

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

April 2020



*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

We are thankful for all the inspiring meetings and enjoyable fund-raising events that our members supported this year. Because of the nasty virus we have had to cancel our March meeting and restrict our everyday activities. This seems to be the new normal for 2020 but we can do it. Let's reach out to friends and neighbors in small groups and give a helping hand where needed. Support each other with a phone call, an email or a card. Keep a positive attitude and stay healthy. We look forward to seeing you soon.

We are happy to announce that Terri Slotterback has "stepped up to the plate" and has been appointed as our co-Financial Director. She has taken office and will work with Peg Tabor. Welcome Terri!



Linda Ferens and Carolee Litwinka

## Nominating Committee

As a result of the current concern over the Coronavirus, your Board of Directors has decided not to have a March General Meeting. Since March is the month in which the Nominating Committee announces the proposed slate of directors for Board positions, we are using electronic mail to accomplish this. Your AAUW Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following members to serve for 2020-21:

Co-Presidents: Anne Wilkins\*, Katie Haviland\*

Co-Presidents-elect: Gay Birchard, Anne Sobocinski

Co-Secretaries: Sharron Albrecht\*, Nancy Hartshorn

Co-Membership: Susan Gold\*, Karen Pickelsimer

Co-Finance: Margie Hunt, Terri Slotterback  
Co-Program: Marianne Bender-Powers\*, Rose Boeckman

\*Directors who are continuing for the second year of a two-year term do not need to be re-elected.

You may also submit your own nomination for a director position by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee; any nomination requires the consent of the nominee. We anticipate voting on the nominated directors at the Annual Meeting in April. If the Coronavirus prevents an April meeting, the Board may authorize electronic voting.

Nominating Committee:  
Liz Schweers, Chair; Pam Cob, Katie Haviland

## April is Autism Awareness Month



Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that can affect individuals from every race, background, and socio-economic status. Raising awareness around this disability and supporting both those who have been diagnosed with autism and their families is the goal of this global event. Autism Awareness is represented by the color blue and multicolor puzzle pieces.

It is estimated that 1 in 59 children (1 in 37 boys; 1 in 151 girls) will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. No two cases of autism are the same and symptoms can vary from person to person. Individuals with autism often suffer from other medical conditions which may include allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, and sleeping disorders. While there is no cure for autism, early interventions and treatments are important for learning to adapt or overcome the various symptoms. Increased awareness spreads a sense of understanding among the public while urging doctors to continue research into new treatment plans.

**World Autism Awareness Day** is celebrated internationally every year on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. To show your support, you can **#LightItUpBlue** in your communities and dress in blue to recognize individuals living with autism.

# Membership

It is time to begin renewing annual memberships. We are following the guidelines and methods recommended by National AAUW. Annual dues are \$90 which include local, state, and national membership. Since it is likely that we will be unable to hold a monthly General Meeting in the near future, here are some renewal options:

- National AAUW will send you an e-mail renewal message with an easy-to-use link. You will click on the link and then be directed to enter credit card payment information. Unfortunately, the first amount you will see indicates dues are \$59 (that's actually what national dues are). However, when you enter the credit card information, your card will be charged the correct amount of \$90. Please print your receipt which is emailed to you. If you have any issues, please call National AAUW at 202-785-7700 or e-mail Peg Tabor (taborpeg@gmail.com), AAUW Lake/Sumter Finance Director.

OR

- Mail a check for \$90 to Peg Tabor, 3391 Empire Avenue, The Villages, FL 32163. Please indicate any changes you may have had in your contact information.

# Meetings and Programs

As you all are aware, the Board voluntarily cancelled our March meeting in order to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus. The topic for the meeting was to have been the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women in the USA the right to vote. Such a celebration is just too important to ignore and the planned program will be presented at another time, possibly at our September meeting. In the meantime, Program co-Chairs wanted to share this illustrated story with you. This is just to prepare you for the real program. Click [here](#) for the link. (You might need to hold down CTRL and then click to get to the link)

As for meetings for the remainder of the year (April and May), we just do not know at this time. We will have to wait and see how things fall into place with this pandemic virus crisis. If The Villages does re-open the recreation centers for indoor meetings, we will have to assess the status of the virus situation in order to determine if it is prudent to gather together. The April meeting is supposed to focus on the election and installment of new members of the board as well as the presentation of our scholarship winners. Stay tuned as we navigate our way through these difficult and unprecedented times. May we all emerge safe and sound when this crisis ends.

# Fundraising

## Planning for the 2020-2021 Year

Do you have an idea for a fundraiser for the 2020-2021 AAUW Lake/Sumter program year? Diane Jacobson <[chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com)> would like to hear about it. Instead of having a face to face meeting in April, Diane will be having an “email meeting” to review our 2019-2020 fundraising year and brainstorm ideas for 2020-2021. If you would like to be included in this process let Diane Jacobson know.

