

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

October 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 **OLD**



Welcome to what we hope is the Post Covid World!! It has been a long 14 months of not meeting in person. This year Katie Haviland has agreed to continue as Co-President. It is nice to have someone at my back and coaching me.

During the past year Covid took over our world but our AAUW group didn't miss a beat. We bought the Zoom software and formed a team of Computer trainers lead by Carolee Litwinka and Peg Tabor who trained our members to use Zoom. Ann Marie Lombardi and her helpers got the meetings on Zoom. We held our board meetings, book discussion group and the Diversity Committee had Zoom meetings each month. Diane Jacobson created a fund raiser with people addressing STEAM topics on Zoom for us.

This year we are planning to have our meetings back in Allamanda Recreation Center on the third Saturday. The first meeting will be September 18th. We are planning to serve no food, so bring your own coffee if you would like. If Covid causes restrictions, we can always meet on Zoom again.

We are supporting three women for Scholarships. We can support an additional student because of a gift from Carolyn Johnson's family. We supported four students who attended the virtual Stem Camp this summer.

Ann Marie Lombardi and Diane Jacobson have planned interesting meetings for us to enjoy. It will be great to see all of you again.

The lack of face-to-face meeting made it hard for newcomers to volunteer to help with our many committees. We need your help! The past board did a tremendous job keeping us as a cohesive group, but they are looking for new faces to help. As with any challenge, a successful outcome is multiplied by the participants taking on a vested interest and being involved. In a word, we need YOU.

Throughout the pandemic, the newsletter has helped us to maintain a strong, vibrant, connected branch of AAUW. **Meet the Members who Make our Branch Run** is a new feature that will highlight the many opportunities for involvement in supporting our mission ... take a look at who these members are, what it takes, and why members step up and take on a more active role. We encourage you to read the monthly interviews of different leadership positions and committee participation. We invite you to picture yourself in one of these roles.

Our core mission and basic purpose is to advance equity/equality for women and girls through scholarships, tech trek, diversity awareness. Help us keep the work moving forward.

Gay and Katie  
Co-Presidents.

## Meet The Members who make our Branch Work

### Scholarship Committee



The Scholarship Committee recruits, selects, and communicates with young women leaders who reside in Lake and Sumter counties who are completing their last two years of undergraduate education. Responsibilities of the committee also include raising funds to support the tuition. A raffle is the form of fundraising is used for this activity. The prize winners over the past few years have each received a beautiful piece of jewelry donated by Gold in Art Jewelers in Lady Lake. Members of this committee are Susan Gold, Diane Jacobson,

Gretchen Lewis, Marge McQueston and Kathy Mason. The committee is always looking for interested members to join them.

Committee Chair **Kathy Mason** was born in Boston, MA and grew up in Ashland, a small town in a rural area west of the city. She went to college to fulfill a lifetime dream of becoming a nurse. She was educated in Washington DC, and North Carolina earning a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in public health. After moving to FL she has lived in Neptune Beach (Jacksonville), Ft. Myers Beach and Tallahassee working in public health and in nursing education.

After earning a doctoral degree in education, she worked in positions which included serving as the Director of Public Health Nursing for the state of Florida at the Department of Health and was employed at Florida State University in the position of Dean of the College of Nursing. Upon moving to The Villages, she attended a summer breakfast and after a warm welcome joined our branch of AAUW. Over the past few years she has made many wonderful friends while continuing to support the education of young women through the Scholarship Committee.

# Program

## Saturday October 21



On October 21, we will hold our General Meeting again on Zoom at 10 AM.

Our program has 3 unique topics...meet the scholarship winners, learn about the Florida Sherriff's Youth Ranch, and wear Pink in solidarity.

Kathy Mason and the Scholarship Committee will kick off our program and introduce our newest scholarship winners. They are so excited to join us to share their education journeys and career plans. We are so proud to be able to help these women reach their goals and grateful to the entire Committee for all their hard work and dedication.

We then continue with special guest Debi Girard, the Donor Relations Officer with the Florida Youth Ranches, Inc. Founded in 1957, The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has been improving the lives of at-risk children through its seven Florida locations and comprehensive programs. The Sheriffs Youth Ranches is credited with helping more than 165,000 children and families in Florida. Debi (whose parents used to live in The Villages) is looking forward to talking with us as well as sharing a few special videos that exemplify their mission "Mending Lives, Healing Hearts".

And, as October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, please join us in solidarity and wear Pink.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

Ann Marie Lombardi and Diane Jacobson, Co-Program Directors

# Great Decisions



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Each year, eight topics are chosen by a panel of experts. The topics for 2022 will be announced soon.

Briefing books will be available for download as an eBook, as well as the printed book version.

We hope that this year we will be able to meet to discuss the next 8 topics face to face during January and February 2022. Details on how to participate in the program will be forthcoming. Email Diane Jacobson: [diandchas@gmail.com](mailto:diandchas@gmail.com) with questions, comments, or concerns.

