

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

February 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



As we begin a new calendar year, we, as co-presidents, want to thank all the talented members who have served on the board or one of the many committees, the volunteers who make our branch function so well. The women in our Lake/ Sumter AAUW are wonderful to work with and willing to step up to the challenges. In our first six months we knew we had a great crew and now heading toward our final six months we truly appreciate everyone's participation.

Our primary goal is to increase revenue which provides scholarships to educate women and girls. It has been wonderful to see how well our members have supported our cause through a variety of fund raisers, both large and small. As you know, if we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot.

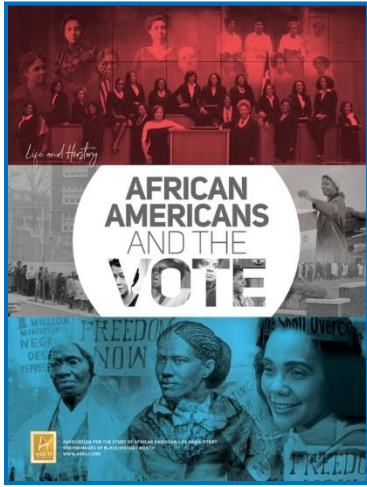
Ladies, when you are asked to serve please say YES. We need everyone to be involved. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our team where it is an honor to serve.

Linda Ferens and Carolee Litwinka

Officer Nominations

The ladies who attended the January General Meeting were inspired by three of our Tech Trek girls from last summer. Remember, it takes a village to support the many activities of our branch. Please consider becoming an active supporter of our branch by taking on one of the roles that your Nominating Committee is seeking to fill. Open positions for the 2020-21 year are: co-Presidents-elect (2); co-Secretary (1); Membership co-chair (1); Finance co-chair (1); and Program co-chair (1). All the open positions, except the co-Presidents-elect, will be filled with someone who will work with an established person who has been working for the previous year in the position. Co-Presidents-elect will work at the direction of the co-Presidents for the year prior to taking the role as co-Presidents. Positions are for 2 years. If you would like to know more about the specific duties, please contact Liz Schweers (850-247-9489).

Diversity - Black History Month



This year's theme for Black History Month, "African Americans and the Vote," recognizes the struggle for voting rights among both black men AND women throughout American history. 2020 is an important general election year and a landmark year for voting rights. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave the right to vote to black men following the Civil War. It also marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement.

Even before the Civil War, free black men petitioned state legislatures for the right to vote, but it wasn't until 1870 that the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified providing that "the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the basis of race, color or previous condition of servitude." Even so, southern state legislatures immediately began undermining the protections found in the new amendment. Years of lawsuits and protests followed, but it wasn't until the rise of the Civil Rights Movement and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the freedom to vote was enjoyed by a majority of southern blacks.

2020 AAUW Florida State Convention

Waves of Change – Oceans of Opportunity!



All AAUW members are welcome to attend the AAUW Florida State 2020 Convention. Additional information on the agenda will be out soon.

If you have never attended one of our State Conventions, 2020 would be year to add fun and education to your Florida history! Our branch always has shown interest in helping AAUW Florida membership grow and spread information on our tremendous successes in supporting women and girls.

Join your branch friends and leaders to meet other Florida members and exchange ideas. This is how we improve our branch every year – exchanging ideas and strengthening our leadership skills. This is a great way for new board members, committee chairpersons, and the many creative members of our branch to learn and grow.

When, Where, and How to Attend

- When: Saturday, April 18 – Sunday, April 19, 2020
- Where: Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center
- How: Reserve your room for April 17-19 at the group rate of \$116 per night. Use group code AAUW. Call 800-654-6216

Meetings

January Program

Our meeting was jam packed with people, guests, and information! Tech Trek campers gave PowerPoint presentations describing the areas of STEM that they studied while at camp last summer and shared some of the social aspects of their week-long stay. One requirement was that they put their phones away every day until late afternoon. Another event introduced the campers to women who are currently employed in professional occupations in engineering, science, technology, and mathematics. This experience broadened their understanding of the opportunities open to them as they continue their STEM studies.



L-R: Connie Konatsotis (AAUW Tech Trek Committee), Emma Braun, Marissa Couture, Dr. Peggy Irwin (Principal of The Villages Charter Middle School), Lily Liu, and Sharron Albrecht (AAUW Tech Trek Committee Chair).

The girls, now 8th graders at the Villages Charter Middle School attended the Tech Trek camps in June of 2019. Two other girls from Mt Dora Middle School attended the Tech Trek camps in 2019, but were not able to join us for our Saturday program



Following the Tech Trek campers' presentation, Linda Carpenter (pictured at left) gave an update of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten study AAUW did with the local League of Women Voters.

