

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

December 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



Thanks to all of you who joined us for the November meeting to hear from the women who served in the military. We had a record turnout and had to add more tables and chairs.

In addition to our guest speakers, one of our newer members, Laura McLaughlin, shared her story as a "Donut Dolly" working for the Red Cross in Viet Nam. After graduating from college, she was looking for adventure and spent a year helping to entertain our troops. Her mother was elated when Laura arrived home safely and went to work in a more traditional job in corporate America. Eventually she moved to Jacksonville, FL, where she met Angela Vickers. Now they are close neighbors in The Villages and active members in our branch.

A reminder to all of you to invite your family and friends to our big fund raiser "Music of the Night" on February 23, 2020. We really need your support.

The calendar at the end of this newsletter is a new format. Please let editor Beth Hicks which type of calendar you prefer.

This is the season we count our blessings and help those in need. We wish you the best for the holidays!

Linda Ferens and Carolee Litwinka

# Board News

## Election Process Changing

In past years the election for Directors of Programs and Finance have been held in even numbered years and the election of Directors for Membership and Secretary have been held in odd numbered years. This practice has resulted in two new people in a specific office who have no knowledge of the procedures and practices required to accomplish the goals of the position.

After considerable discussion the Board agreed to change the procedure to ensure that an experienced person is always in each position (i.e., Programs, Finance, Membership, Secretary). To transition to the new procedure with the 2020 election, one person will be elected for one year and one for two years for each of the four positions. Where two people are currently in a position, one person will step down. This practice should facilitate smooth transitions. In future elections, one person will be elected annually to a two-year term for each of the four positions.

## Public Policy

### Voter Registration

Diane Reichert, branch Public Policy chair, met with Sumter County Board of Elections recently. They have already visited the Villages Charter High School and Lake Sumter State College to register new voters. They will be doing another round of registration visits next year. Diane asked them to include Beacon College on their list of places to go and register voters.

To register voters, groups must be certified. At this time, AAUW does not have that certification so we cannot do voter registration drives on our own. Moving forward towards a voter registration goal will require some thought and planning.

With respect to the legislative agenda and lobbying, the list of AAUW-supported bills should be coming out soon. Diane Jacobson will be attending Lobby Days in January. Members interested in participating in Lobby Days can contact Diane Reichert or Diane Jacobson

## How the Wage Gap Hurts Women in Retirement (from National AAUW News)

"The gender pay gap, which begins as soon women enter the workforce and grows throughout their working life, continues to disadvantage women during their retirement years, according to a new analysis by the American Association of University Women.

Women collect only about 80 percent of what men do in Social Security benefits, a result of the fact that women have earned less than men throughout their life, and therefore have paid less into the Social Security system.

Women's pension income is only 76 percent of that collected by men. Women's overall retirement income, which includes Social Security, pension, interest, and dividend income and other sources of income, is only 70 percent of men's retirement income . . ."

To combat the wage gap, AAUW National offers Work Smart Online, a free one-hour course designed to train women in salary negotiation. The course is open to members and non-members, and to women and men. Tell your children and grandchildren who are still in the workforce. Check our Branch website for the pointer to the WORK SMART online training.

## Diversity

The theme for 2019 National American Indian Heritage Month is "Honoring Our Nations: Building Strength Through Understanding." In this year's poster design, the names of the 573 federally recognized tribal nations are highlighted. The eagle was chosen as the focal point because it is highly revered and considered sacred within American Indian and Alaskan Native traditions, culture, and religion. The eagle represents truth, courage, wisdom, power, and freedom.



## Meetings

### November Meeting Sights: A Salute to Female Veterans

The president of the Tri County Women Veterans Villages Group, Sue Roper, and 10 members of that group were our guests at our November meeting. Of those present. 4 of these veterans shared their life experiences in the military.

1. Gwen Gibson, a retired Army Colonel in the Army who gave 30 years of service;
2. Joan Wentz, a retired Air Force Captain Nurse serving in Desert Storm;
3. Kay Watkins, a retired Navy Senior Chief who completed her Masters and PhD after her years of service;
4. Michelle Boshears, a retired Army Major who served as a Quartermaster Officer during her career.

