



American Association of University Women  
Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc.  
*Learn – Connect – Support*

**May 2025**

## Presidents' Message



Greetings to all,

As we come to the end of our term as Co-Presidents, we want to thank and celebrate the leadership team who made the successes of

this year possible. We also want to thank all of you, our members, for your continuing dedication to our branch and the mission of Lake/Sumter AAUW. Because of your generosity and support, 13 girls from Lake and Sumter Counties will be going to Tech Trek STEM Camp this summer. Also, eight new scholarship recipients will begin preparing for another year of college classes, knowing the burden of tuition was eased by your generosity and support.

Additionally, a special thank you goes to the members of the nominating committee: Katie Haviland, Betty Rohan, Sarah Reagan, and Carolyn Pasquale. They have curated a fantastic leadership team for next year. We are looking forward to all the wonderful programs, adventures and learning experiences the 2025-2026 Board has planned for our branch.

We also want to say thank you to Beth Hicks, who has served as the newsletter editor for seven years. Beth has been tireless in her efforts to produce a monthly bulletin that communicates to our members all the wonderful opportunities available at Lake/Sumter AAUW. This valuable resource is not only a way

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to keep our members engaged in lifelong learning but also provides a “snap-shot” for potential members to see we are a multi-faceted organization with various educational and social opportunities. Beth is looking for a member to assume the responsibility of editor and will be happy to provide on-the-job training for anyone interested. If you would like to know more about the role of newsletter editor, please contact Beth directly.

As we all go our separate ways for the Summer, we wish you happiness and health and look forward to seeing you again in September!

Bonnie Weaver and Jennifer Thompson  
Co-Presidents  
Lake/Sumter AAUW

Learn – Connect – Support

## **501(c)(3) and You**

Your tax-deductible contributions contribute to the success of our Tech Trek and scholarship programs. Please keep AAUW in mind as you plan your annual donations from your RMD...or otherwise.



The clock is resetting and it is time to start work for next year's awardees!

Eight new scholarship winners, four returning scholarship winners and 13 Tech Trek attendees are possible because of you!

Beth Hicks  
501(c)(3) Implementation Co Chair

## **Congratulations and Best Wishes...**

...to the 2025-2026 AAUW Board who were installed at our May Luncheon.



L-R: Mary Anderson and Bobbie Peters, Membership; Sarah Reagan and Betty Rohan, Presidents; Laura McLaughlin and Kathy Howe, Programs, Sandy Plano and Dee Sherman, Secretaries. Not pictured: Sue Laluk and Elizabeth White, Presidents-Elect.

# LEARN

## General Meeting Programs

Many folks have asked for more information on the work of our April speaker, Katina Stephens. There is a donation form attached to the end of this newsletter.

### *Future Plans*

The Program Committee is hard at work planning another fantastic set of monthly General Meeting programs for next year. Watch for details on the website and in email blasts as we get closer to the beginning of the 2025-26 program year. One preview: our September General Meeting will be in Leesburg as we continue our Lake County Outreach.

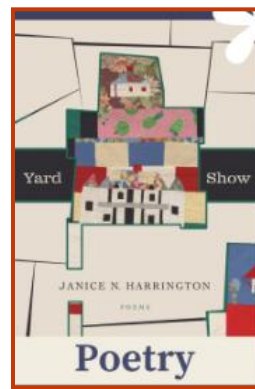
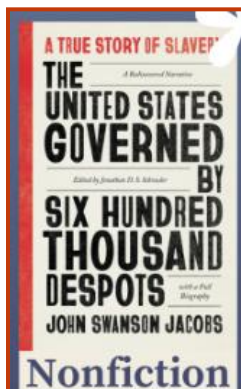
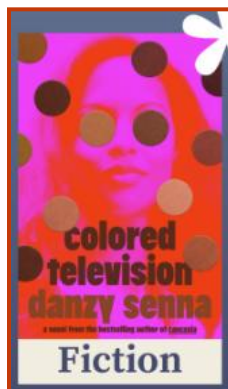
## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### *DEI Great Reads*

For this summer, we feature the 2025 winners of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards. “For 90 years, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards have championed fearless, groundbreaking literature that challenges the status quo, ignites dialogue, and shapes a more just and inclusive world,” said Lillian Kuri, president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation, which presents the award.



