

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

March 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



Let's take a moment for reflection on our Branch of AAUW and how we are functioning despite the COVID crisis. The use of ZOOM has undoubtedly helped us keep up some activities and communications.

Book Club has met every month as planned with large participation and great conversation about a variety of books. Think about checking the listings on page 7 of this newsletter and join the group which usually has 20 to 40 participants.

The **Diversity Committee** sponsored the program at our February meeting which drew over 50 participants and featured a presentation by Beverly Steele entitled *40 Acres and a Mule*. We all learned a great deal about the town of Royal, which is so close to the Villages.

That General Meeting also featured our annual jewelry drawing for a piece of jewelry donated by **GOLD IN ART** jewelry store. This year, Carolyn Moores won the necklace. Congratulations to Carolyn and thank you to the 96 members who donated to this effort, which supports our scholarship program.

STEAM, a series of presentations organized by Diane Jacobson, provided a look at **Women Artists, Arts Integration and its Impact on Students, and Random Numbers**. Two more talks are scheduled (see page 6); contact Diane to join in.

The Nominating Committee has also been working to determine a slate of candidates for our Board for next year. The nominees will be announced at the March General Meeting and voting will be in April. If you are interested in exploring serving on the Board, contact Judy Bonn. Participating on the Board is a rewarding experience.

Hoping all of you will join us at the March General meeting. If you need help with Zoom, contact one of the Board members.

Anne and Katie

Membership

National received more than 400 submissions to this year's [AAUW art contest](#), which is an annual AAUW fundraiser. Now it's time for members to vote. So, channel your inner art critic and weigh in on your 10 favorites. The six winning entries will be featured on a collection of AAUW note cards mailed to members this spring.

Click the art context link above by March 3 to view the entries and vote for your favorites.

Member Updates

Please note Mary Hudson's new email address: marylouisehudson205@icloud.com

Membership Booklets

Send any changes you would like to make from the **2020-2021 Membership Booklet** to Diane Jacobson (diandchas@gmail.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.

General Meetings

Saturday, March 20

Celebrating Women's History Month: A delayed Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Our March General Meeting will showcase a special celebration of the suffragists who fought for nearly a century to win the right, by law, for women to vote in national or local elections.

Dorothy Dobbs, a long-time member of our AAUW branch will lead our program, joining with several other women to give profiles of several suffragists in the full period costumes of purple, white, and gold, which were colors of the U.S. suffrage movement.



Why these colors? In the early 1900s, suffragists began to realize the need to come up with a brand, just as their fellow British suffragettes had done. They wanted to convey that they were smart, capable women who would bring civility to politics with the vote.

British women were using green, white, and violet, which stood for “give women the vote,” while also representing royalty, freedom, purity, and hope. American women

replaced green with gold to pay homage to the use of the sunflower in the 1867 suffrage referendum campaign but decided to keep purple and white.

Purple would come to stand for loyalty, white for purity, and gold for hope. Today, women continue to wear the color white to pay tribute to the suffragists and the continued fight for women's rights.

So, feel free to wear the colors, a hat, or other memorabilia to show your solidarity with these brave women. And, Dorothy, never failing to deliver us with a bit of entertainment, will also lead us through a few suffragist songs! Please be sure to attend this informative and entertaining program as we celebrate Women's History Month. See you March 20 on Zoom...I'll be the one in the wide brim black and white hat with a sunflower tucked in the band!

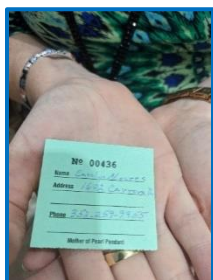
Saturday April 24

Please note DATE CHANGE

Our April meeting has changed to April 24 to allow members to virtually attend the AAUW Florida Leadership Conference on April 17, our usual date.

We hope to welcome Teachers of the Year from Lake and Sumter County as well as introduce the nominations to serve our branch for the 2021-2022 year.

Scholarship Drawing: and the Winner is . . .



AAUW Member Carolyn Moores had the winning ticket for the jewelry drawing at the February General meeting.

The Scholarship Committee extends special thanks to **Gold in Art Jewelers** for their donation of the beautiful 14 karat gold mother of pearl pendant and 18-inch chain. The retail value is \$2,595.

Gold in Art is located on Clay Avenue which is right off Rt 466 in Lady Lake. Be sure to visit and extend our thanks to the owner, Mr. Richie Kleusener, for their generous donation again this year.



We also extend special thanks to the 96 members of our Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW who generously bought raffle tickets which raised over \$5,400 for the scholarship program. Once again, this year two women will receive funds to support the completion of the last two years in college, earning each one a baccalaureate degree.

Diane Jacobson arranged for the ticket drawing to be held at Gold in Art; she recorded the ceremony and played it at our February General Meeting on Zoom. Mr. Kleusener was not available for the drawing, but Kelsey of Gold in Art stepped in to draw the winning ticket. We presented Gold in Art with a certificate of appreciation, some AAUW mugs, and our gratitude for their continued support of this endeavor.



Racism Discussion Series

March 24 – Session #8: The March 2021 session of the Racism Discussion Series will be held on the 24th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. The topic will be Systemic Racism: Housing.