We also heard from one of our own members, Laura McLaughlin, who was a Red Cross "Donut Dolly" and served "in country" at various "landing zones" for a year in Vietnam.

Our special guest was 99-year-old WW II Navy nurse, Jean Bailey, who served in the Philippines and Japan.

Just a postscript to the wonderful speakers who shared so many military experiences: You might remember Kay Watkins telling about the error in the large amounts of oatmeal the military supply ship had on hand. The oatmeal did not go to waste. It was distributed to surrounding countries in the Kuwait area. Thanks to Kay for all the laughs you offered us in relating your stories.



## December Program

Our Holiday Luncheon, on Saturday, December 7, will be held at Continental Country Club located on Country Road 44 in Wildwood. If you have not already signed up and paid for the luncheon, you can pay at the door if you have contacted Dorothy or Marianne to add your name to the list. If your name is on the list, you can pay the \$25.00 cost of the luncheon at the door (cash or check). This is a buffet luncheon – you do not have to choose a meal in advance. Please join us for Fun, Food, and Fellowship from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

## January Program

Saturday, January 18, 2020 will be our monthly meeting at Allamanda Recreation Center. The program will be a presentation by our TEK TREK summer campers. Additionally, there will be a power point presentation by Linda Carpenter regarding the 4-year study of the VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten) program. Doors open at 9:15 AM.

## Membership



The new members coffee was held on November 9 at the beautiful home of member Anne Sobocinski. Board members and committee chairs contributed the delicious refreshments and our hospitality committee co-chairs, Linda Clark and Sharon Squires outdid themselves by bringing the coffee, sugar, cream, plates and silverware. Fifteen new members attended and all were able to get to know one another in an informal setting. After refreshments, new members were paired with “seasoned” members and were asked to tell them about themselves for about two minutes. Then the seasoned members introduced each new member to the group. As they were doing their introductions, they also briefly talked about their position in AAUW and asked for help, if new members were needed. A

big thanks to Dorothy Dobbs and Marianne Bender-Powers for their wonderful suggestion on how to make the introductions fun!

A good time was had by all. If you are a new member but were unable to attend the new member coffee, please call either Liz Schweers at 850-247-9489 or Susan Gold at 352-633-9967 and we will be happy to give you a quick orientation over the phone.

## Member Update

Please update your directory with Anne Schlick's new email address:  
[aschlick86@gmail.com](mailto:aschlick86@gmail.com).

# Fundraising

## Spice and Tea Exchange Fundraiser

Reminder: Do your gift shopping at the Spice & Tea Exchange in Brownwood during Dec 1 -7 and AAUW will receive 10% of the store's sales. Please tell your friends, bring them with you and help us make more money for scholarships for our local women and girls. And when you are in there you may want to mention AAUW, but we will receive 10% of all sales for the week, not just from AAUW members. You might want to thank the owner, Jody Nelson, when you are in there.

We have another win/win opportunity. How great is that!

## Save the date! March 20, 2020

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Play for a Purpose Fundraiser Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration will be held at Truman Recreation Center on Friday, March 20, 2020. Unfortunately, you must have a Villages ID, or guest pass to participate at this venue. Diane Jacobson is looking for help to host this fun party. Let her know if you can help, non-players are most welcome as volunteers, contact Diane at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) to let her know you would like to help

## Jewelry Raffle



Just a reminder that the Scholarship Committee will be looking for ticket donations for the beautiful gold mesh bracelet, until Music in the Night on February 23rd. This bracelet can pay for one scholarship if there are enough donations. Right now, we are only a third of the way to that goal. I am

sure you all enjoyed reading the notes from our present recipients, all of whom, I might add, expressed gratitude to AAUW for our support. Dig deep, ask your friends and neighbors! Great stocking fillers! How about bridge and mah jongg prizes? Suggested donation is \$5 per ticket.

## Music of the Night – Dinner and Show



**Music of the Night – February 23, 2020  
Savannah Center – 5:00 until 8:30 p.m.**

Do you have your table reservation? Need help filling out a table of 8? No worries. Simply follow the instructions on the table reservation form which can be found on the “fundraising section” at [lakesumter-fl.aauw.net](http://lakesumter-fl.aauw.net). We’ll match you with others for a full table.