February Program

February will feature two talented and interesting women helping us to honor Black History Month. Katina Stephens, Regional Director of the Southern Christian Leadership (SCL) Foundation, which covers the states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, will share memories of her father who marched for four days from Selma, Alabama with Martin Luther King, Jr. She will also discuss the past and current challenges of the SCL

We will also hear from Cherlyn Gibson, a well-known performer and member of the Omega Sigma Theta Sorority founded in 1913 at Howard University. Her father also marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. She will present a medley of songs for the Civil Rights Movement. Doors open at 9:15 a.m., and the program will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Allamanda Recreation Center

March Program

In March, our program focus will be the 100th anniversary of woman gaining the right to vote. This program will be sponsored by the Sisters of Suffragettes , who represent 14 women's groups in the tri county area.

Fundraising

AAUW Member Creates Another Fun-d Raising Success

AAUW member, Linda Schnoll, is a talented jeweler and artist who in her past life owned her own jewelry store and gallery. Every year she holds what she calls a "Shopping Extravaganza" where she offers her jewelry and her pine needle enhanced pottery, glass, and gourds for sale. This year she was so inspired by the example of The Spice & Tea Exchange in Brownwood, she offered to do something similar to benefit AAUW. She decided to donate 10% of the sales from her "Shopping Extravaganza" to AAUW.

The event, held January 22 and 23, was a great success, open not only to AAUW members, but to friends and friends of friends. As a result, Linda has generously donated \$250 to our AAUW branch. Thank you to those of you who supported the "Shopping Extravaganza" and to Linda for sharing her talent, her generosity, and her concern for the local women and girls that the philanthropy of our branch supports.

Mah Jongg Farewell-to-the-Old-Card

Friday, March 20, 2020, at the Truman Recreation Center is the 2nd Annual Play-for-a-Purpose Mah Jongg Celebration. Say Farewell to the old card as you play at 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.) The cost is \$20 per person, but we ask that you register as a table of four; forms are available at the end of this newsletter. Limited

table space means you should register early and no later than the March 14 deadline. This event requires all participants to have a Villages ID or guest pass. This is not a tournament and playing for money is not allowed. You need to bring your own pusher and 2019 card. The fundraiser is a BYOB event, but decaf coffee will be available, and all players will receive a snack pack. Chance drawings for great prizes along with 50-50 tickets will be available. Contact Diane Jacobson (chasanddi@embarqmail.com) with questions.

Spice and Tea Exchange Luncheon



The Spice and Tea Exchange's special noon lunch will be Tuesday, April 7. Learn about using spice and tea varieties while enjoying a light lunch. The cost is \$15 per person and limited to 24. Tickets are on sale now; contact Gay Birchard (gaybirchard07@gmail.com) to get yours today.

The Spice and Tea Exchange is a great friend of AAUW Lake/Sumter, once again sharing a portion of their sales from the first week of December. We are grateful for their support, and it makes shopping in the store a win-win for everyone. This year we are thrilled to accept their donation of \$1,000. Next time you are in the store be sure to tell them Thank You from AAUW!

Jewelry Raffle



Time is running out for you to have a chance to win the beautiful gold bracelet donated by Gold In Art. Be sure to return your outstanding tickets to Carolyn Johnson either at the February 15 general meeting or at the Music of the Night event. For every \$5 you donate to the Lake/Sumter scholarship fund you get a chance to have your ticket be the winner.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the Music of the Night event February 23. You do not need to be present to win.

Music of the Night – Dinner and Show

Music of the Night reservation deadline is February 8. On Sunday, February 23 enjoy an evening to remember! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and you will have plenty of time to get your table assignment, find your seat, and buy your favorite drink from the cash bar - all before the plated dinner service starts at 5:30. Music by The Shades of Blue octet will help create an elegant atmosphere as we dine. Celebrate our philanthropic work as we meet past Tech Trek participants and college scholarship winners. After dinner sit back and



enjoy an hour-long stage show. . .and finally find out who won the beautiful gold bracelet donated by Gold in Art.

Unable to attend the event but would like to support the cause? Donations are most welcome. Thank you for your participation as we make this a super FUNdraiser.

Contact Char Griffin for reservations (MusicOfTheNight.AAUW@gmail.com). Contact Diane Jacobson (chasanddi@embarqmail.com) with donations.

Community News



Beacon College

Beacon College Salon Series continues on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. with author Karen Abbott. Her book *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* is the story of four women undercover in the Civil War.

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. Admission is free but a reservation is required. Get more information about the full series [here](#).

Activities

Day Tours

Our spring outing is scheduled for Thursday, February 27. This outing is a 4-hour cruise on the Starlite Majesty Dining Yacht with a luncheon onboard and a wide variety of entrees from which to choose. The excursion is out of St. Petersburg and up the smooth inland waterways of Pinellas County, Reservations may be made through Senior Adventures at 352-753-5404 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$87, which includes the cruise, lunch, and round-trip bus travel, leaving The Villages at 9:00 a.m. and returning at 6:00 p.m. When you call to make your reservation, be sure to tell Senior Adventures that you are with the AAUW group so that they seat us all together on the bus.