## Spice and Tea Exchange Luncheon



The Spice and Tea Exchange’s special noon lunch scheduled for Tuesday April 7 has not been cancelled to date. However, even if we can have the luncheon, we are limited to the 10 participants who have already bought tickets. Gay Birchard ([gaybirchard07@gmail.com](mailto:gaybirchard07@gmail.com)) is in contact with Spice and Tea Exchange to monitor the situation to be sure safety guidelines can be met.

## Farewell to the Old Card Mah Jongg

The 2nd Annual Play-for-a Purpose Mah Jongg Celebration, Farewell-to-the-Old-Card scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020, at the Truman Recreation Center unfortunately was cancelled due to the virus crisis. Several players who signed up for the event generously donated their registration fees to our Lake/Sumter branch. We are grateful for their generosity. Susan Gold deserves a big thank you for taking the reservations and doing the extra work of issuing credit as requested.

# Community News



## Beacon College

Beacon College Salon Series concludes the 2019-2020 season on April 8 with Byron Motley speaking on *The Negro Baseball Leagues: An American Legacy*. Check the website to make sure it has not been cancelled.

Inspired by the Paris salons of the Enlightenment, the series offers interesting and stimulating presentations along with “heavy hors d’oeuvres” (read: “dinner”) served at 6:00 p.m., with the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free but a reservation is required at <https://www.beaconcollege.edu/events/event/byron-motley/>.

## Diverse Activities Around the Villages

As the newsletter goes to press, the Recreation Centers are closed. Please check their schedule before heading out!

Club	Date	Event	Location
African American	April 4	Spring Tea	La Hacienda
Asian American	April 25 6:00 p.m.	Honoring Japan	La Hacienda
Argentine Tango	Fridays 1:30-3:00 p.m.	Dance Lessons	Odell
Argentine Tango	Saturdays 12:00-2:00 p.m.	Dance Lessons	Big Cypress
Brits n'Us	April 18 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Highland Games	Lake Miona
French Conversation	Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Conversation	Fish Hawk
French Study	Thursdays 12:30-2:00 p.m.	Anything French	Tierra del Sol
Italian Study	Tuesdays	Lessons	Lake Miona
Latin Dance Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	Latin Dance	Laurel Manor
Scottish American	Thursdays 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Bagpipe Band	Saddlebrook
Scottish American	Thursdays 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Country Dance	La Hacienda
Spanish is Fun	Thursdays 4:00-5:15 p.m.	Lessons	Colony Cottage
Spanish Conversation	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 3:30-5:00 p.m.	Conversation	Eisenhower
Spanish Study Group	Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.	Lessons	Colony Cottage
Square n Round Dance	Sundays 7:00 p.m.	Dance	La Hacienda
Square Dancing	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Square Dancing	Bradenton
Square Dancing	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Square Dancing	Sterling Heights

# Activities

## Day Trips



AAUW day trippers enjoyed a four-hour cruise on the Star Lite Majesty Dining Yacht on February 27. The bus trip, scenery on the waterway, narration, luncheon, and game time were delightful. Three spouses and a sister accompanied us. To add to the fun, talented and lucky AAUW members won at name-that-tune and bingo!

Day Trippers pictured left to right: Pam Cobb, Angela Vickers, Terri Slotterback, Cathy Cirocco, Ann Marie Lombardi, Manijeh Badiozamani, and Gay Birchard

## Singles Group

The Singles Group has nothing planned...it is in a holding pattern like so many other organizations. Marianne Bender-Powers has started an email for our group to share our experiences in this new environment and offer support.

## Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg has been cancelled for the month of April. Let's see how things are in May!

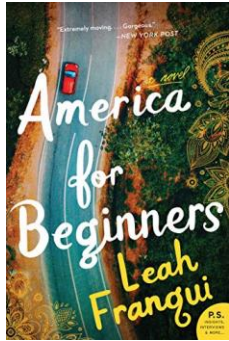
## Bridge

**The Monday Bridge Group** is on hold until further notice. They normally play on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:00 p.m. Contact Group Leader Cindy Anderson at (352) 430-5856 or [cmc37738@yahoo.com](mailto:cmc37738@yahoo.com).

**Thursday Bridge** is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month, if circumstances allow. 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 at [mnjswisher@icloud.com](mailto:mnjswisher@icloud.com).



## Diversity Book Club



The Book club is in a rather fluid situation...what else is new? Meetings will be determined as the situation warrants. Check with Peg Tabor when it gets near the meeting date.

Being Positive...*America for Beginners* explores the complexities of family, immigration, prejudice, and the American Dream through meaningful and unlikely friendships forged in unusual circumstances. This debut novel illuminates the unexpected enchantments life can hold and reminds us that our most precious connections aren't always the ones we seek.

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

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS



As always, the deadline for the May newsletter will be April 20. A HUGE thank you to all who respect the due dates for the newsletter. As we hunker down in our homes and feel isolated, don't forget to reach out to someone who might need a call!

[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>