

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

September 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



Welcome Back! We hope you had a very enjoyable summer. We both spent time in our home states up north and are now refreshed and anxious to get back to life in The Villages.

September marks the beginning of a new year, number 41 in our Branch, with many opportunities for you to be involved. Our first meeting will be held at Fish Hawk Recreation Center on September 21 starting at 9:15 A.M. It will showcase our many committees and interest groups, giving everyone a chance to talk with their leaders and join in the fun.

If you have been wanting to get more involved working with our leadership team but weren't sure where, here are some current board openings: Co-Chair of Finance, Webmaster for the Branch website, College/University Partner Relations, and Speakers' Bureau. Please let one of us know your interest and we will be delighted to talk with you about the responsibilities of each position.

We look forward to meeting our new members and to working with all of you on our biannual fund raiser chaired by Diane Jacobson which will be held on Sunday, February 23 at the Savannah Center.

Carolee and Linda

Centennial Celebration

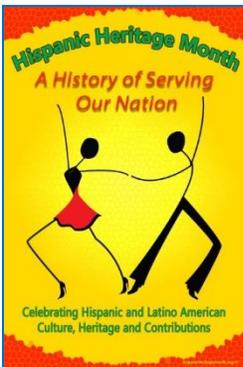
The 100th Anniversary of Women FIGHTING for the right to vote is on! Check out this [parody](#) of Lady Gaga's *A Bad Romance* to help explain the fight to your grandchildren.

Scholarship



Congratulations to our scholarship winners. They were honored at our May General Meeting. Pictured from left to right: Carolyn Johnson, Scholarship Committee Chair; Hannah Harrington, 2019 winner; Deanna Geisel, 2018 winner; and Josie Goodman, 2019 winner.

September Heritage Month Celebrates Hispanics



The 2019 Hispanic Heritage Month theme, **Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation**, invites us to reflect on Hispanic Americans' service and contributions to the history of the United States. Some of these individuals and their achievements include:

Albert Baez – Co-inventor of the X-ray microscope and the X-ray telescope

Joan Baez – Folk singer and social justice activist

Julian Castro – 2020 presidential candidate and former

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta – Founders of the United Farm Workers union

Roberto Clemente – First Latin American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame

Rodolfo Gonzalez – Poet and champion of the Chicano movement

Sylvia Mendez – Student whose California court case paved the way for school desegregation in the US, later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Ellen Ochoa – First Hispanic astronaut and former Director of Johnson Space Center

Dr. Severo Ochoa – Biochemist awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for the synthesis of RNA (ribonucleic acid)

Jorge Ramos – Spanish-language news anchor and winner of eight Emmy Awards

Alfred Velazquez Rascon – Medal of Honor recipient and 10th director of the Selective Service System

Sonia Sotomayor – Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

Nydia Velazquez – First Puerto Rican elected to Congress, serving since 1993

General Meetings

Saturday September 21, 2019

The first AAUW General Meeting for the 2019-2020 program year will be September 21 at the **Fish Hawk Recreation Center** (2318 Buttonwood Run, The Villages 32162). Doors will open at 9:15 a.m.

LOCATION CHANGE for this month only: Fish Hawk Recreation Center!!!!

Our September meeting will be an AAUW Open House. The program will feature information tables for all Special Interest Groups and selected Committees. Each table will be staffed by group and committee members, so you will be able to get answers to questions you may have. In addition, we will view a PowerPoint presentation about our branch, which was created for use by our to-be-developed Speakers' Bureau, and we will ask members for feedback about it.

At the meeting, you will be invited to visit each group's and committee's table and, if you have any interest in the activity or committee, to sign up. We will distribute a "passport" to each member attending. As you visit each table, you will get a sticker to acknowledge you have been there. At the end of the meeting, we will have a prize drawing for the members that visited each table and completed their passport.

The September meeting will give us an opportunity to visit with fellow members as we enjoy snacks and fruit, check out the opportunities for service and fun within our branch, and receive a Survival Kit for 2020. Come join us as we get reacquainted and begin the new year for AAUW.

Saturday October 19, 2019

The AAUW October 19, 2019, meeting will feature a program about women and breast cancer. If you would like to be included in this program, please respond to this request. We are looking for members who are willing to share their experience about their own breast cancer (limited to 5 minutes) OR members who would like to be acknowledged for surviving breast cancer.

Our speaker will be a physician who will give us information about new advances and treatments for this kind of cancer.

Anyone who responds to either Marianne Bender-Powers or Dorothy Dobbs will be contacted about your participation in this program. We would like a response from you by October 1, 2019. Thank you for your willingness to share.

