

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

March 2022



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 our Lake/Sumter members.

There were several highlights at our in-person February General Meeting. First was the opportunity of greeting each other in person, followed by an enlightening presentation

by Nini Cooper, past president of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Members of the Scholarship Committee, who maintain contact with current scholarship recipients, shared notes of appreciation for the financial assistance received. Hearing the individuals progress and plans for the future gives validity to this branch project of support to young college women. What we do as a group matters... both our personal and financial support are vital to these young women. Thank you to all who worked on the Scholarship fundraiser. And congratulations to Diane Geach, life member of AAUW, who is the recipient of the lovely necklace donated by Gold in Art.

The Tech Trek fund raiser: Adopt a Precinct is almost at participation goal. Think about participating and calling Judy Reinhardt NOW before the March 1 deadline.

Look in your email for your copy of FloriVision, the State newsletter sent out February 18. It contains details for the State Conference to be held via Zoom April 1, 2, and 3. Because the meeting is virtual we can all attend. If you

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can't find FloriVision in your regular email, you might check your Promotions or Spam folder.

We look forward to you all joining us in March for the presentation by Tweet Coleman, a new branch member who will tell us about her career and challenges as an airline pilot.

Be on the lookout for your copy of *The Village Neighbor* which will have an article about our branch in their April edition, thanks to Ann Marie Lombardi.

We all are invited to participate in two March events, sponsored by Sister organizations

March 5 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Wildwood Community Center, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, a discussion entitled: *Uprooting Prejudice, Conversations for Change*. To register, go to: LWVtrifl.org

March 8 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Lake Sumter for a celebration of Women's right to vote and International Woman's Day. Come dressed in suffragist colors of white, purple and gold, or just as you are.

Gay Birchard and Katie Haviland
Co-Presidents

The Future of our Branch

The Strategic Planning Committee met via Zoom for 8 hours over the February 12-13 weekend—4 hours in the afternoon of each day—to develop a Strategic Vision that will direct branch operations for the next 5 years. Char Griffin led the 10 committee members through the process of strategic planning.

On the first day, Char presented foundation information about the process of strategic planning, which has three components: Strategic Vision (why we exist; what we hope to become); Goals (what we want to achieve in the long term); and Objectives (detailed steps to reach the goals). Foundation information also included data about our branch members' reasons for joining and renewing as well as branch efforts, such as Tech Trek, scholarships, interest groups, and educational programs, in which they are most interested. She then led the committee through a SWOT analysis to identify branch Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats; the committee used all this information to formulate a Strategic Vision draft.

While the committee produced a skeletal plan, the details need to be worked out. Toward that end, Linda and Anne Sobocinski, co-Presidents-elect, will flesh out the wording of goals and propose objectives or action steps, which the committee will review. So, watch for more information about the plan as we finalize the details.

And we would be remiss if we didn't extend our heart-felt thanks to the committee: Gay Birchard, Tweet Coleman, Susan Gold, Jeannie Hamilton, Katie Haviland, Marsha

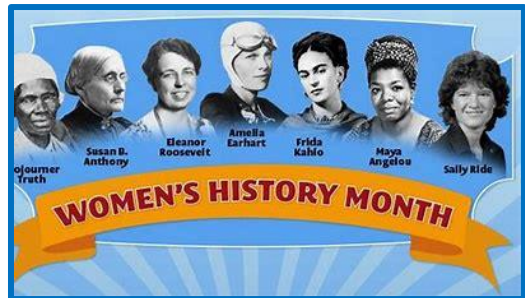
Herring, Ann Marie Lombardi, Joanie Schmidt, committee members; Char Griffin, facilitator; and Linda Carpenter and Anne Sobocinski, co-chairs. Our appreciation for their time and their contributions to the future of our branch is beyond words.

Linda Carpenter and Anne Sobocinski
Co-Presidents-Elect

Programs

General Meeting: March 19 Celebrating Women's History Month

Since 1987, the United States has observed March as Women's History Month to celebrate women's contributions to history, culture and society.



Tweet in a Cessna 172 at the Leesburg Airport with labradoodle Karma and husband Patrick.

Please join us on March 19th in the Allamanda Recreation Center as we celebrate Women's History Month featuring Branch member Tweet Coleman, a trailblazing woman in aviation and acclaimed author. Doors open at 9:15 a.m. and the meeting begins promptly at 9:30 with social-distanced seating. We ask that you wear a mask during our time together.



General Meeting: April 23 Annual Meeting

The agenda will include Branch Elections, End of Year Presentations, Introduction of Scholarship Winners, as well as new initiatives planned for the coming year. It's important that every member make every effort to attend.

