

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

March 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

Remembering the wonderful Music of the Night Fundraiser...

- "What a wonderful evening"
- "We really enjoyed the show"
- "Mmmm the food was delicious. I could have eaten three pieces of chocolate cake."
- "Everyone looked so glamorous: men in coats and ties and women with sparkles!"
- "Great decorations. Our table looked so festive in pink and blue."
- "Wow, that was a big band with a big band sound playing our kind of music."
- "Lindy has an outstanding voice, Greg was great as Fiddler on the Roof, what a team. I loved all of their songs from Broadway."
- "When I heard that AAUW was sponsoring this fund raiser we bought tickets right away, knowing it would be an outstanding evening, a night to remember."

Diane Jacobson and her committee did an outstanding job. Thank you!

The "frosting on the cake:" Kathy Mason won the beautiful gold bracelet. She is recovering after a recent surgery so was unable to be there. Congratulations to her!



Linda Ferens and Carolee Litwinka

Diversity – Women’s History Month



In 1987 Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as “Women’s History Month.” Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation to that effect.

The National Women’s History Alliance selects a yearly theme. The 2020 Women’s History Month theme is “Valiant Women of the Vote.” This theme celebrates the brave women who have fought for women’s right to vote in the United States. In recognition of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, we honor women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women who have continued the struggle--fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression--to ensure voting rights for all.

On February 27, AAUW held the 2020 Election: Advocacy in Action Workshop in Washington, D.C. Individuals networked on key policy issues that affect our campuses, workplaces, and communities. Everyone can sign up for AAUW’s Action Network email list to be updated on pending legislation and be alerted as to when and how to lobby elected officials. Members are also encouraged to work with their local League of Women Voters.

Celebrate Women’s History Month on March 17

There will be 40 women suffragists marching as a celebration of the 19th Amendment in the St Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17 in Spanish Springs. Come support us or join us, if space allows, in this opportunity to share this story with The Villages population. Participation in the parade is supported by the Sisters of Suffrage who are planning a year of activities. Stay tuned for more opportunities to join in this celebration throughout 2020.

Membership Report

Membership renewals for the 2020-2021 year will be open starting March 16, 2020. Our National office is encouraging all renewing members to renew their memberships on-line. This should be an easy process! You should be receiving a direct link to National AAUW and you should **ONLY** use this link. Membership co-Chairs Liz Schweers and Susan Gold will be sending you more information when we receive it.

Save the Date: October 22, 2020. . .

. . .for the Diversity Committee's *Members' Lunch: Exploring Diversity in Our Branch*. The Diversity Committee will be hosting a luncheon for branch members where we plan to explore the diversity in our branch with foods from our own backgrounds and a panel presentation about the cultures from which we come. We will share details as plans firm up, but here's the entry for your calendars:

- Members' Lunch: Exploring Diversity in our Branch
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- October 22, 2020
- Bacall Recreation Center

*******Please contact Linda Carpenter if you enjoy preparing dishes from your background and are interested in sharing one of those dishes at the luncheon.*******

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

February Program

Our February meeting was a truly joyous celebration of Black History Month. Our first speaker, Katina Stephens, spoke from her deeply compassionate heart about the important work the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation is doing to help people develop their personal power and create better futures for themselves. Katina is the Regional Coordinator for the South Atlantic Region of this organization. She services Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina! She informed and enlightened us with her PowerPoint presentation and her knowledge.



Our next speaker, Cheryl Gibson, gave a uniquely creative mix of the verbal history of the importance of hats to African American women interwoven with gospel songs. Cheryl brought a beautiful exhibit of her collection of hats (she considers them “crowns”), some of which were from many decades’ past, and she modeled them as she sang a song related to the wearing of the hat. Her beautiful singing voice

filled Allamanda Recreation Center with her acapella rendition of several gospel songs. We were enthralled with her presentation!

March Program

We are excited about celebrating Women’s History Month with you at our March meeting on Saturday March 21. Doors open at 9:15 a.m. at Allamanda Recreation Center.

Would you like to meet some suffragists from the early 1900’s? Are you interested in knowing what sacrifices many women endured for our fairer sex to have voting rights in the US? Come and celebrate 100 years of the passing of the 19th Amendment. If you are inclined, many of us will be dressed up in period clothing of the early 1900s. Don’t forget your big hats! We welcome you to join us in history and song. Let’s have a celebration to kick off the year of The Woman!

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) would like to hear about it. We will have a kickoff meeting on April 14 to explore all ideas. Contact Diane if you are able to join in!

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. Flyer and entry paperwork are included with this newsletter.

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!

Music of the Night: A Snapshot Review of a Special Night



Diane (and Charlie) Jacobson, chair of this fabulous event!

All eyes on the entertainment!



Checking in with Mary Ann Swisher





Josephine Goodman, a 2019 scholarship winner

Beautiful tables



Show Headliners
Lindy and Greg Pendzick



Christine Vukel, a 2019 Tech Trek camper



Dressed to impress!

