

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

April 2021



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



Dear Members,

We send greetings and well wishes to all, with hopes that you and yours have been able to receive the vaccine and are starting to see family and friends in small gatherings. We continue to meet virtually until it is possible for us to safely gather face to face as a full group. Hopefully in the fall that will be a reality.

This is a time full of changes, challenges and opportunities. We are looking forward to participating in the AAUW-FL Leadership Conference over Zoom in the middle of the month, and we invite all members to participate. There are no fees this year. This is an opportunity for all of us to gain a better sense of what is happening state-wide in the AAUW branches, as well as what is happening nationally.

If you haven't registered yet, the links for the individual sessions as well as the Annual Meeting are on page 2 of this newsletter. Linda Carpenter and Jacquie Latzer will be part of the Saturday morning session. You can sign on in support of our branch. We hope you will join us. If you would like to become more involved in AAUW's mission, participating in the conference is an opportunity to see, meet, and learn.

In our branch activities, special thanks go out to Diane Jacobson for the creative STEAM series she designed and orchestrated over Zoom as both a learning experience and a financially supportive measure for our scholarship programs. Ann Marie Lombardi continues to provide our General Meetings with interesting, informative, entertaining, and educational programs. Book group gatherings offer stimulating conversation opportunities thanks to Kate Manion. Diversity discussions led by Linda Carpenter, Jacquie Latzer, and their team keep us in touch with each other, as do the small groups that have established a safe bubble for bridge gatherings. Thanks also to Judy Bonn and her Nominating Committee team for presenting us with a strong slate as our leadership team for 2021-2022. We look forward to you participating next year at this time. As the newsletter editor, Beth Hicks keeps us all in touch with each other and aware of branch events. Thank you, thank you all.

At our General Meeting on March 20 we shared a PowerPoint presentation provided by AAUW-FL and National offices, indicating their rationale behind the proposed Open Membership in AAUW. Perhaps you responded to the request for comments earlier this year or participated in the March 25 Town Hall meeting to learn more of the pros and cons and to publicly share your opinion and concerns. Additional information is available at [AAUW National site](#) so you can make an informed decision.

Each member will have the opportunity to voice her response through her vote between April 7 and May 17. Let your voice be heard. YOU can impact the outcome. Encourage your colleagues to vote.

Thank you to all members for supporting each other and reaching out to be a support wherever and whenever you can in the community.

Katie and Anne

STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: APRIL 16, 17, 18 *All Virtual on Zoom*

All sessions on Friday and Saturday and the first session on Sunday are free and open to the public, but registration is required.

[Register for Virtual Leadership Conference](#)

DATE	TIME	TITLE
Friday, 4/16	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Adapting to New Challenges (NASA presentation)
Saturday, 4/17	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Linda & Jacquie panelists)
Saturday, 4/17	11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Economic Security (How important it is)
Sunday, 4/18	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Branch Successes (Video created from pictures sent from each of the Florida branches)

The second session on Sunday is free but open to AAUW FL *members only*, and registration is required.

[Register for the Florida Annual Meeting](#)

DATE	TIME	TITLE
Sunday, 4/18	11:00 a.m.	AAUW Florida Annual Meeting 2021

General Meetings

April Meeting: Saturday, April 24



Time to Celebrate! Please join us for our General Meeting on **April 24** as we celebrate Lake County Teacher of the Year Shannon Clark, a fourth-grade teacher at Eustis Heights Elementary School, and Sumter County Teacher of the Year Brittany Brown, a third and fourth grade teacher at Wildwood Elementary School. The honor qualifies these outstanding teachers for consideration for Florida Teacher of the Year.

The program will feature a lively discussion hosted by our branch's past co-President Susan Gold. Susan has been a life-long educator, teaching at many levels including pre-school, elementary school, and at the college level. After the discussion, there will also be time for Questions and Answers. A special thank you to Susan for volunteering!

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend this program and help us honor two very dedicated teachers who are truly making a difference in the lives of the communities we serve!

March Meeting: Follow-up Thoughts

Many thanks to all those who put together such a great program on Women's History for our March program. We knew that with Dorothy Dobbs in charge, we were in for a treat!

There was interest in the listing Dorothy mentioned of movies and books about women and the vote ... here you go!



Films

- *The Vote*, PBS Special (2020)
- *Iron Jawed Angels* (2004)
- *Suffragette* (2015)
- *Selma* (2015)
- *Divine Order* (2019)
- *Made in Dagenham* (2010)

Books

- *The Woman's Suffrage Movement*, Janice Ruth & Evelyn Sinclair
- *The Vote: Women's Fierce Fight*, Penny Coleman
- *The Woman's Hour*, Elaine Weiss
- *Sisters in Spirit: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early American Feminists*, Sally Wagner
- *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850 – 1920*, Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

When we start traveling again...be sure and check out these national parks dedicated to [women's history](#)

Branch Election

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for 2021-2022. Members will vote on this slate at our annual branch election during our April meeting.

