

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

November 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



Greetings to you all. As we continue to be mindful of ways to continue in good health, many have taken advantage of this time to take on new challenges or to rediscover former interests. Whatever you are doing, and wherever you are, we hope you are well.

While we all look forward to having in person meetings, it seems that opportunity is postponed for at least another 3 months. At the Board meeting, Ann Marie Lombardi reported the disappointing response from the Recreation Center about resuming meetings with our number of members.

And so, we meet at a distance, welcoming 53 members at the October 17 General Meeting. As always, your participation is appreciated. Beth Hicks, wearing her League of Women Voters hat, reviewed the pros and cons of the six amendments to the Florida Constitution up for vote this year. Finding ways to make ourselves aware of current events and issues that AAUW supports and gives voice is a major goal. In spite of not meeting face to face, new and returning members continue to join our ranks. Karen Pickelsimer will give details in her membership report.

AAUW is a dynamic organization, with power to make changes through outreach and communication. For example, the Diversity Committee offers programs that invite serious discussion and reflection on who we are, how we think, and how we treat one another. Read the invitation below to become involved.

Participating in Branch activities and events is one way of staying involved. At this time, we are looking for participation on Membership and Program committees. Details of how to join these committees are below.

For now, we continue to meet via Zoom and carry on with our mission to make a difference in the lives of young women and girls. Your positive support of the jewelry raffle moves us toward that goal.

Anne Wilkins & Katie Haviland, Co-Presidents

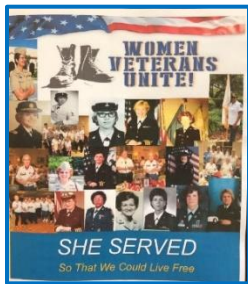
# Programs

Recently, you received an email from Ann Marie Lombardi asking for support of our future General Meetings. Ann Marie thanks Dorothy Dobbs, Linda Carpenter, and Carolee Litwinka for volunteering...but she needs more members to step up and help.



Ann Marie is asking for a commitment to work on a single month. Please contact her at [amlombardi@embarqmail.com](mailto:amlombardi@embarqmail.com) to volunteer. You don't need Zoom technical experience, just enthusiasm to help deliver successful programs. And if you're a new member, this is a great way to start getting involved with our Branch.

## November 21 General Meeting

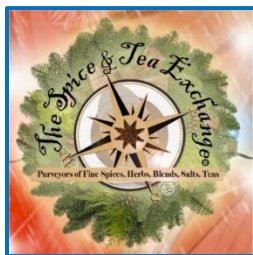


For our November General Meeting we will Zoom with several members of the Tri County Women Veterans and feature their new video "We Proudly Served." Following the video, Jacquie Latzer will moderate a Q&A and the veterans will share stories of their service experiences. And we will also honor our Branch's women veterans.

As an appreciation, we are donating \$200 to the Tri County Women Veterans Women's Honor Flight, which will accommodate 60 women veterans, 60 guardians, medical staff, and photographers. The group has already raised an amazing \$100,000!

Please plan to attend this highly anticipated General Meeting and thank all our veterans who have bravely served our country.

## December 12 General Meeting (not December 19, our usual date)



Our December General Meeting will be **A Special Holiday Event with The Spice and Tea Exchange.**

Taste the season as Jody Nelson, owner of *The Spice and Tea Exchange* in Brownwood, presents a live via Zoom cooking demonstration using her special seasonings and teas to create a delicious holiday entrée accompanied by tasty beverage!

And you can cook along with Jody in your own kitchen or watch the demonstration and replicate her recipes later.

Jody has put together a "one-of-a kind kit," which will include many of the ingredients used in the demonstration as well as three holiday teas and a special surprise.

This ticketed holiday event is \$12 per person, which covers the cost of the kit. It's a fundraiser; not a fundraiser!

Once you purchase your \$12 ticket, you can go to the Brownwood store and pick up your kit...Jody will have a ticket list so it'll be easy...and of course, shop while you are there! And, if you haven't headed South yet or you can't get to the store, you can still participate as we will mail you the kit. More details on how to purchase tickets, request kit mailings, and deadlines will be emailed to you shortly.

Please plan to participate on 12-12 for \$12 and enjoy our traditional holiday luncheon together via Zoom!

Thank you and we hope to see you at our November and December General Meetings.

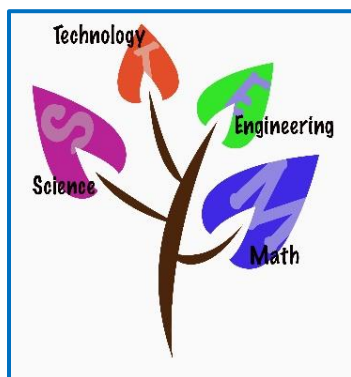
## Racism Discussion Series

The Diversity Committee's Racism Discussion Series will continue with a November/December Zoom meeting on December 2 to accommodate the holidays. The topic, Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome, will be based on the work Dr. Joy DeGruy. See page 6 of this newsletter for a description of Dr. DeGruy's book.

