



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

April 2024

Presidents' Message



And now it is April – a short and happy month. April is named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Famous folks born in April include Leonardo DaVinci (April 15, 1542), William Shakespeare (April 23, 1564), Charlie Chaplin (April 16, 1889), and Jane

Goodall (April 3, 1934). Happy Birthday, too, to our AAUW branch members and friends who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

We have welcomed spring and Easter and eaten more than enough jelly beans and chocolate bunnies. Some of us are planning a trip North to visit family and friends. Mother's Day is coming soon, and so is June, a month for weddings and graduations. Some of us will be hosting family and friends here in Lake and Sumter Counties as we watch the temperature climb and the pools and golf courses fill up.

Our AAUW activities are winding down for the year. We will meet at Allamanda Recreation Center on Saturday April 27 at 10:00 a.m. Our program will highlight women veterans – their stories and their challenges. We also will vote on the slate of offices for the coming year. This will be your last chance to purchase tickets for our year end luncheon which will be held at the Legacy Restaurant at Nancy Lopex Country club on Saturday May 4.

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Thanks to our tax-exempt status and the generous donations of parents, organizations, and our own members, we have enough money to fund 13 girls for this summer's Tech Trek. The late breaking good news is that **all 13 were accepted and heading to camp**. What an amazing accomplishment. Kudos to Liz Schweers, her committee and all those who have supported this wonderful program.

Our branch is 100 members strong – and we appreciate every one of you. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with us.

Barbara Fisler and Helen Gozdanovic
Co-Presidents

Nominating Committee

The following members are nominees for the 2024-2025 Executive Committee:

- Co-Presidents-Elect – Betty Rohan and Sarah Reagan
- Co-Programs – Laura McLaughlin
- Co-Finance Director – Diane Ericson
- Co-Secretary – Sandra Plano

The membership will be voting on these nominees at the April meeting, and the installation of these members will take place at the May luncheon.

We also want to thank the following members who are remaining on the Executive Committee for a second year.

- Co-Presidents – Jennifer Thompson and Bonnie Weaver
- Co-Programs – Kathy Howe
- Co-Membership – Leslie Flanders and Terri Slotterback
- Co-Finance Director – Barbara Fieldman
- Co-Secretary – Dee Sherman

501(c)(3) and You

Your support has been overwhelming and we thank you! Tech Trek attendees and scholarship recipients will be the ones who benefit.

The committee is available to assist in any IRA or organizational donations.

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



LEARN

Meetings and Programs

April General Meeting

Saturday April 27
Allamanda Recreation Center
Doors Open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation
Program starts at 10:00 a.m.



Villagers for Veterans will present a program on their work with women veterans experiencing homelessness. Ashley's House, currently being built in Eustis, FL, will serve as a transition home for homeless women veterans. Currently 13% of the military consists of women who serve, giving rise to women veterans being among the veterans who are experiencing homelessness in large numbers. Ashley's House will be a safe haven for these women veterans, the largest demographic in today's military.

March General Meeting Follow-up

March meeting attendees heard a highly personal account of the Holocaust and its impact on the family of Michael Igel. All left profoundly touched by his story.

And many attendees added the Florida Holocaust Museum in St Pete to their list of Florida destination.



Fall General Meeting Needs

Ann Marie Lombardi is looking for a few volunteers to share the hospitality responsibilities for our General Meetings, starting in September. It is an **easy job** to set up the food and paper goods tables as well as pass around the Volunteer List for members to bring breakfast items to future meetings.

Ann Marie will store all the paper goods, decorations, etc. and arrange for the coffee and hot water to be made by the recreation center staff.

Please contact Ann Marie by email, cell or text (am.lombardi1956@gmail.com, or 352-638-0550) if you are interested and the months you are available to help. Thank you.

Public Policy

Women and the Future of Work

Jobs of the future are changing rapidly. This will create new opportunities as well as new challenges for women. At the national, state, and local levels, AAUW is asking us to help change practices and policies so women can thrive in the next generation workforce.

Why Does This Matter? The nature of work, what we do, how we do it and where we do it, is constantly evolving. The rapid pace of this change will only accelerate for all, but especially for women. Technological advances will diminish demand for certain jobs, but increase the need for others. Though women now make up less than half of the work force, 58% of us are at risk of losing our jobs to technology. For example, jobs that women have traditionally held are at-risk of being eliminated by technology such as self-checkout at stores, transponders at highway tolls and manufacturing robots. Women and girls need to be constantly and continuously made aware of the opportunities of STEM and what it means to their long-term career opportunities and financial gains.

New workplace models such as telecommuting and the gig economy, could allow for greater flexibility to enable women to find a better work-life balance. But there are downsides to this model including lack of benefits that full time employment provides and lack of stable wages.

Moving Forward. For women to achieve economic parity in the years ahead, policymakers and business leaders must consider how the changing nature of work will affect men and women differently.

Susan Gold and Elizabeth White
Public Policy Co-Chairs

May Spring Luncheon

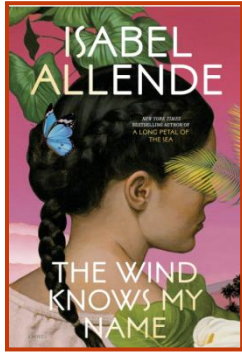
Make your reservation today!