Ann Marie Lombardi and Diane Jacobson
Co-Program Directors

Tech Trek



The Tech Trek Committee is in the process of setting up interviews with the 9 girls who submitted applications—8 from Sumter County and 1 from Lake County. The bios on all the girls are outstanding; every one of the girls is highly praised by her science/math teacher. One of the girls is in national competition for her science fair project, and several girls have won science fair awards in their county. It is particularly notable that not only are these girls smart but that they also want to make society better by developing new technologies in the future to improve the lives of those in need. These girls make not only their teachers and parents proud but also our Branch which has the opportunity to help guide them toward rewarding STEM careers. Even though Tech Trek 2022 will again be virtual instead of live on a college campus, these 9 girls are still very enthusiastic and eager to participate.

Liz Schweers, Tech Trek Co-Chair and past Co-President

Fundraising

At the February general meeting we celebrated our major Scholarship fundraiser as we drew the winner for the beautiful jewelry donated by Gold In Art owned by Richie Kluesener.

Stop by Gold In Art and be sure to mention that we at AAUW are grateful for all they do for us. The lucky winner of this year's necklace was Diane Geach who is a 50-year life member of AAUW. Congratulations to her and a HUGH thank you to all who made donations to support our Scholarship program.



Hearing from our past scholarship winners we learned, “The AAUW’s scholarship has helped (me) in so many ways. I feel that I have support and encouragement from you all....” Making a difference in these young women’s lives matters.

Scholarship News

Over the next several months we will be sharing letters from our current scholarship recipients. It will help you understand how much of a difference we are making in these young women's lives. We will start with Hannah Davis

My professional goals have not changed, if anything, after taking my classes I have had even more of a drive and excitement to complete my degree and get involved in event planning as soon as I can.

The scholarship has made a huge difference in my life. I would not be in the degree program I am currently in without the help of the AAUW. In fact, I would not be at UCF without the help of the AAUW. The donors and the women of the AAUW opened the door for me to attend UCF and pursue my dreams for my future career. That is something that I will forever be grateful for. Thank you for all that you have done for me, and I hope to one day repay the generosity you have shown me to future students in need.



Kathy Mason,
Scholarship Chair and past Co-President

Adopt-A-Precinct Poll Worker Initiative

Our Lake/Sumter AAUW team is formed for Adopt – A – Precinct in Sumter County. On March 1st Judith Reinhardt takes the next step by registering each of the volunteer's names for approval from the office of William "Bill" Keen, Supervisor of Elections, Sumter County. The volunteers will have training June 22 and have committed to work the polls on August 23 and November 8th. Upon completion of working the polls AAUW Florida will receive \$4,400 to fund our AAUW Florida Tech Trek program.

Thank you to those who have signed up for this project, we look forward to being part of the voting process while supporting our Tech Trek program.

Diane Jacobson
Fundraising Chair and Co-Director of Programs

Membership

Our branch now has a dedicated email address for membership issues. Please make note of this and use it for any AAUW membership issues.
membershiplakesumteraauw@gmail.com

On February 15, each member received an email from Katrina Sun Breese at AAUW National with special directions for creating a new password and for accessing the National site and Database for re enrollment.

A webinar is being offered on Thursday, March 3 at 3:30 p.m., to assist in creating a new password and accessing the National Database.

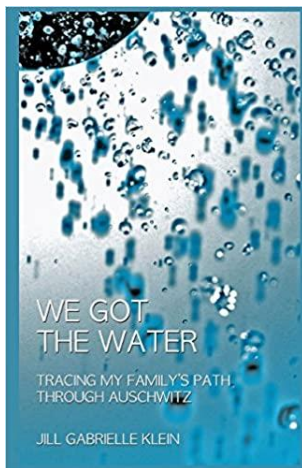
In the email you received, you can click the words special webinar in the second to last paragraph

Each email is personalized for the member to whom the email is addressed as is the link to register for the webinar.

Additional details and a summary of the March 3 webinar will be available at the March general meeting .

Karen Pickelshimer
Membership Co-Chair

Great Read from the Diversity Committee



We Got the Water: Tracing My Family's Path Through Auschwitz
by Jill Gabrielle Klein

For many years Gene Klein, a 94-year-old resident of The Villages, has spoken to community groups about his experiences during World War II and the Holocaust. In the late 1990's his daughter Jill decided that she should write down the stories of her father, his two sisters, and their mother. Through extensive interviews and the sisters' personal diaries, the author spent nearly 15 years composing this vivid narrative of the Klein family's struggle to survive. It is a remarkable testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

The following book description is taken from the Amazon.com website:

We Got the Water is the story of the Klein family: Herman and Bertha, and their three children, Lilly, Oli and sixteen-year-old Gabi. In the spring and summer of 1944, along with more than 400,000 other Hungarian Jews, they were forced from their homes, rounded up, and sent to Auschwitz. The Kleins were aboard one of the very first trains of this mass deportation. Author Jill Gabrielle Klein follows her father, his sisters and their mother through Auschwitz and into slave labor camps in Poland and Germany, providing a narrative—both harrowing and inspirational—of resilience in the face of terror. As it charts the author's personal quest to reconstruct the past, the

book also documents the inexorable disappearance of living Holocaust survivors, whose first-person accounts illuminate this dark period and inscribe it in our collective memory.