If you have registered for the series in the past, you will automatically receive an announcement for the November/December meeting. You will, however, need to re-register for each session in the series. The discussions are free and open to the public, so feel free to share information about the program with friends and family.

If you would like to join the discussion, send an email to [divcomaauw@gmail.com](mailto:divcomaauw@gmail.com) to receive a link to register. If you are unable to attend the live discussions, you can watch them on video. Send an email to the same address to request a link to the video.

## STEAM



Looking for a little STEAM to enrich your life? We would like to offer a virtual learning-entertainment program this Spring that would do just that. The idea is to have a half hour to 40-minute virtual (Zoom) program every day for a week. They would be offered live (and recorded) for all who pay the registration fee. The



topics would be based around **STEM, adding Arts to make STEAM**. Here is a

sampling of what the topics might be: the “S”ience of time, the “T”echnology of writing, the “E”ngineering of medicine, the “A”rt of art and “M”ath by the number.

To make this program a reality, Diane Jacobson needs your help! Please email her at [chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com) and volunteer to be on the committee. If you know of an “expert” that would be willing to speak about any of the subjects, forward that information to Diane, too. Let’s create a fantastic Lake/Sumter AAUW program for all to enjoy.

## Membership

Our Branch currently has 127 total members. This includes six Life Members.

Susan Gold has resigned from her Membership co-Chair position due to health reasons. Karen Pickelsimer could use a co-chair. Do you see yourself fitting in here? Contact Karen ([ksimer@hotmail.com](mailto:ksimer@hotmail.com)) if you are able to give her a hand!

## Membership Booklets

Send any changes you would like to make from the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet to Diane Jacobson ([chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto:chasanddi@embarqmail.com)). Also, if you don’t have a picture included with your information or if you would like to update your present picture, please send a head shot to Diane to add to our picture gallery.

*Please correct your Membership Books*

- The correct phone number for Karen Pickelsimer, is (352) 775-9683
- The correct email address for Mia Lorenzen is [mlaine5075@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaine5075@yahoo.com)

*Please add these new members to your Membership Booklet*

- **Christine Loken-Kim**  
894 Barrymore Loop  
The Villages FL 32162  
(617) 281-3815  
[kurusu99@hotmail.com](mailto:kurusu99@hotmail.com)  
University of Michigan: BA, Speech  
UCLA: MA, Dance  
UNC: PhD  
Boston University: MA, TESL

- **Dr. Jean Mee**  
7828 SE 170th Stonebrook Lane (Village of Calumet Grove)  
The Villages, FL 32162  
(203) 376-0038  
[drjeanmee@gmail.com](mailto:drjeanmee@gmail.com)  
Nova Southeastern University: BS, Education/Pedagogy  
MED, Educational Leadership  
EdD, Health & Human Sciences & Pedagogy
- **Joni Newkirk (Ken)**  
2465 McLin Lane (Village of Collier)  
The Villages FL 32163  
(352) 988-3490  
[jnewkirk@integratedinsight.com](mailto:jnewkirk@integratedinsight.com)  
University of Florida: BA, Statistics  
University of Central Florida: MA, Industrial Engineering
- **Martha (Marty) Taylor (Barry)**  
3793 Wine Palm Way (Village of Lake Deaton)  
The Villages, FL 32162  
[Mtmail01@aol.com](mailto:Mtmail01@aol.com)  
(248) 860-9961  
Grove City College: BS, Math & Computer Science  
Case Western Reserve: MBA, Finance

## Scholarship

Page 9 of this newsletter is a flyer with information about our annual jewelry drawing. Virtual Zoom meetings have severely restricted our ability to sell the chances for this beautiful piece of jewelry. To address that challenge, we will mail five tickets to each member in the next week or so. We hope you are able to purchase/sell these tickets and send in the \$50 for the scholarship fund. Fund raising is difficult during these times of virtual meetings, but our scholarships are needed more than ever.

## Speakers' Bureau

It seems our Speakers' Bureau is still operational. . .and without our actively seeking engagements. We have been invited to speak at the November 9 Zonta meeting. Linda Carpenter will present our gender pay gap PowerPoint program. The presentation was originally developed using data from 2016. We have now updated it with data from 2018 and 2019.



Want more information about the Speakers' Bureau? Send inquiries to Linda Carpenter ([linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com)) or Jeannie Hamilton ([jeannie@jeannierealtor.com](mailto:jeannie@jeannierealtor.com)). We are actively seeking AAUW members to join this committee.

## Activities

Most of our in-person activities are on hiatus. Check with the coordinators for when they will resume. Their names and contact information are available in the Membership Booklet.