It is time to express gratitude to the many AAUW members who make the Music of the Night fundraiser a special time. Diane Jacobson as fundraiser Chair is grateful to all our Lake/Sumter members who either attended the event or donated to support our branch. The backing of both the co-Presidents Linda Ferens and Carolee Litwinka and co-Presidents-elect Katie Haviland and Anne Wilkins got the project off to a good start. Thanks to the key members of the committee. Char Griffin's creative computer skills wowed us time and time again. Marianne Bender-Powers made sure La Hacienda Catering was "cooking" all the right things. Jacquie Latzer sold the most reservations, and she worked with Connie Konatsotis to coordinate the student guests, Linda Schnoll created our special center pieces and Arlene Stein delivered them. Anne Schlick, Mary Ann Swisher, Dorothy Dobbs and Ginny Rivera welcomed guests to their tables. The Shades of Blue band, Joe Arlt who ran the sound and light, and headliners Lindy and Greg Pendzick made the evening special. Thank you one and all.

Music of the Night ended with the donor of the gold bracelet, Richie Kluesener from Gold in Art Jewelry, along with Carolyn Johnson drawing from a big bag holding many tickets. The lucky winner from the 479 tickets sold was AAUW member Kathy Mason. The Shades of Blude Band, Joe Arlt who ran the sound and light, and headliners Lindy and Grep Pendzick made the evening special.

Community News



Beacon College

The presenter scheduled for the March 4 Beacon College Salon Series has been changed. Journalist and historian Dr. James C. Clark will speak about Presidents in Florida, which is based on his book of the same name. This event will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Hiers-Baxley Life Events Center on Wedgewood Lane.

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](#).

Diverse Activities Around the Villages

Club	Date	Event	Location
Asian American	March 28	Dance Show	Tierra del Sol
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 in US	March 12	Celtic Band	Savannah
French Conversation	1 st and 3 rd 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
Latin Dance	3 rd Saturdays 6:30-9:20 p.m.	Latin Dance	Laurel Manor
Mexican Folklorico Performing Arts	March 28 7:00 p.m.	Mexican Ballet	The Sharon
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	Eisenhower
Spanish is Fun	Thursdays 4:00-5:15 p.m.	Lessons	Moyer
Spanish Study Group	Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.	Lessons	Colony Cottage

Activities

Singles Group

The Singles group had a lovely afternoon seeing *Violet* at the Winter Garden Theater on February 9. The group had dinner following the play at The Chef's Table restaurant nearby.

A game night is scheduled for March 20 and will be hosted by Anne Schlick and Carolyn Johnson at Elan on CR 466 at 6:00 p.m. All singles are welcome and should bring snacks or dessert and beverage.

Mah Jongg

Our March Mah-Jongg games will be played at the following members' homes:

- March 2: the game will be held at the home of Carol Sellers, 372 Hengan Pl. (Mallory Square), The Villages, FL 32162. Home phone: (352) 259-5410; email: robertsellers@embarqmail.com
- March 16: the game will be held at the home of Katherine Howe, 1391 Eagle Ridge Dr. (Liberty Park), The Villages, FL 32162. Phone: (631) 219-4289; email: Kamphowe@aol.com

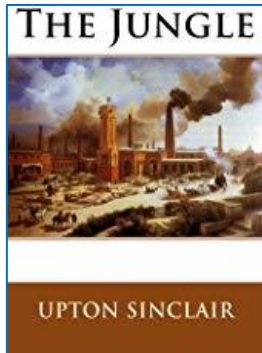
Please call or email the hostess by the Saturday preceding the game so she can arrange for game sets, tables, and chairs.

Bridge

The Monday Bridge Group plays on the second and fourth Mondays at 1:00 p.m. The Monday Group Leader is Cindy Anderson. Call her 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 mjswisher@icloud.com.

Diversity Book Club



MARCH: The Jungle by Upton Sinclair is a classic portrayal of the lives of immigrants in Chicago in the early 20th century. The book depicts working class poverty, the lack of social supports, harsh and unpleasant living and working conditions, and a hopelessness among many workers, contrasted with the deeply rooted corruption of people in power.

We will meet to discuss the book at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18 in the Peace Room at the North Lake Presbyterian Church on Rolling Acres Road (behind the Home Depot).

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

March

2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Great Decisions Mah Jongg	3 Board Meeting	4	5 Bridge	6	7
8	9 Bridge	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Mah Jongg AAUW Renewals Open Online	17 St. Patrick's Day Parade Primary Election	18 Book Club	19 Bridge	20 Singles Game Night Mah Jongg fundraiser	21 General Meeting
22	23 Bridge	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**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 April newsletter will be March 20. A HUGE thank you to all who respect the due dates for the newsletter. A special thank you to Diane Jacobson for all her submissions to this edition. And as always to Linda Carpenter, my mentor! Please continue to use the newsletter email address.

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>