Diane Starr, Diversity Committee Member

Great Decisions



Our AAUW Lake/Sumter Great Decisions 2022 offered timely topics and wonderful discussion. This year starting in January and ending in March we had 30 participants for the 9 Great Decisions topics. We divided into two groups for each 1 hour 20-minute session and as a bonus \$258 was realized from contributions and book sale discounts.

Carol Richardson and Diane Jacobson took turns facilitating the sessions. Each class consisted of round table participation, viewing the DVD Master Class from the Foreign Policy Association and ended with open discussion of the topic at hand. We are very proud to say that each class is focused, and we work hard to stay on topic.

Consider being a leader for Great Decisions 2023!!! Someone needs to order and distribute the books, set up a classroom space and lead discussion. Chat with Diane Jacobson to find out details and to see how you can help. No need to do all the work yourself, the more the merrier, please consider volunteering your time and talents. Contact Diane Jacobson at diandchas@gmail.com or call 352 750 0032. Make Great Decisions!!!

Activities

Singles Group

The AAUW Singles gals met on Valentine's Day at Dorothy Dobbs' home for an entertaining get together. As pictured below, we "learned" how to do Origami folds together with some interesting philosophy from our teacher Wayne Tahara. If you have been wanting to learn how to make Origami folds, you can find out more by connecting with www.en.origami-club.com where you learn for free how to make hundreds of things. We also shared some decadent and delicious chocolate treats.



The Singles group usually meets monthly either at members' homes or by attending community events. All AAUW singles are welcome. For more information call Dorothy Dobbs, 205-527-3000, or Liz

Schweers, 850-247-9489. In March we are looking forward to a musical evening at the Orange Blossom Opry in Weirsdale.

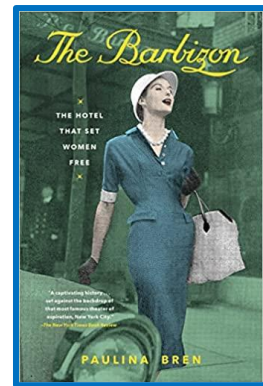
Liz Schweers
Singles Group Member and past Co-President

Book Club

The book club will meet on Wednesday, March 16 via Zoom to discuss *The Barbizon* by Paula Bren. Linda Carpenter will lead the discussion.

April's read will be *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Kate Manion, Book Club Coordinator



Date	Book	Author	Discussion Leader
Mar. 16	<i>The Barbizon</i>	Paulina Bren	Linda Carpenter
Apr. 20	<i>The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell</i>	Robert Dugoni	Peg Tabor
May 18	<i>Klara and the Sun</i>	Kazuo Ishiro	Blanche Boyne
June 15	<i>The Personal Librarian</i>	Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Mary Place
July 20	<i>The End of the Ocean</i>	Maja Lunde	Christine Loken-Kim
Aug 17	SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR 2022-23		

A note from Jacquie Latzer

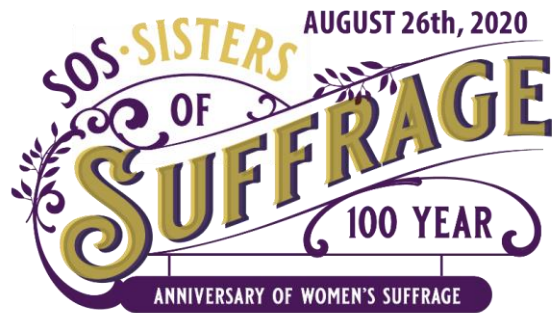
Ladies,

It is hard to express my gratitude for the kindness, thoughtfulness you showered on me when my dear Kenn, passed away. Your cards and acts of service brought me comfort and were examples of community. Thank you for surrounding me with your caring.

thank you

With sincere appreciation,

Jacquie Latzer



**STANDING ON THEIR SHOULDERS:
FROM VOTE TO VOICE**

Celebrate International Women's Day

Tuesday March 8

11 AM to 1 PM

Lake Sumter Landing – The Villages

A **program** of Songs, History and Vision as we celebrate the Past, Present and Future of the Right to Vote - and Honor our Diverse Foremothers, Sisters, Daughters, and Friends.

Try to wear the Suffragist colors of White, Yellow and Purple. See you there!

Follow us on Facebook: Sisters of Suffrage (SOS)

For more information contact Beth Hicks (ethicks71@gmail.com)



Thank you for your support of this newsletter. March is Women's History Month and I hope you are able to take the opportunity to learn a bit more about our herstory! Usual deadline of March 20 for the April edition.

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AAUW Websites

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