Summer Happenings

Women United Awards AAUW \$5,000



WOMEN UNITED is a group of articulate, interesting, and civic-minded women who have joined together to make their community a better place to live. And they raise money to give to deserving organizations to do just that! On Wednesday June 26, Linda Carpenter gave an impassioned speech about AAUW and specifically about Tech Trek.

On that night at the Art Center in Leesburg, one of the three presenting organizations would walk away with \$5,000. The other two would each get \$500 for their project. Our “ask” was in good company: The League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area and Beautiful Girls, a Leesburg-based foundation. After the voting by the members present, and much chewing of fingernails. . . we were not chosen as the winner. However, the organizer of the event, Karen Elliott, was so impressed with all three projects that she vowed to raise money to award \$5,000 to all three projects. So, the next time you see Linda Carpenter, congratulate her on her wonderful and persuasive presentation. And thanks, too, to all our AAUW members who showed up to lend their support. Tech Trek can now count on \$5,000 for camperships for next summer.

VPK Presentation to U/U Church

Although our branch Speakers’ Bureau is still in development (see page X), it got a first chance to test its wings when Susan Gold and Linda Carpenter were invited to address the Forum part of the Sunday morning service at the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Summerfield on July 7, 2019. After a brief introduction about AAUW, Susan and Linda gave a 40-minute PowerPoint presentation about the 3-year Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) project that Lake / Sumter AAUW conducted in collaboration with the League of Women Voters



of The Villages/Tri-County Area. While there was little time for questions, follow-up critiques from our supporters in the room suggested ways we could streamline the presentation in the future.

Summer Breakfasts

Tuesday morning breakfasts! A fun part of the summer and a great way for people to learn about AAUW!



Equalitea

It was a full house plus for our annual EqualiTea! More tables were added and the 100 plus women AND men enjoyed a talk by Carolyn Ingham on Alice Paul. A great way to kick off the centennial celebration!



Fundraising

International Food Tasting & Dance Performance

The Diversity Committee has reconfigured the International Food Tasting and Dance Performance as an open-to-the-public fundraiser. Based on feedback from the survey the committee conducted last spring, engaging restaurants to provide the food samples was clearly the way to go for this event. So, here are the details:

International Food Tasting and Dance Performance
Fundraiser
Friday, October 25, 2019
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:45 p.m.)
Fish Hawk Recreation Center
\$20/person
BYOB

Eight restaurants/vendors have committed to providing food samples. Cuisines represented will be Asian Fusion, Greek, Italian, Mexican, Polish, and Vietnamese. The Villages Grown will be providing greens, and the Red Rooster Cookie Jar will be providing cookies with an international flair.

The planning committee knows that many people are vegetarian or have other dietary restrictions. We have requested that restaurants provide some vegetarian samples.

The Villages International Folk Dancers will entertain with several dances, largely from Central Europe. Guests who wish to join the dances will have the opportunity to do so.

A flyer about the event and the reservation form are on our branch website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>). Or contact Jeannie Hamilton and she will send them to you. We will also have some forms available at the September 21 General Meeting

Because this event is open to the public, please share the flyer and reservation form with your friends and neighbors.

Register Soon. . .Seating is Limited

Music of the Night Gala Dinner and Show

Save February 23, 2020, and plan to attend as we celebrate women and girls at this not-to-be-missed event. Details will be announced during the September General Meeting.



Annual Jewelry Raffle



It's time again to say "thank you" to **Gold in Art** for their donation of a beautiful 14 karat gold mesh bracelet valued at \$4,000 and to **you** for supporting our scholarship program. To show our appreciation, for every \$5 you donate your name will be included in a chance drawing for the bracelet. Pick up drawing tickets in packets of 5 or 10 and

share the opportunity to win the bracelet with your friends and neighbors. The drawing will be February 23 at the Music of the Night Gala. Carolyn Johnson (352 775-0084) can answer your questions. Support our Scholarship Program with a generous donation. [Gold in Art Jewelers](#) is located at 103 Clay Avenue, Lady Lake. The location is on the southeast corner of the intersection of Clay Avenue and CR 466. Stop in any time to browse. And be sure to tell them you're from AAUW.

Public Policy

Since 2015, our local AAUW branch along with the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area (LWVTRI) have been studying local Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs. In a quick summary, our multi-year study involved two dozen members who conducted observations and interviewed teachers and directors in 23 VPK programs in the tri-county area. Results showed the program is low quality, as opposed to the high-quality program that voters approved in 2002. In addition, the program, which is funded solely by the state, is severely *under-funded*; and teachers need specific training on how to plan and deliver more effective learning experiences for the 4-year-olds they serve. The project now has moved to the advocacy phase with active lobbying of local legislators.