Questions should be addressed to Kate Manion (kmanion52@gmail.com; 352-689-2626).

Finger Food and Fun

Our next Finger Food and Fun event will be held at the home of Ellen Gagnon, 975 Fairhope Lane, Village of Bridgeport at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 29. Please email Judith Anderson at (jcdukeirl@aol.com) if you can attend and she will send you details.

Singles Group

Sixteen women celebrated the New Year together with brunch at Kathy Mason's home on January 1. Several of the women are pictured below left.

Fourteen members saw the show *A Little Black Dress* at the Savannah Center on January 7 and enjoyed dinner at Glenview Country Club. Some of these women are pictured below right



Upcoming Single Events.

- **February 9**, Musical show, *Violet*, at the Winter Garden Theatre; dinner to follow in Winter Park. Reservations have been made and tickets have been purchased.

- **February 23**, AAUW fundraiser: Music of the Night (see Page 5 for details). Singles tables are being reserved, and friends are welcome. Kathy Mason is collecting checks made out to AAUW Lake-Sumter along with your choice of entrée: turkey, pork or eggplant parmesan. Contact Kathy (850) 556-7986 ASAP to make a reservation at the singles table(s).
- **February 27**, AAUW Spring Day Trip. See Page 6 for details.

Mah Jongg

Our February mahjongg meetings will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the following members' homes:

- February 3 meeting will be at the home of Anne Schlick, 5768 E. CR 466, Apt. 2418 (Elan apartment complex). Phone: (352) 217-2716; email: aschlick86@gmail.com
- February 17 meeting will be at the home of Katherine Howe, 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr., (Village of Liberty Park), The Villages, FL 32162. Phone: (631) 219-4289; email: kamphowe@aol.com

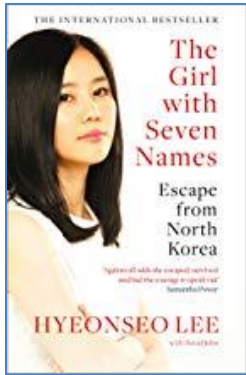
Please call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for game sets, tables, and chairs.

Bridge

The Monday Bridge Group plays on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:00 p.m. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson at (352) 430-5856 or email 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 at (mnjswisher@icloud.com).

Diversity Book Club



February's read is *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee. The book provides extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships, and the story of one woman's struggle to avoid capture and guide her family to freedom. The Book Club will meet to discuss this book on Wednesday, February 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the Peace Room of North Lake Presbyterian Church.

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

February

2020

Lake Sumter AAUW



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Great Decisions	4 AAUW Board	5	6 AAUW Bridge	7	8
9	10 Great Decisions AAUW Bridge	11	12	13	14	15 AAUW General Meeting
16	17 Great Decisions Voter Regis. Deadline	18	19 Book Club	20 AAUW Bridge	21	22
23 MUSIC OF THE NIGHT	24 Great Decisions AAUW Bridge	25	26 Beacon College Salon Series	27 AAUW Day Trip	28	29

**American Association of University Women
Lake / Sumter Branch**

Farewell-to-the-Old-Card

2nd Annual Play for a Purpose Fundraiser

Mah Jongg Celebration

Location: Truman Recreation Center, Card Room

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Time: Play time 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

**All proceeds will go to Lake / Sumter AAUW
Tech Trek Camperships and College Scholarships**

Only 16 Tables – Register Early

- Pre-registration is required by March 14, 2020
- Mah Jongg sets will be provided; BYOPusher and 2019 card
- Snack pack & decaf coffee will be provided; BYOB
- 50-50 and chance drawings
- All participants must have a Villages ID or guest pass

For more information, contact Diane Jacobson

Chasanddi@embarqmail.com



American Association of University Women
Lake / Sumter Branch
Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration
7:00 p.m. – March 20, 2020 – Truman Recreation Center
Registration Form

Please Print Clearly

Registration Deadline: March 14, 2020

Send registration and payment to:

Susan Gold

3022 Dafoe Terrace

The Villages, FL 32163

Cost: \$20.00/person

Make Checks Payable to: **Lake / Sumter AAUW**

All Proceeds go to AAUW Tech Trek Camperships and College Scholarships

Please register as a table of four so you can play with your friends. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to arrange a foursome for individual registrants.

Name of Primary Contact for the Foursome: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Villages ID#: _____
Cash: _____ Check#: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Villages ID#: _____
Cash: _____ Check#: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Villages ID#: _____
Cash: _____ Check#: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Villages ID#: _____
Cash: _____ Check#: _____

All participants must have a Villages ID or a guest pass.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



As always, the deadline for the March newsletter will be February 20. A HUGE thank you to all who respect the due dates for the newsletter. 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>