## Diversity Committee

For the past year, the Diversity Committee has been hosting our online Racism Discussion Series in which many of you have participated. The Committee's plan was to resume the series in September, however, serious health challenges to committee leadership and their families have forced us to change our plans. Effective immediately, the Diversity Committee will be on hiatus until further notice.

The committee is deeply committed to the discussion series project. We found it to be an effective way to help people talk about difficult topics, and we regret having to step away from it now.

It is our hope that the AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officers in other branches around the country will pick up this project or something similar. When we are informed of their programs we will pass that information on to you. We are committed to this work and the issue of racism and inclusion and hope that you will remain committed to it as well.

In the meantime, you can watch (or re-watch) on YouTube the programs that we presented last year. Nine of them can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoMURXPdXSTm59SLPoWHqQQ>.

The other, by Peggy McIntosh, can be found at: <https://youtu.be/flpf90tffps>

Additionally, we will continue to offer “Great Reads” on the topic monthly in this newsletter, and welcome your recommendations of relevant books that we can share. And keep your eyes open for webinars that National is offering by their Diversity and Inclusion Committee to help us stay focused and sensitive to this issue. Here are the webinars scheduled for 2021-22:

- 2 Dec - Creating inclusive spaces: activities to get to know your membership, what has shaped you? When have you felt included, when have you felt excluded, create as a group more inclusive practices that become standard at meetings
- 27 Jan – Allyship: what is it, getting past performative allyship, how to be an ally
- 24 Mar – Intersectionality: definitions, how intersectionality may affect individuals; overall purpose
- 26 May – Social Justice: how other topics play into social justice; definition

Watch your email for messages about these webinars and links to register.

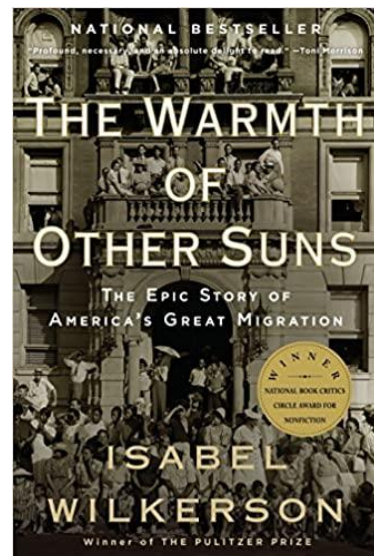
We anticipate re-activating the Diversity Committee and resuming work towards our charge, hopefully during the 2022-23 program year. In the interim, please direct questions or comments to the committee at [divcomaauw@gmail.com](mailto:divcomaauw@gmail.com).

## Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month’s Great Read is *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. The following information is drawn from the book’s publisher, Random House

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In this beautifully written masterwork, the Pulitzer Prizewinner and bestselling author of *Caste* chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.**

**NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER**



*From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.*



*With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success and, in old age, voted for Barack Obama when he ran for an Illinois Senate seat; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights, saw his family fall, and finally found peace in God; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career, the personal physician to Ray Charles as part of a glitteringly successful medical career, which allowed him to purchase a grand home where he often threw exuberant parties.*

*Wilkerson brilliantly captures their first treacherous and exhausting cross-country trips by car and train and their new lives in colonies that grew into ghettos, as well as how they changed these cities with southern food, faith, and culture and improved them with discipline, drive, and hard work. Both a riveting microcosm and a major assessment, **The Warmth of Other Suns** is a bold, remarkable, and riveting work, a superb account of an “unrecognized immigration” within our own land. Through the breadth of its narrative, the beauty of the writing, the depth of its research, and the fullness of the people and lives portrayed herein, this book is destined to become a classic.*

I can't recommend this book strongly enough. Wilkerson brings history to life through the stories of the three people she highlights. And one of the stories comes close to home as the person featured was from right here in Eustis in Central Florida!



Linda Carpenter

*Editor note: Read this recently after it was on my Kindle FOREVER! It is outstanding! Beth*

## Scholarship News

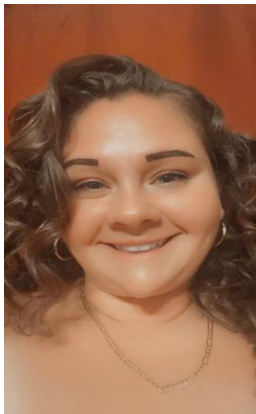
The Scholarship Committee is pleased to introduce the membership to our newest awardees:

**Hannah Davis**



Hannah is from Clermont, FL, and is now enrolled at UCF earning her BS in Event Planning. While enrolled at LSSC she received the Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Community Service and for the Spring 2021 semester she earned the Presidents List Academic Award. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the National Society of Leadership. During this time she also worked at Cornerstone Hospice as an IT/Infomatics Intern and Student Ambassador for the LSSC Foundation.

