

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

June 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

Fare Well from your Presidents!



Looking back on our branch's 2019-20 year, we are so impressed with the good works accomplished and good times enjoyed thanks to all of you! We can't help but reminisce a little especially since our leadership year was cut short by the current pandemic and we didn't get to thank you all in person.

Our program year was outstanding! We had interesting and fun programs, thanks to Dorothy and Marianne, starting with a Showcase of Committees & Interest groups in September.

October's Breast Cancer Awareness program featured an informative presentation from Lake Medical Imaging personnel followed by very touching personal accounts of experience with breast cancer from some of our members. Women Veterans shared their amazing career stories with us in November. Our holiday party in December at Continental Country club was delightful. After a delicious lunch, some of our members shared their knowledge of Hanukkah traditions and our Program directors led us in a spirited song.

Our 2020 programs began in January with last summer's Tech Trek campers sharing the areas of STEM they most enjoyed and the wonderful experiences they had at camp. It was so encouraging to hear their enthusiasm and encouraged us all to work hard to provide the same wonderful opportunity to more girls! Our February meeting was a joyous celebration of Black History month. Katina Stephens of the Southern Christian Leadership foundation informed us about the work her organization is doing in our area to help people create better futures for themselves. Cheryl Gibson thoroughly entertained us with a history of the importance of hats to African American women and modeled her collection of hats.

Our successful fundraisers enabled us to increase our college scholarships to \$2000 each this coming year and support seven Tech Trek camperships. During the summer,

Linda Carpenter made a presentation to Women United which so impressed that organization that we were awarded \$5000 to support Tech Trek camperships. In October, our first International Food Tasting and Dance Performance, which was organized by the Diversity Committee, sold out to 100 people who enjoyed the evening very much. In February, our big fundraiser, Music of the Night, was a very special gala evening at the Savannah Center which included a delicious dinner and outstanding entertainment. The beautiful 14 karat gold bracelet donated by Gold In Art Jewelers was won by our own Kathy Mason during that evening. Music of the Night was very successful thanks to the hard work and excellent organization of Diane Jacobson and her team. In between these events, we had several shopping opportunities at merchants who generously shared a piece of their profits with our branch.

Unfortunately, our spring meetings and fundraisers had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Our branch members voted electronically for the first time, unanimously electing the 2020-21 board members. We missed our Installation of Officers and our chance to thank our Board, Committees, and everyone who worked so hard to make 2019-20 a very enjoyable year for us all!

Fare Well!

Carolee and Linda

From Outgoing Financial Secretary

First of all, I hope you are all well. I bet, like me, you are anxious to get back to our meetings and seeing each other, and I'm sure we'll do that soon.

I am impressed with all of us! We have come up with new and unusual methods of keeping in touch and accomplishing goals. I attended my grandson's college graduation celebration via Zoom, participated in book club discussions, church services, medical appointments and even had social gatherings thanks to technology. I also had a chance to meet with Terri Slotterback and Margie Hunt, your incoming financial directors, and get them up to speed for a seamless transition at the helm of the checkbook. Our branch is in good hands with these two ladies.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the past year and a half. I have learned a lot, met so many of you, and thoroughly enjoyed my role in our branch. I hope to see you around at future meetings and events.

Peg Tabor

Membership

Even though we are in strange and unprecedented times, **NOW** is the time to renew your membership so that AAUW can plan for 2020-21. We currently have 69 members who have renewed and 78 members who have not renewed. Peg Tabor (taborpeg@gmail.com) will provide you an on-line link or you can mail your renewal check in the amount of \$90, made out to AAUW Lake/Sumter, to Peg Tabor, 3391 Empire Avenue, The Villages, FL 32163. If you renew AFTER June 25, please mail your renewals to Terri Slotterback, 922 Tarrson Boulevard, Lady Lake, FL 32159. Please DO NOT GO DIRECTLY on to the National AAUW website to renew. Anyone who renews now will have their membership extended to 6/30/21.

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is happy to say that we have chosen two women for our 2020-21 scholarships. They are Paige Sanders and Jordan Threlfall. Paige marks our first recipient from Beacon College. She plans on continuing her study of Business Hospitality at Beacon. She is 28 years old. Jordan is 18 years old and will be pursuing a degree at UCF in Engineering. We hope to meet both women this fall when we hope life will be at least a little more normal.

This year we received 10 applications. Unfortunately, we were unable to interview the women in person and our committee met on Zoom. With luck we will be able to interview the applicants next spring.

As for our other scholarship recipients, Josie Goodman reports that she is determined to graduate next Spring. Josie, as you know, is a R.N. looking to receive a BSN. She reports she is an A student. Hannah Gouch has graduated, thanks the women of AAUW and says she no longer is in need of our scholarship. We have not as yet made contact with Suzanne Chaar and Deanna Geisel. Their scholarships are over this month. We will report on them in the next newsletter.

Finally, for the next year, 2020-2021, Kathy Mason will be joining Carolyn Johnson as co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

AAUW Officers for 2020-2021

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

Fundraising: Planning for 2020-2021

In the spirit of creativity and flexibility, we look forward to scheduling events for 2020 - 2021 that not only make money for the branch but bring connection as we negotiate these trying times. Contact Diane Jacobson chasanddi@embarqmail.com with ideas and/or if you'd like to help with an event.

Diversity Book Club

With the arrival of the coronavirus and the order to stay at home, the AAUW book club looked for alternative ways to meet. In doing so, the club naturally explored online platforms that facilitate group interaction. Ultimately, they decided to use Zoom, which permitted a three-meeting trial, and allowed the March, April, and May meetings to be held online.

Over the course of these three meetings, Zoom proved to be quite user-friendly and convenient. It was also a time-saver because participants could remain at home. It allows meetings of 40 minutes or less to be held at no charge. And it is possible to schedule two 40-minute meetings back-to-back in order to hold a meeting of up to 80-minutes free of charge.

The book club plans to experiment with this back-to-back meeting arrangement for its June 17 meeting, and to continue meeting online until such time as they can once again meet in person at the North Lake Presbyterian Church. June's read is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See and July's is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. In August it will once again be time to select the books for the upcoming year of 2020-21 and all members are urged to be thinking ahead about the books they would like to recommend for next year.

If you would like to participate in the Book Club's June 17 online meeting, contact Kate Manion (kmanion52@gmail.com) so she can send you the email with the meeting link and password.

Diversity Book Club 2019-20 Reading List			
Date	Title	Author	Discussion Leader(s)
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
August 19	Book Selection for Next Year		

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



This is the last issue this Season. (That was what I said last month!) Well...like so many things the situation changed! Since we have not had our monthly meetings, we decided to touch base with our members. There will probably be one more summer issue. Submit any news or articles to the newsletter mailbox.

Editor: Beth Hicks
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AAUW Websites

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