International Food Tasting and Dance Performance

The Diversity Committee has postponed the International Food Tasting and Dance Performance scheduled for April 2, 2019. There were many other AAUW functions scheduled in the days and weeks surrounding the event, and that competition for time may have led to low registrations. The committee has rescheduled for **October 25**, so save the date.

To make sure we're on the right track and to gauge member interest in this event, the committee sent an email message to the members with a link to an electronic survey. Close to 40 percent of our membership completed the survey; thanks to everyone who responded. The committee now has a good idea of how to organize the event and they will begin planning at their next meeting on April 19. Contact Linda Carpenter if you would like to join the committee.

Singles Group

Carolyn Johnson hosted a game night for our Singles group on March 8. Everyone enjoyed playing Mexican Train and Rummikub and enjoyed delicious snacks and desserts. We will be getting together to learn to play Croquet in the Village of Fenney followed by dinner on April 2.

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 Mondays at 1:00 p.m. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com). The April bridge dates are April 8 and 22.

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 April bridge dates are April 4 and 18

Mah Jongg

Our April mah jongg games will be held at the following members' homes: Please call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for sets, tables, and other needs.

- April 1 Barbara Fisler,
471 Gaskin Lane (Amelia)
(352) 446-0039
email: kiddielit5@comcast.net
- April 15 June Love
17880 SE 89th Natchez Ave. (Piedmont)
(352) 259-3967
email: 12dlove99@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
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 Califf's of Baghdad, Georgia</i>	Mary Helen Stefaniak	Kathy Mason
July 17	<i>The House of Broken Angels</i>	Luis Alberto Urrea	Blanche Boyone

Calendar

Time	Dates	Event	Location and Contact
Board Meeting	April 2	10:00 a.m.	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	April 20	Doors open at 9:15 a.m.	Allamanda Rec Center
Singles	April 2		Call Carolee Litwinka for information (352.750.0617)
Mah Jongg	April 1 and 15	1:00 p.m.	See Activities (page 10) for location
Monday Bridge	April 8 and 22	1:00 p.m.	Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
Thursday Bridge	April 4 and 18	1:00 p.m.	Anne Schlick (352-217-2716; aroyrogers@centurylink.net)
Book Club	April 17	10:30 a.m.	North Lake Presbyterian Church

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



Deadline for the May newsletter will be **April 20**. Presently, I am sailing the Pacific, but will be back to put out the May edition. Many thanks for all the submissions! Special thanks to super editor and tutor Linda Carpenter. Please continue to use the newsletter email address below for submissions.

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

National: <https://www.aauw.org>
State: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net>
Local: <https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>