### Board Openings

See Linda or Carolee for details if you are interested in co-Chair of Finance or Webmaster for the branch website. Fundraising is looking for some workers for upcoming events.

## Scholarship News

News from our past winners....

### Suzanne Char

I hope you are doing well! My fall semester is going well. This semester I am taking 5 classes (15 credits), doing research under the LEAD Scholars Academy and volunteering at Shepherd’s Hope which is a free clinic for uninsured patients. I am enjoying my classes so much and all of them related to health and diseases.

Today, I presented my research as a poster presentation and it was about “The Epidemic of Cardiovascular Diseases in The United States: A System of The Food Industry and Health Insurance Status.” The presentation went very well and I was selected as one of the winners for my program. This is my fourth research project under LEAD and will be my last one.

I got an opportunity to work with one of my professors on an undergraduate thesis project. I will be working on my thesis during spring 2020 and summer 2020 and it will

be published by the end of summer. The topic is going to be about cardiovascular disease but I am still working with my mentor to finalize the topic. I am super excited about this opportunity because my mentor is a physician and has a PhD in public health so he is an expert on this topic and will help me in the future as when I get to medical school.

As for my graduation timeline, after this semester, I have 4 classes left to graduate with my bachelor degree in Health Sciences. My plan is to take 2 classes in spring and 2 in summer so I will be able to work on my thesis. Additionally, this coming summer I will be applying to medical schools. I decided to take a year off between undergraduate and medical school just to take break and relax a little before medical school. Also, I got my CNA license last week to volunteer as CNA in the clinic and hopefully find a job as a CNA during my year off.

I hope all of the AAUW members are doing well and I cannot thank them enough for what they do for us students. This scholarship has been a huge help for me because I did not need to worry about paying for my classes and I was able to focus on what I love (research and volunteering)

## **Hanna Kouch**

Things are going great. I am making all A's in my classes. I currently work in the Operating Room as a circulator nurse and am loving it! I especially love general surgery and is what I will most likely specialize in. Next semester is my final semester before I earn my BSN in the spring. I am excited that I will be going on to earn my Master's in Nursing degree either the fall of the 2020 or spring of 2021. I would like to specialize in Family Nurse Practitioner.

I have really been enjoying my community health class and learning more about how nurses can help out in the community. Since I work in the OR, a group of coworkers and myself have stashed away the packaging wrapper material and are sewing them into sleeping bags for the homeless.

I hope all is going well with you! Thank you again for sponsoring my education and my career.

## **Deanna Hammett**



Everything's going great! I making A's in all my classes. Juggling work, kids, school and teaching yoga. Life is good! I am extremely grateful for all of your ladies help with my education in my life. I never could've done this without you. I will put the event in my calendar. I'm usually free on Sunday night so it shouldn't be a problem. I would love to come! I'm sorry it took so long to get back to you. I hope all of you are doing well too!

## Community News



### Beacon College

The Beacon College Salon Series is inspired by the Paris salons of the Enlightenment. The series offers interesting and stimulating presentations along with “heavy hors d’oeuvres” (read: “dinner”). Admission is free but a reservation is required. Get more information about the full series [here](#).

December's program will be Wednesday, December 4 at Venetian Gardens in Leesburg. The speaker will be Everett Spruill; his talk is titled “The Art of Jazz and Blues and Rock and soul. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m., but the doors open for hors d’oeuvres at 6:00 p.m.

## Activities

### Day Trips



On Thursday, November 7, 2019, 13 members (pictured at left) traveled to Mt. Dora to take a 2-hour excursion on a pontoon boat to see the types of birds, plants, and wildlife that make their homes in central Florida. After the tour, the group had lunch nearby at the Olive Branch.

Our spring AAUW day trip will be a 4-hour cruise on the Starlite Majesty Dining Yacht traveling along the smooth inland waterways of Pinellas County and going under six bridges along the way. The boat departs from St.

Pete Beach at 11:30 am on Thursday, February 27, 2020 and travels north through some of the most beautiful waterfront vistas along the coast.