On August 2, Susan Gold and Gail Formanack met with Representative Brett Hage (District 33) in his office in The Villages to discuss improvements for Voluntary Pre-

Kindergarten (VPK) that might be possible during the next legislative session. Representative Hage placed a call to Representative Vance Aloupis from South Florida who is writing a big new bill for Early Childhood Education. Representative Hage agreed to co-sponsor that bill and said we could use his name in meeting with other legislators. Given the publicity surrounding the “42% failure rate” of VPK children not ready for kindergarten last year, he believes Education Commissioner Corcoran will be on board and Governor DeSantis will be willing to sign this new legislation.

Gail Formanack and a colleague from the LWVTRI were scheduled to meet with Representative Anthony Sabatini (District 32), however he was called away unexpectedly for National Guard Training. They did have a productive conversation with his aide who coincidentally was set to send her 4-year-old to VPK the following Monday. She promised to send our information along to Representative Sabatini.

Other of our advocates met with Senator Kelli Stargel at her Lakeland office in early August. She is on the Education Committee and chairs the Education Appropriations Committee. She also listened to our issue with interest and we hope she will support a funding increase for VPK.

Interested members can find reports from this project on our branch website (<https://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net>).

This could be the year early childhood advocates have been working for! We certainly hope so.



International Food Tasting

We need 15 volunteers for the International Food Tasting and Dance Performance. They will function as greeters, servers, or runners and will be able to take seats for the remainder of the event after each guest has been served once. All volunteers will need to pay the reservation fee. Contact Linda Carpenter (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.

Board Openings

There are several board openings...please see Linda or Carolee for details if you are interested: Co-Chair of Finance, Webmaster for the Branch website, College/University Partner Relations, and Speakers' Bureau.

Community News



Beacon College

Beacon College has announced its Salon Series for 2019-2020. Inspired by the Paris salons of the Enlightenment, the series offers interesting and stimulating presentations along with “heavy hors d’oeuvres” (read: “dinner”). The September 25th program at the Wildwood Community Center will be Seth Bramson talking about the *Three Henrys: The Three Great Henrys Who Built Florida*. Admission is free but a reservation is required. Get more information about the full series [here](#). What a great opportunity for knowledge and entertainment at no cost! Why not get a group together and attend?

Activities

Fall Outing Features Mt. Dora Boat Tour

Our fall outing is scheduled for Thursday, November 7. It will consist of a trip to Mt. Dora for a relaxing pontoon boat ride with Premier Boat Tours followed by a Mediterranean lunch at the Olive Branch, a newer restaurant near the boat dock. After lunch, we will drive a few blocks to see a home painted to look like Van Gogh's famous painting, *Starry, Starry Night*. Those who may wish to stay and shop in Mt. Dora will make that decision with their driver and the other passengers in the vehicle. We will depart from the Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center (near the pool) at 9:30 a.m. The two-hour boat ride will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m. We will then take a short walk to the restaurant.

The cost of the boat ride will depend on the number going. It will be \$24 if we have 16 or more participants; \$25 if we have 11 to 15 participants. Each participant will pay her own fare at the boat dock and may opt to tip the driver/guide upon leaving the boat. Each participant will also cover the cost of her own lunch at the restaurant. Most entrees run between \$11 and \$13. Each participant is also asked to give \$5.00 to her driver to help cover the cost of gasoline and use of the car.

To register for the trip, contact Kate Manion by email at kmanion52@gmail.com or by phone at 352-689-2626. If you are willing to drive, you should also let Kate know and tell her how many persons you can take in your vehicle. We will likely need between five and six drivers.

Speakers' Bureau

As part of our recognition and branding initiative, our branch hopes to launch a speakers' bureau, which will be used as a mechanism for increasing the public's awareness of AAUW. At the moment, the "Speakers' Bureau Committee" is a name in search of members. Jacquie Latzer, Susan Gold, Linda Carpenter, and Liz Schweers have begun some work to develop this committee. For example, Susan and Linda created the VPK PowerPoint (see page 3) as well as a glossy brochure, and Jacquie and Linda created an Introduction to AAUW PowerPoint presentation, which will be presented at our September General Meeting (see page Y). Additional topics, such as Tech Trek, are being considered. We have also gathered templates for messages related to speaking engagements.

While the current "committee members" are willing to serve on the Speakers' Bureau Committee, they would like to have a leader as well as additional committee members. The Speakers' Bureau itself will also need speakers and assistants. . .members who are willing to present any of the slideshows the committee develops or accompany the speaker to engagements.