The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards jury, chaired by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey, selected this year’s distinguished group of winners:



- **Fiction:** *Colored Television* by Danzy Senna – Jane Gibson has high hopes that her life is about to turn around as she meets with a Hollywood producer to develop her second novel into a comedy show for a streaming network— but things don't work out quite as planned.
- **Nonfiction:** *The United States Governed By Six Hundred Thousand Despots: A True Story of Slavery* by John Swanson Jacobs, edited by Jonathan Schroeder – Rediscovered after having been published in an Australian newspaper in 1855, this first-person slave narrative tells the life story of John Swanson Jacobs, who fled both the South and the United States altogether, becoming a stateless citizen of the world and its waters. The second half of the book contains a full-length, nine-generation biography of Jacobs and his family by literary historian Schroeder.
- **Memoir:** *Feeding Ghosts* by Tessa Hulls – In her deeply moving graphic memoir debut, Hulls traces the reverberations of Chinese history across three generations of women in her family, exposing the fear and trauma that haunt them and the love that holds them together.
- **Poetry:** *Yard Show* by Janice N. Harrington – As seen through the documentation of objects found within yard shows, this collection of descriptive, lyrical, and experimental poems speaks to how Black Americans have shaped a sense of belonging and place in the Midwest.

**Lifetime Achievement:** Yusef Komunyakaa – A professor of creative writing at New York University, known for his lyrical explorations of the Vietnam War, rural Southern life, and race, this Pulitzer Prize-winning poet has shaped contemporary poetry with a voice that is both unflinching and deeply evocative.

Information from the Anisfield-Wolf website & Amazon.com

*Editor Note: Thanks to Diane Starr for her tireless efforts over the years to offer us stimulating reading suggestions.*

## Day Trips

### *Members Visit Clydesdale Farm*

On Thursday, April 10, 17 AAUW members and two friends met at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center and drove to Dunnellon, Florida to visit the Grandview Clydesdale Farm and Tours, one of the most award-winning Clydesdale farms in the world. The ladies participated in a two-hour guided tour of the Grandview Clydesdales operation which gave them an opportunity to learn about this famous breed of horse.



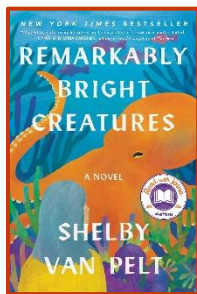
Over the course of the afternoon, they learned about the day-to-day operations of the farm from the ultrasounding of the mares for breeding to the birth of baby Clydesdales.

In addition, they viewed the life of a Clydesdale from babyhood through adulthood to winning national and international championships and even starring in Budweiser commercials. The presentations were given in air-conditioned buildings where there was seating for everyone. The visit to see a mom and baby Clydesdales was in an open viewing area that was also under cover.

After visiting the farm, the group traveled to the nearby Stumpknockers Restaurant on the Withlacoochee River to enjoy a seafood dinner in a charming old Florida setting. There the food was good, and the company was even better. The day ended back at Colony Cottage where we said our goodbyes and headed for home with lots of memories of our day on the farm.

Be sure to check [the blog](#) on our website for more pictures of this and our other day trips.

## Book Club



The Book Club's final meeting for this year is May 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sheriff's Annex on 466. Our read will be *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Marge McQueston will lead the discussion

For more information, please contact Kate Manion.

## CONNECT

### Membership

#### *Printed Directory*

We currently have 96 members. To accommodate member requests, we have printed the 2024-25 Membership Directory. It is available for \$5.00; contact Membership Co-Directors Leslie Flanders or Terri Slotterback to get yours. The printed directory is current as of October 14, 2024, and will not be re-printed this year.

#### *Online Directory*

Our online directory is updated regularly as we welcome new members to our Branch and edit contact information when members renew. Please check your entry in the directory, located in the Members' Pages of our website ([www.lakesumteraauw.org](http://www.lakesumteraauw.org)), to

make sure your information is correct and complete. If you need the password for the Members' Pages, email Beth Hicks to request it.

Members can also send a photo to go with their entry. The photo should be a headshot in .jpeg format; it can be sent as an email attachment. Email Peggy Keller or Kelli-Ann Wallace with any changes to your entry.

## **Mah Jongg**

Please contact Barbara Fieldman ([bfieldman@gmail.com](mailto:bfieldman@gmail.com), 321-663-1858) if you are interested in playing AAUW Mah Jongg.

## **Bridge**

Barbara Fisler ([kiddielit5@gmail.com](mailto:kiddielit5@gmail.com)) remains the contact for the weekly bridge games.

# **SUPPORT**

## **Tech Trek**

Fourteen girls applied to attend the 2025 Tech Trek Summer Camps. All the girls were interviewed by our branch Tech Trek Committee. Based on the committee's feedback, Florida AAUW accepted all 14 girls but only 13 decided to attend the camps. Donations from various individuals and organizations made it possible for AAUW Lake/Sumter to fund all the girls.