Announcements for the session along with the link to register and the suggested preparatory materials will be out in early March. 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, one participant asked for a list of preparatory materials we have suggested for each discussion. So, we have compiled a list of preparatory materials for 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 discussion 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 four of the first seven videos to our channel (Discussions 1, 3, 4, 5); the video for our second discussion, which focused on White Privilege, is on YouTube and can be accessed at this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1pf9ottfps>. Titles of the other recordings currently on our channel are "Discussion 3 – Antiracism" and "Discussion 4 – Implicit Bias," "Discussion 5 – Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome," "Discussion 6 – Microaggressions," and "Discussion 7 – Implications and Impacts of Confederate Monuments."

Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month's Great Read is *400 Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619 - 2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. The following information comes from Random House, the book's publisher.

The story begins in 1619—a year before the Mayflower—when the White Lion disgorges “some 20-and-odd Negroes” onto the shores of Virginia, inaugurating the African presence in what would become the United States. It takes us to the present, when African Americans, descendants of those on the White Lion and a thousand other routes to this country, continue a journey defined by inhuman oppression, visionary struggles, stunning achievements, and millions of ordinary lives passing through extraordinary history.



Four Hundred Souls is a unique one-volume “community” history of African Americans. The editors, Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, have assembled ninety brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that four-hundred-year span. The writers explore their periods through a variety of techniques: historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics. They approach history from various perspectives: through the eyes of towering historical icons or the untold stories of ordinary people; through places, laws, and objects. While themes of resistance and struggle, of hope and reinvention, course through the book, this collection of diverse pieces from ninety different minds, reflecting ninety different perspectives, fundamentally deconstructs the idea that Africans in America are a monolith—instead it unlocks the startling range of experiences and ideas that have always existed within the community of Blackness.

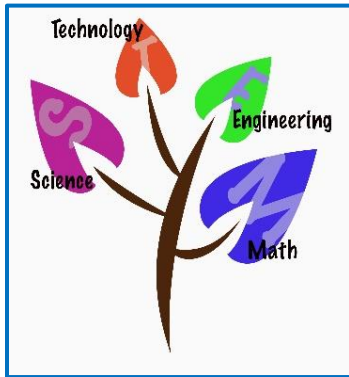
This is a history that illuminates our past and gives us new ways of thinking about our future, written by the most vital and essential voices of our present.

“This is a formidable collection of “Black” stories and poetry assembled by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. The 395-page book is a veritable feast of many of the lesser-known stories of American black history. I love a book that I can pick up and open to any page and be totally involved in that chapter or poem. Some stories are new to me and others are ones that I knew about before. I was emotionally drawn to the poetry and the stories will remain with me long after the book is closed. I gave it four rather than five stars, only because the index was not always helpful.”



Judy Reinhardt

STEAM Lecture Series



AAUW Lake/Sumter 2021 STEAM Talks have received high grades as we looked at women artists, integration of art in learning, and how numbers work during our first three talks. Thank you to those who have joined in the Zoom presentations. There are two left in the series. If you would like to receive a Zoom link for



either or both these programs, contact Diane Jacobson at diandchas@gmail.com. Here are the details of the final two events.

Date: Thursday, March 4, 2021
Time: 11:00 a.m. EST

Title: *Keeping Your Online Information Safe*
Teacher: Brenda Bjerke

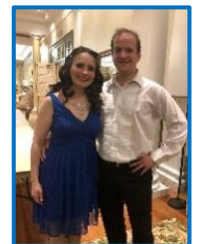
Brenda Bjerke is Senior Director, Information Risk Management at Target Corp. She is also an Executive Leadership Team member for the Diversity Action Committee and the Executive Women's Forum (EWF) Champion advancing women in security. She is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP). She holds a Bachelor of Applied Business and a Master of Business Administration.



Date: Monday, March 8, 2021
Time: 7:00 p.m. EST

Title: *Puttin' on the Ritz: The Process of Solo Stage Performance*
Teacher: Lindy & Greg Pendzick

Lindy & Greg Pendzick, the headliners at last year's AAUW Music of the Night, are actors/singers/dancers. Lindy holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Stetson University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The Ohio State University. Greg holds Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts from Boston University.



Public Policy

This year, AAUW Florida will be holding a Virtual Lobby Day on March 17 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. The Virtual Lobby Day plan includes presentations about the bills for which AAUW is lobbying, a short workshop on bill tracking, information on techniques for virtual lobbying, and more. Organizers will also distribute a statewide Action Alert for lobby day bills that AAUW supports.

At the branch level, we should be identifying our State legislators, and arranging to meet with them or one of their aides. The purpose of the meetings is to encourage legislators to support bills that are important to our branches and to AAUW. Meetings can be by phone, email, or online via Zoom, and branches will need to schedule meetings themselves outside of the 90-minute program planned by AAUW Florida.

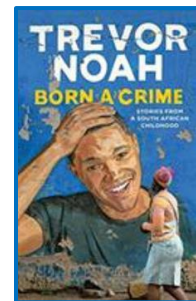
If you are not comfortable lobbying, you can still participate in the Virtual Lobby Day program to learn about the process. And you can barrage legislators with messages about the bills by responding to the statewide Action Alerts.

Please Contact Judy Bonn, our Public Policy Chair, for more information.

Diversity Book Club

Our March read will be *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Ginny Rivera will lead the discussion. The March meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17 via 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
Mar. 17	<i>Born a Crime</i>	Trevor Noah	Ginny Rivera
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>		



Most popular question these days is, “Did you get a vaccine?” Here is hoping you have all found a source and the light at the end of the tunnel of social isolation is getting closer.

Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the April edition is **March 22**

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>