So. . .If you are interested in working on the Speakers' Bureau – either as a committee member or as a speaker – please contact any of the four current committee members. And let us know of clubs/organizations that may want to hear from us.

Mah Jongg

Our September games will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the following members' homes. Please call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game.

Tuesday, September 3 - the game will be held at the home of Barbara Fisler, 471 Gaskin Lane (Village of Amelia), The Villages, FL 32162. (352-446-0039; kiddielit5@comcast.net).

Monday September 16 - the game will be held at the home of Carol Sellers, 372 Hengan Pl (Village of Mallory), The Villages, FL 32162. (352-259-5410; robertsellers@embarqmail.com).

Bridge

Lake/Sumter AAUW offers two bridge groups. Dates of the 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 second and fourth Monday's at 1:00 p.m. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com). The September bridge dates are September 9 and 23.

Thursday Bridge will resume the first Thursday in September. Any member interested in playing regularly the first and third Thursdays please send your name, phone number, and email address to Mary Ann Swisher (mjswisher@icloud.com).

International food Tasting and Dance Performance

October 25, 2019

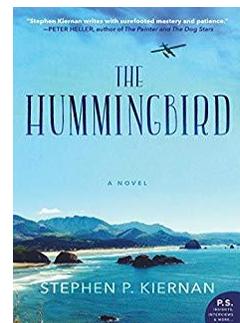
Don't forget to send in your reservation!

Book Club

The Diversity Book Club is pleased to welcome both current and new book club members to an exciting year of reading pleasure. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Peace Room of the North Lake Presbyterian Church on Rolling Acres Road, behind the Home Depot. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends between 11:30 a.m. and noon, after which we adjourn to a local restaurant for lunch. A listing of the books we will be reading this year is shown below. Our book discussions are always stimulating and thought-provoking and all AAUW members are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Kate Manion.

This Month: *The Hummingbird* by Stephen Kiernan.

A seasoned hospice nurse's skill are tested when her easygoing husband, Michael, returns from his third deployment to Iraq haunted by nightmares, anxiety, and rage. Simultaneously, her primary patient, an embittered professor, is dying, and his stories give the nurse insight that enables her to help her husband battle his demons.



Diversity Book Club 2019-20 Reading List			
Date	Title	Author	Discussion Leader(s)
Sept 18	<i>The Hummingbird</i>	Stephen P. Kiernan	Blanche Boyne
Oct 16	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Celeste Ng	Barb Blatchford
Nov 20	<i>The Art of Dying Well; Being Mortal; OR Proof of Heaven</i>	Katy Butler, Arul Gawande, Eber Alexander	Kate Manion, Ginny Rivera, and Cathy Cirocco
Dec 18	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>		
Jan 15	<i>Carnegie's Maid</i>	Marie Benedict	Mary Ann Swisher
Feb 19	<i>The Girl with Seven Names</i>	Hyeonseo Lee	Diane Jacobson
March 18	<i>The Jungle</i>	Upton Sinclair	Peg Tabor
April 15	<i>America for Beginners</i>	Lea Franqui	Linda Carpenter
May 20	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	Toni Morrison	Ginny Rivera
June 17	<i>The Island of the Sea Women</i>	Lisa See	Sue Nelson
July 15	<i>Our Souls at Night</i>	Kent Haruf	Carmel Leese
Aug 20	<i>Select Books for Next Year</i>		Kate Manion

Membership

We have gained several new members over the summer. Contact information for them will be included in the October newsletter

Calendar

Time	Dates	Event	Location and Contact
Board Meeting	September 10	1:00 p.m. - NOTE TIME CHANGE	Sheriff Annex Building
Monthly Meeting	September 21	Doors Open at 9:15 a.m.	Fish Hawk Recreation Center NOTE LOCATION CHANGE
Singles	Sept 29		Home of Kate Manion
Mah Jongg	September 3	1:00 p.m.	Contact Barbara Fisler (352.446.0039)
Mah Jongg	September 16	1:00 p.m.	Contact Carol Sellers (352.259.5410)
Monday Bridge	September 9 and 23	1:00 p.m.	Cindy Anderson (352-430-5856; cmc37738@yahoo.com)
Thursday Bridge	September 5 and 19	1:00 p.m.	Mary Ann Swisher mnjswisher@icloud.com .
Book Club	September 18	10:30 a.m.	North Lake Presbyterian Church

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



Deadline for the October newsletter will be **September 20**. Special thanks to super editor and tutor Linda Carpenter. Please continue to use the newsletter email address below for submissions.

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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