Five girls will participate in the summer camp held on the campus of Stetson University in Deland. The core courses at this camp are Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab, Marine Science, Forensic Science, and Environmental Science.

The remaining girls will be attending the camp held at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter where the core classes are Qualcomm Wearable Tech, Structural Engineering, Neuroscience and Marine Biology.

In January 2026, the 13 girls who will be attending the 2025 Tech Trek Camps will be invited to attend the AAUW General Meeting and share their experiences with us. Please plan on attending this meeting to learn about their experiences!

Sue Hanson-Otis  
Tech Trek Coordinator

*Editor Note: Thanks to Sue and her fantastic team for their tireless efforts on this, one of our signature programs.*

## Scholarships

Our May luncheon was a celebration of women scholars! We granted 12 awards this year, including four second year recipients and eight new recipients. The Scholarship Committee announced all scholars and presented the seven recipients who were able to attend the luncheon. They are:



**Bryleigh** is a new recipient this year. She has been homeschooled and will receive her associate's degree from Lake Sumter State College (LSSC) this spring. Bryleigh is the youngest of our awardees, at 17.

**Victoria** is a second-year awardee from Beacon College. She is working toward a degree in Human Services and wants to become a school social worker.



**Tiffany** is a first-year recipient from the Philippines. She is working toward a second bachelor's degree to become an ICU nurse.

**Fiona** is a Beacon College student completing her bachelor's degree in human services. This is the second year we have supported Fiona in her educational journey.



**Aponi**, a new awardee this year, is studying organizational management at LSSC. Her goal is to own and operate her own photography business.

Scholarship recipients who were not at the luncheon include



**Carla**, from Venezuela, is completing her degree in business administration and economics at Valencia College. She is a first-year awardee.



**Halle** is a first-year recipient; at 60 years, she's our oldest awardee this year. She works as a teacher's aide and is returning to school to complete her bachelor's degree in elementary education.

**Christina** will receive her associate's degree in August this year from LSSC. As a first-year recipient, she will transfer to Florida Atlantic University to study finance and accounting in pursuit of becoming a CPA.

**Lindsay**, a first-year recipient, will enter the University of Florida in the fall to continue her education in nursing. She wants to become a nurse practitioner.

**Tevia**, a first-year awardee, has completed her junior year at Beacon College already. We will support her during her final year at Beacon as she prepares to be a high-school level health educator.

**Evelyn**, a second-year awardee, is completing her nursing degree at LSSC.

**Allyson**, another second-year recipient, is studying design and technology at University of Florida.

We are delighted to support all these deserving women in their educational journeys. You will be meeting them again over the upcoming year. But learn more about them on our website ([www.lakesumteraauw.org](http://www.lakesumteraauw.org)).

**YOUR SUPPORT** helps make this happen!



**American Association of University Women  
Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc**

***Learn – Connect – Support***

This is my last issue as editor after a fantastic 8 years.  
PLEASE contact me and pick up the job of keeping  
our members informed and up to date with our  
happenings...

Editor: Beth Hicks  
[Ethick71@gmail.com](mailto:Ethick71@gmail.com)

#### AAUW Websites

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

## **WHAT THE FARM! YOUTH CAMPS 2025**

**Camp Dates: Saturday, June 28th and Saturday, July 12th**  
**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Platinum Sponsor \$1000**

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**Gold Sponsor \$500**

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**Silver Sponsor \$300**

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**Bronze Sponsor \$100**

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The deadline for corporate sponsor commitments, donations and print ready ads for the souvenir booklet is **Friday, June 6, 2025**. If you have a business, club or organization you are donating on behalf of please send a copy of your business cards. All sponsors will be acknowledged in our schedule booklet for all would be farmers and their parents.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check/money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my camera-ready ad or information to have an ad created for the souvenir booklet. If digital form, please email to [kstephens.sclf@gmail.com](mailto:kstephens.sclf@gmail.com)

\_\_\_\_ We are unable to attend the event; however, we would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please make all checks/money orders payable to **SCL Foundation, Inc.** and forward completed forms to [kstephens.sclf@gmail.com](mailto:kstephens.sclf@gmail.com). You can mail sponsorship donations to SCL Foundation, Inc at **P.O. BOX 702, BUSHNELL, FL 33513**. We can also decide to have ads and donations picked up in person. Please call me @ 352-446-2851 if you have any questions.

***Katina A. Stephens***  
***South Atlantic Regional Director***  
***SCL Foundation, Inc.***  
***Cell: 352-446-2851***

***THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***