You will also enjoy a complete sit-down lunch with your choice of entrees including Shrimp Creole, From the Wharf, Vegetarian Harvest, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Caesar Salad and Beef Burgundy served with a house salad, bread, dessert, coffee and tea.

We will return to Clearwater Beach at 3:30 pm. The cost is \$87 payable to Senior Adventures, and it includes bus, entertainment, a 4-hour cruise and lunch. We leave The Villages at 9:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. To register, contact Senior Adventures at 352-753-5404 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and be sure to tell them that you are with the AAUW group so that they seat us together. Please note that your payment is non-refundable.

We are notifying you far in advance of this trip so that you have ample time to register and secure a seat on the bus. I was afraid that if we waited until January to tell you about this adventure, we might be disappointed in finding that the trip is sold out or that only a limited number of seats are still available.

Kate Manion ([kmanion52@gmail.com](mailto:kmanion52@gmail.com))

## Singles Group



On October 31, members of the Singles Group and guests saw Cirque Du Soleil at Amalie Ice Arena in Tampa.

Pictured (l to r) are Betty Lemley, Kathy Mason, Carolyn Pasquale, Marianne Bender-Powers, Jeannie Hamilton, Kate Manion, and Pat Wilson.

We have enjoyed several activities together recently and have plans for more in the next few months.

The December 6 Christmas party at Kathy Mason's house has been cancelled because the date is too close to the branch Christmas party on December 7. Kathy will host a New Year's Day brunch, so add that to your calendar. More details to come. And many more activities planned for the New Year which you will be hearing about soon.

## Great Decisions



Great Decisions will be held starting January 6<sup>th</sup>. We have a few spots left in either the 8:30 or 10:05 sessions, email Diane Jacobson at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) if interested in signing up. Diane is also accepting briefing book orders until December 7<sup>th</sup> at \$32 per book. Refer to the November newsletter for details of session dates and subjects.

Non AAUW Members who participate are asked to donate \$20 to AAUW Lake/Sumter, briefing books are optional but it is advised that you either purchase one on line through the Foreign Policy Association or opt for Diane Jacobson to order it for \$32 each. Her deadline for ordering briefing books is December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Email Diane Jacobson [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) if you would like to participate.

## Mah Jongg

Our December mah jongg games will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the following members' homes:

- December 2nd June Love, 17880 SE 89th Natchez Ave. (Village of Piedmont), The Villages, FL 32162. Phone: (352) 259-3967; email: [12dlove99@embarqmail.com](mailto:12dlove99@embarqmail.com)
- December 16th Carol Sellers, 372 Hengan Pl., (Village of Mallory Square), The Villages, FL 32162. Phone: (352) 259-5410; email: [robertsellers@embarqmail.com](mailto:robertsellers@embarqmail.com)

Please call the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for tables, game sets, etc. We also welcome new players - beginners on up!

Please note that Carol Sellers will continue teaching a beginning class for those members desiring to learn how to play mah-jongg.

## Bridge

The Monday Bridge Group plays on the 2nd and 4th Monday's at 1:00 PM.. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson at (352)430-5856 or email [cmc37738@yahoo.com](mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com)

Thursday Bridge is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Members offer to host. 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](mailto:mjswisher@icloud.com)

## Book Club

<b>Diversity Book Club 2019-20 Reading List</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Discussion Leader(s)</b>
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

# December 2019

## Lake/Sumter AAUW Events



See articles in the Newsletter for details on the events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Mah Jongg	3 Board Meeting	4	5 Bridge	6	7 Holiday Luncheon
8	9 Bridge	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Mah Jongg	17	18 Book Club Holiday Luncheon	19 Bridge	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22	23 Bridge	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Singles Open House			

We are trying a new format for the calendar. Send your comments and suggestions to me at [aauwsnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsnews@gmail.com).

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS



**There will be a January newsletter.** Deadline will be December 20. This season, I am thankful for super editor and tutor Linda Carpenter. Also, a HUGE thank you to all who respected the due date for this issue! Please continue to use the newsletter email address below for submissions.

Editor: Beth Hicks  
[aauwsnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsnews@gmail.com)

### AAUW Websites

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