## Great Decisions

We are still working out the details for our AAUW Great Decisions discussion group. What we know so far is that it will be offered virtually using Zoom. The video portion of the programs will be available to view on YouTube. The 8-week program will be on THURSDAY mornings beginning sometime in January. Details for the reading material and signing up for the program will be forthcoming.

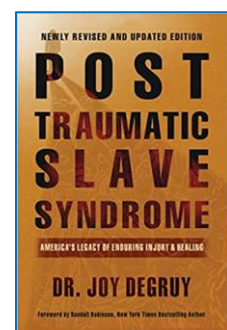


Topics for Great Decisions 2021 are: Global Supply Chains and National Security, Persian Gulf Security Issues, Brexit and the European Union, Struggles Over the Melting Arctic, China's Role in Africa, The Korean Peninsula, Roles of International Organizations in a Global Pandemic, The End of Globalization?

## Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month's recommendation is *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury & Healing* by Joy DeGruy. The following description comes from Uptone Press, the book's publisher.

*In the 16th century, the beginning of African enslavement in the Americas until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment and emancipation in 1865, Africans were hunted like animals, captured, sold, tortured, and raped. They experienced the worst kind of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual abuse. Given such history, isn't it likely that many of the enslaved were severely traumatized? And did the trauma and the effects of such horrific abuse end with the abolition of slavery?*



*Emancipation was followed by 100 more years of institutionalized subjugation through the enactment of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, peonage, convict leasing, domestic terrorism and lynching. Today the violations continue, and when combined with the crimes of the past, they result in yet unmeasured injury. What do repeated*

*traumas, endured generation after generation by a people produce? What impact have these ordeals had on African Americans today?*

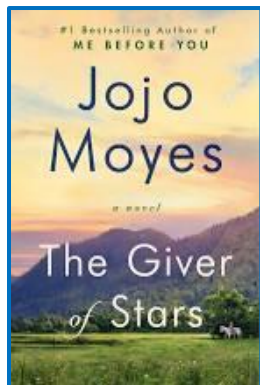
*Dr. Joy DeGruy, answers these questions and more. With over 30 years of practical experience as a professional in the mental health field, Dr. DeGruy encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors through the lens of history and so gain a greater understanding of how centuries of slavery and oppression have impacted people of African descent in America. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* helps to lay the necessary foundation to ensure the well-being and sustained health of future generations and provides a rare glimpse into the evolution of society's beliefs, feelings, attitudes and behavior concerning race in America.*

“In *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*, Dr Joy DeGruy explores Black history and helps the reader see the generational and systemic traumatization of Blacks in this country; how their behavior today has its roots in adaptive behaviors from that time, and with this knowledge offers healing. Well-written and informative.”



*Jacquie Latzer*

## **Diversity Book Club**



The Diversity Book Club will meet via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18 to discuss the *Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes. Barb Blatchford will lead the discussion.

In December, Book Club members will enjoy two events. The first is a holiday luncheon at Evans Prairie on Wednesday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. Seating will be outdoors on the patio.

The Club will also meet via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 16 to discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Diane Jacobson will lead this discussion.

All are welcome to participate in the Diversity Book Club and anyone who is interested in joining should contact Kate Manion at [kmanion52@gmail.com](mailto:kmanion52@gmail.com).

## Selections for 2020-21

Date	Title	Author	Facilitator
Nov. 18	Giver of Stars	JoJo Moyes	Barb Blatchford
Dec. 9	<i>Holiday Luncheon at Evans Prairie Patio</i>		
Dec 16	The Dutch House	Ann Patchett	Diane Jacobson
Jan. 20	The Nickle Boys	Colson Whitehead	Mary Place
Feb. 17	This Tender Land	William Kent Krueger	Diane Jacobson
Mar. 17	Born a Crime	Trevor Noah	Ginny Rivera
Apr. 21	See No Stranger	Valerie Kaur	Judy Reinhardt
May 19	Caleb's Crossing	Geraldine Brooks	Myra Mervine
June 16	Simon the Fiddler	Paulette Jiles	Blanche Boyne
July 21	American Dirt *	Jeanine Cummins	Blanche Boyne
Aug. 18	<i>Selection of 2021-22 Books</i>		

\* Oprah's Book Club





American Association of University Women  
Lake/Sumter Branch presents a

***14 Karat Gold Mother of Pearl Pendant***  
**on a 18" 14 karat white & yellow gold**  
**superflex spring wire** (retail value \$2595)

Support **Local Scholarship for Women**

The drawing will be held February 2021

(Need not be present to win)

Suggested minimum donation per ticket: \$10.00



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## EDITOR'S MUSINGS



The Holiday Season is heading our way. It will NOT be a normal one. Remember those missing their families. Remember those who need a kind word. Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the December edition is November 20.

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[aauwlsnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlsnews@gmail.com)

### AAUW Websites

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