Slate of Candidates AAUW Lake / Sumter Branch 2021-2022

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate(s)</u>
Continuing as co-President	Katie Haviland
Co-Presidents-elect	Linda Carpenter Peg Tabor
Co-Secretary	Carolyn Pasquale
Co-Finance	Char Griffin
Co-Program	Diane Jacobson
Co-Membership	Joan Schmidt

Membership

We welcome two new members. Please add them to your membership lists.

Estelle Brauer (Alan)
1466 Hillstream
The Villages, FL 32163 (Gilchrist)
352-633-9268
esbjewels@verizon.net
Boston State University, BA, Education
Virginia Tech, MA, Counseling

Leslie Flanders (Keith)

1707 Van Buren Way
The Villages, FL 32162 (Poinciana)

859-321-7171

lesflan@gmail.com

Michigan State University, BA, Education and Fine Arts
Georgetown College, MA, Education

In Memory of Carolyn Johnson



Carolyn Johnson, as we will remember her! Totally involved with the AAUW Scholarship Committee and pictured with the generous jewelry donor Gold n Art Jewelry, at our Scholarship Fundraiser last year. for the Scholarship Fundraiser. Over the years, countless women have continued their education thanks to her work.

We mourn her passing and will miss her terribly. Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Public Policy

Judy Bonn, our branch Public Policy Chair, recently attended AAUW-FL's annual Lobby Day, as she has almost every year for a long time. But like most large gatherings, this year Lobby Day was different. Everything was virtual, and everyone went to Tallahassee on Zoom.

The AAUW-FL Public Policy Chair and her committee began by explaining that there would be presentations by Florida Senator Berman, Representative Thompson, and Representative Driskell. The presentations were very interesting and the speakers well prepared.

The speakers explained some bills that AAUW is supporting and/or opposing. Among them are the following:

- SB 256/HB107 Discrimination in Labor and Employment
- SB 180/HB 275 Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- SB554/1303 Human Trafficking in Schools
- SB812/HB523 Human Trafficking Survivors Increased Court Protections
- SB410/HB545 Materials Harmful to Minors
- SB808/HB875 Intelligence-Led Policing
- SCR500/HCR 475 the ERA

Tech Trek

Tech Trek will be offered virtually in July via Zoom this year. The 2020 girls whose camp was cancelled due to COVID will be invited to participate along with the 2021 selected girls. Our Tech Trek committee will be interviewing the 7th grade candidates from our area via Zoom in late March. Our recommendations will then be sent to the state committee. The state committee will announce the winning participants on May 1, 2021. We are fortunate that our branch can financially support Tech Trek during these difficult times.

Scholarship News

Applications for two scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each have been distributed to women enrolled at Lake Sumter State College and Beacon College. The applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Legal resident of Lake or Sumter County for at least a year.
- Expects to graduate with an Associate Degree or earn a minimum of 60 credit hours by summer 2021.
- Plans to continue her education toward a bachelor's degree and can provide proof of application to and/or acceptance by an institution providing her desired degree including Lake Sumter State College, Beacon College or another Florida institution (i.e., UCF, USF, UF, etc).
- Is in need of financial assistance.
- Meets other selection criteria that may be considered: academic excellence, financial need, non-traditional status, career goals, potential for realization of goals, and written recommendations.
- Is interested in becoming a member of AAUW upon completion of the Baccalaureate Degree.

The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2021. Please contact Kathy Mason with any questions. Kmason0826@gmail.com, (850) 556-7986

Racism Discussion Series

April – Session #9: The April 2021 session of the Racism Discussion Series will be held on the 28th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Zoom. The topic will be Systemic Racism: Voting Rights.

Announcements for the session along with the link to register and the suggested preparatory materials will be out in early April. If you have already registered for at least

one session, you will receive an announcement automatically via email. If you would like to join the discussion but have not registered before, send an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com to request the registration link. Once you register, Zoom will send you a link to join the meeting.

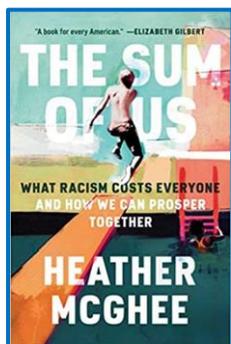
This series is free and open to the public. So, feel free to share announcements, registration materials, and video links with friends and family around the country. And if you've found the preparatory materials helpful, feel free to share them as well to broaden the conversation. And to be more inclusive, we have recently added closed captioning to the discussions for participants whose hearing is challenged.

Preparatory Materials. To make sharing materials easier, we have prepared a list of preparatory materials we have suggested for each discussion. The list covers the first seven sessions in the series. If you would like to receive a copy of the materials list, you can request it in an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com.