See the informational flyer
on page 12 of this newsletter

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Great Reads from DEI

The Wind Knows My Name, a novel by Isabel Allende
An NPR Best Book of the Year 2023



Vienna, 1938. Samuel Adler is 5 years old when his father disappears during Kristallnacht—the night his family loses everything. As her child’s safety becomes ever harder to guarantee, Samuel’s mother secures a spot for him on a Kindertransport train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to England. He boards alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin.

Arizona, 2019. Eight decades later, Anita Díaz and her mother board another train, fleeing danger in El Salvador and seeking refuge in the United States. But their arrival coincides with the new family separation policy, and 7-year-old Anita finds herself alone at a camp in Nogales. She escapes her tenuous reality through her trips to Azabahar, a magical world of the imagination. Meanwhile, Selena Durán, a young social worker, enlists the help of a successful lawyer in hopes of tracking down Anita’s mother.

Intertwining past and present, *The Wind Knows My Name* tells the tale of these two unforgettable characters, both in search of family and home. It is a testament to the sacrifices that parents make and a love letter to the children who survive the dangers of war and immigration.

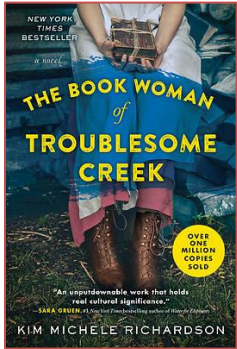
Book summary courtesy of Amazon.com

Isabel Allende is the author of several bestselling and critically acclaimed books, including *Violeta*, *A Long Petal of the Sea*, *The House of the Spirits*, *Of Love and Shadows*, *Eva Luna*, and *Paula*. Her books have been translated into more than 42 languages and have sold more than 74 million copies worldwide. Born in Peru and raised in Chile, she now lives in California.

DEI Mantra

How have you or will you use your influence and connections to enhance racial harmony?

Book Club



The Book Club is making a change in the order of books being read this year. *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson will be read in April and discussed on April 17 with the discussion being led by Anne Sobocinski. *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo* by Lawrence Anthony will be our book for June and will be discussed on June 19. The discussion will be led by Kate Manion.

The Book Club meets at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Conference Room at the Sheriff's Office Annex. All members are welcome to attend.

2023 – 2024 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
4/17/24	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i>	Kim Michele Richardson	Ann Sobocinski
5/15/24	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>	Bonnie Garmus	Marge McQueston
6/19/24	<i>Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime rescue of the Baghdad Zoo</i>	Lawrence Anthony	Kate Manion
7/17/24	<i>Ordinary Grace</i>	William Krueger	Helen Gozdanovic
8/21/24	<i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i>	Kelli Estes	Judy Reinhardt

Day Trips

AAUW Spring Day Trip: April 10, 2024

Join us for our upcoming AAUW Spring Day Trip. We will be heading out on April 10 for a day of fun, joining a Senior Adventures Bus Trip to the Calypso Breeze Boat and Buffet. The day will include Maderia Beach, John's Pass Village, the Marketplace, and Boardwalk.

The bus will leave at 10:00 a.m. from Recreation Plantation, 609 County Road 466 in Lady Lake, and will return about 7:00 p.m.

Total Cost is \$102 which includes bus, boat, buffet, and buffet gratuity.

Call 352.753.5404 for reservations.

Questions? Call Kate Manion (352-801-0901) or Carolyn Pasquale (716-485-1227).

CONNECT

Membership

Membership Update

Some of our newer members attended a coffee given by several of our very active members at Leslie Flanders' home. Lots of learning took place about our branch and the many ways our members participate on working committees and in social get-togethers, Great Decisions Discussions; Book Clubs; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion studies; day trips; singles' group; and dine outs all in addition to our monthly meetings featuring thought-provoking programs. Coffee and wonderful goodies were enjoyed by all. If you would like to hold a coffee at your home for a small group of our members, please contact Leslie (859-321-7171).

Currently we have 100 branch members on our roster

Leslie Flanders and Terri Slotterback
Membership Co-Chairs

Online Membership Directory

Our directory is updated regularly as we welcome new and renewing members to our branch. Please check your entry in the directory, located in the Members' Pages of our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org), to make sure your information is correct and complete. If you need the password for the Members' Pages, email Linda Carpenter to request it.

Here is the information needed for all member entries in the directory:

Name
Street address
City, State zip code
Village (if applicable)
Phone
Email
Partner/Spouse/Significant Other (if applicable)
Village (if applicable)
School(s) and Degree(s)

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 Linda with any changes to your entry.

Downloading the Directory and Saving to your Desktop

Now that you have the password, you can access the Members' Pages of our website (<https://www.lakesumteraaauw.org>) and download the current directory. If you are an Apple user, follow the instructions Leslie handed out at the September General Meeting for saving the directory to your computer's desktop. If you are not an Apple user, a similar set of instructions is also available for you. Both sets of instructions are posted in the Members' Pages.