**Nikita Goodson:**



Nikita is from **Wildwood** and is currently enrolled at LSSC earning a BAS degree in Strategic Leadership. She is a hard working mother of 2 children and employed full time in an administrative position in a local business in Wildwood. While enrolled she was a member of the National Society of Leadership. She still finds time to volunteer at the Sumter County Health Department in the mental health program. Nikita plans to continue her education and earn a Master's degree in Business.

**Jacklyn Lee:**



Jacklyn is from Leesburg and is currently enrolled at LSSC earning a BAS degree in Strategic Leadership. She is a mother of one young daughter and in addition finds time to work as a Student Assistant in the Career Development Office. She also volunteers as Leadership Services Chair for the Phi Theta Kappa awards program as well as serving as a President Intern in the National Society of Leadership and Success. Her goal is to work with a non-profit organization.

### **Shelby Mulholland: Scholarship in Honor of Carolyn Johnson**



Shelby is from Leesburg and is currently enrolled at UF earning a BS degree in biology. Her goal is to earn a PhD in neuropharmacology to seek treatment and cures for neurological disorders and disease. She is motivated through experience with such an illness, as a family member is coping with a neurological disease. While enrolled at LSSC she was a member of the National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa and volunteered at Waterman Hospital in Tavares. She also worked part time as a cashier at Books-A-Million. Her references note that she is a strong, determined and passionate young woman.



## Membership News

We have 115 members as of September 19. We would like to introduce our new members.

### **Deborah Gately**

733 Rosella Place, The Villages 32162

[Debplay629@gmail.com](mailto:Debplay629@gmail.com)

352.391.4476

### **Maureen Brown**

2423 Kate Hill St, The Villages 32162

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

401.662.6314

## AAUW Member Benefits

Several years ago, AAUW National stopped making hard copies of brochures and other printed materials available to the branches. Instead, they offered materials on their website and granted permission to branches to download and print them as needed. To offset branch printing costs, National arranged for members to receive discount purchasing cards for use at Office Depot and Office Max stores. At the time, the discount on copying was up to 80%.



Initially, members received the cards in ground mail. Although members have not received cards in recent years, the program is still in operation. Now, members can print their own cards at <http://officediscounts.org/aauw.html> and save up to 75%. In addition to printing your own in-store card, there are also links and codes for using the card for online purchases.

Please note...this discount is available to you for any personal printing needs that you have, not just AAUW material!

Be sure you check the national AAUW website for information about other discounts available to members.

# ACTIVITIES

## Singles Group

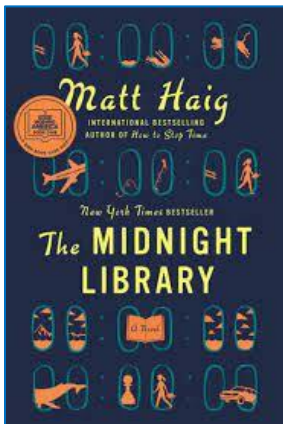
**September**—Luncheon Tasting event at the Spice and Tea Exchange CANCELED for lack of enough participation.

**October**—Sunday, October 17, 5:00pm—Covered dish early Thanksgiving potluck at the home of Jan Barone, 1865 Claverton St., TV 32162, phone: 352-633-8148. Please RSVP to Jan to tell her what dish you will bring.

**November**—TBD

**December 2nd**—Lunch at Wolfgang Puck Restaurant, Brownwood Hotel, For reservations contact Dorothy Dobbs (205-527-3000) or Liz Schweers (850-247-9489).

## Diversity Book Club



The AAUW Book Club held its first meeting of the 2021-22 year on September 15. The meeting was held via Zoom due to continuing concerns about the COVID virus. Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 20 at 10:30 am. The book will be *The Midnight Diary* by Matt Haig. All members are invited to attend. Anyone wishing to join the club should contact Kate Manion at [kmanion52@gmail.com](mailto:kmanion52@gmail.com).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Discussion Leader</b>
Oct. 20	The Midnight Library	Matt Haig	Peg Tabor
Nov. 17	The Dictionary of Lost Words	Pip Williams	Jeannie Hamilton
Dec. 15	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON		
Jan. 19	The Four Winds	Kristen Hannah	Barb Blatchford
Feb. 16	The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings	Ann McCutchan	TBD
Mar. 16	The Barbizon	Paulina Bren	Linda Carpenter
Apr. 20	The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell	Robert Dugoni	Peg Tabor
May 18	Klara and the Sun	Kazuo Ishiro	Blanche Boyne
June 15	The Personal Librarian	Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Mary Place
July 20	The End of the Ocean	Maja Lunde	Christine Lokem-Kim
Aug 17	SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR 2022-23		



Welcome Back! Here is hoping that we can start up our activities in person! Submissions for the October newsletter are due September 20.

Editor: Beth Hicks  
[aauwsnews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsnews@gmail.com)

### AAUW Websites

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