Discussion Videos. Videos from previous discussions are now on YouTube. Search on YouTube for "Race Discussion Series," which is the name of our channel. When the results come up, you can identify our recordings by their titles, for example, "Discussion 1 – Racism 101."

We have posted seven of the first eight videos to our channel (Discussions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); the video for our second discussion, which focused on White Privilege, is on YouTube and can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1pf9ottfps>. Titles of the other recordings currently on our channel are "Discussion 3 – Antiracism," "Discussion 4 – Implicit Bias," "Discussion 5 – Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome," "Discussion 6 – Microaggressions," "Discussion 7 – Implications and Impacts of Confederate Monuments," and "Discussion 8 – Systemic Racism: Housing."

Great Read from the Diversity Committee



This month's Great Read is *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. The following is based on information from One World, the book's publisher.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.

Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white

people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?

McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Maine to Mississippi to California, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. Along the way, she meets white people who confide in her about losing their homes, their dreams, and their shot at better jobs to the toxic mix of American racism and greed. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; of how unions collapsed, wages stagnated, and inequality increased; and of how this country, unique among the world’s advanced economies, has thwarted universal healthcare. *The Sum of Us* is a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here: divided and self-destructing, materially rich but spiritually starved and vastly unequal.

“*The Sum of Us* may be the most important book you read this year. It will certainly change the way you see current events, from efforts to limit voting to rejection of a \$15 minimum wage, to name just two, and it will alter how you hear explanations made about decisions that limit rights and services. Read this book.”



Linda Carpenter

Activities

As vaccinations are becoming the norm, AAUW is excited to announce that our activities are slowly returning!

Bridge is Back!

Monday bridge is resuming with Barbara Fisler (352-446-0039) and Carol Zoellner (352-753-4711) facilitating.

Thursday Bridge is resuming with Karen Pickelsimer (352-775-9683) facilitating.

Please call to sign up and for additional details.

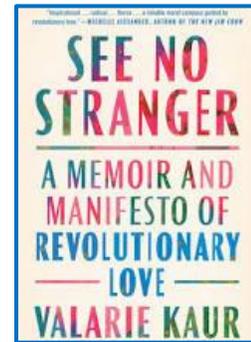
Singles Group

Our Singles Group had a very enjoyable get-together outdoors at Fish Hawk Recreation Center on March 16. It was our first in-person event in a year and it was wonderful to reconnect with old friends and meet a few new ones. We shared some light snacks and also shared our personal experiences living through the pandemic. Most of us enjoyed having the time this past year to learn new skills and catch up on projects we had put off for a long time. Liz Schweers and Dorothy Dobbs have volunteered to lead our group for the next year. Contact Liz or Dorothy if you would like to be informed of the group's activities.



Diversity Book Club

Our April read will be *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur; Judy Reinhardt will facilitate the discussion. We will continue to meet on Zoom.



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

Book Club Selections for 2020-2021

	Title	Author	Facilitator
Apr. 21	<i>See No Stranger</i>	Valerie Kaur	Judy Reinhardt
May 19	<i>Caleb's Crossing</i>	Geraldine Brooks	Myra Mervine
June 16	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i>	Paulette Jiles	Blanche Boyne
July 21	<i>American Dirt</i> *	Jeanine Cummins	Blanche Boyne
Aug. 18	<i>Selection of 2021-22 Books</i>		

Volunteers Needed

Nicole (Nikki) Duslak, one of the presenters in our recent STEAM series and a former Sumter County Teacher of the Year, is now the owner and director of CREATE Conservatory, which is a K-5 private school in Leesburg. Nikki sent us the following message. We urge you to contact her if you are interested in tutoring at her school.

Hi there,

I hope you are well and happy!

I am reaching out because CREATE Conservatory is looking to offer a free summer tutoring program for our currently enrolled students, and we are hoping to staff it with volunteers from the community. I thought you might have some connections who would be interested, and if so, I would really appreciate the help getting the word out!

Retired educators are a fantastic choice, but there are no requirements with regard to previous experience. We are looking to offer tutoring for students who are going into first through fifth grades.

The time commitment could be as little as one hour a week, or up to 10 hours a week for June 7- July 30. Vacations, etc. are nothing to worry about as we are happy and flexible with any time someone is able to provide. We will require a background check (which we can help setup and will pay for) for all volunteers. We are happy to provide the materials to be covered, or we can provide the subject area and allow the volunteer to design their own lessons.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in this experience, please have them reach out to me for more information. They can respond to createconservatory@gmail.com or Nicole.Duslak@CREATEConservatory.com.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and I hope you're having a great day!

Yours in education,

Nikki



It is so exciting to see some of our social activities returning. Hopefully you have been vaccinated or ready to get one and we can fully return to in-person events!

Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the May edition is April 20

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>