Social Interest Groups

Mah Jongg

Please contact Lois Venus (loisvenus@gmail.com) for MJ. The group plays the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and is always looking for more players.

Bridge

Please contact Barbara Fisler if you are interested in joining the bridge group.

AAUW Singles Events

- **Wednesday, May 8**
Lunch at Bountiful Farms
27314 County Road 33, OKAHUMPKA, FL

We will gather at 12:00 noon for lunch at Bountiful Farms, an outdoor setting with farm to table food along with a store to purchase fresh produce, jams, jellies, etc.

Contact Carolyn Pasquale (716 485 1227) to sign up and make the group reservation needed by May 1st



- **MONDAY, JUNE 24, 3:00 –**
Villages Pops Chorus
North Lake Presbyterian Church.

The chorus will perform *Something's Gotta Give* at 3:00 p.m. Those interested should purchase tickets for General Admission sales on May 4 in person at Bridgeport Recreation Center on Saturdays from 11-1 or online at <https://thevillagespops.thundertix.com/>



Contact – Liz Schweers (850 247 9489).

SUPPORT

Fundraising

Adopt-A-Precinct Program



On Primary Day, March 19, AAUW had a team of AAUW volunteers work at the Election Precinct at Seabreeze Recreation Center. They earned \$2,500 and the money will be used for Tech Trek, a STEM summer camp for local rising 8th grade girls.

Our members who served at the election precinct this past week were Jennifer Thompson, Leslie Flanders, Beth Hicks, Liz Schweers, Sue Hanson-Otis, Jacquie Latzer, Mary Place, and Katie Haviland. We also had two AAUW spouses who volunteered and they were Chuck Place,

Mary's husband; and Dave Otis, Sue's husband.

In addition to the people who worked on Tuesday, we had three volunteers who completed the training and were available at a moment's notice to work had someone become ill. Those volunteers were Diane Erickson, Bonnie Weaver, and Keith Flanders, Leslie's husband.

We want to thank you for your hard work raising money for Tech Trek and serving your community. There are two more elections this year and if any of you are interested in working on one of the election days, please see Jennifer Thompson for more information.

Successful MJ Evening



Kudos to Kathy Howe for a fun Farewell to the Old Mah Jongg Card event. Ten tables of women enjoyed the evening. There were snack bags, door prizes and a 50/50 as well as games. The evening netted about \$1,200 for our funds. Well done committee!

Tech Trek



Hooray! For summer camp 2024, 19 girls were nominated by their science and math teachers, 13 girls applied, ALL 13 girls were selected by our Branch, and State AAUW has notified ALL 13 girls that they are going to camp!

The schools that participated this year are Wildwood Middle High School, South Sumter Middle School, and The Villages Charter School at Buffalo Ridge and Middleton locations.

And thanks to generous AAUW members as well as sponsors like The Friends of The Villages Library, The Evening Rotary Club, The Villages Pops, All One Family, Inc., neighbors and friends, the Baha'I Faith and the 10 AAUW election workers in 2023 (Angela Vickers, Jacquie Latzer, Gay Birchard, Katie Haviland, Judy Reinhardt, Stan Carpenter-Linda, Nancy Hartshorn, Jennifer Thompson, Judy Bonn, and Liz Schweers) we can fund all 13 girls!

A huge shout out also goes to the ladies who interviewed/ranked the girls interviewed: Diane Starr, Elisabeth Sandberg, Bobbie Peters, Kathy Mason, and Susan Gold!

The lengthy process of nominating, interviewing, and selecting begins in November and is completed by mid-March. All girls who applied and are interviewed are informed of their acceptance no later than March 30. And all girls nominated by their teachers will receive a certificate of excellence sent to the Branch by the State organization.

In January 2025 girls who attended the summer 2024 camps will be invited to the AAUW General Meeting to tell us about their experiences. This is a meeting you won't want to miss!

Liz Schweers
Tech Trek Chair

Scholarships

A total of 9 young women from Beacon College and Lake Sumter State College have applied for an AAUW scholarship. Interviews for the candidates will be conducted during the month of April. Winners will be announced at our end of the year uncheon in May.



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**

Learn – Connect – Support

The AAUW year is starting to wind down. One more meeting then our final luncheon and the year is in the books . One more newsletter which will FOLLOW the April meeting and May Luncheon. **FLYER FOR SPRING LUNCHEON ATTACHED AFTER THIS PAGE**

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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

AAUW MAY LUNCHEON

Legacy Restaurant
Nancy Lopez Country Club
17135 Buena Vista Blvd
The Villages, FL

Saturday, May 4, 2024

11:30-1:30

Fireplace Banquet Room
(based on 30-40 people)

Cost \$23/person

(includes tax and gratuities)

Legacy Chicken Salad over Romain Lettuce
Eggs Benedict served with country potatoes
Beer-battered Haddock on Brioche bun
With coleslaw and house chips

Non-Alcoholic beverages included (no coffee)

Alcoholic beverages – Cash Bar

Make Checks out to Lake-Sumter AAUW
Mail before 4/20/2024 to Kathy Howe
1391 Eagle Ridge Drive, The Villages, FL 32162