



American Association of University Women
 Lake Sumter (FL) Branch
Learn – Connect - Support

January 2023

President’s Message

Greetings for a very Happy New Year!



Things are looking up for the Lake/Sumter AAUW Branch. The reason for this is you. We have so many outstanding members who are backed up by the full general membership. There are many women that I want to thank. The first of many are Carolyn Pasquale and Bonnie Weaver for organizing and hosting our fantastic Holiday

Party. It was a very festive event evidenced by the many lively conversations at all tables. To add to the party atmosphere, a very generous, anonymous woman provided a pianist for our entertainment. At the luncheon we also had the fundraiser drawing for the quilt that was made and donated by member Joan Krick. Thank you, Joan.

Helping to turn the financial tides of our branch, several ladies have stepped up with fundraising initiatives. These events are going to assure that we have the necessary funds to continue our mission. Beth Hicks has taken on the mah jongg event, Farewell to the Old Card. March 22, 2023, is going to come along quickly so get your table together and make a reservation. Thank you, Beth.

Cathy Cirocco will be hosting a Casino Night. This was a very successful event about five years ago. Cathy has

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done this in the past and already has the plans underway for 2023. Stay tuned for details and opportunities to assist. Thank you, Cathy.

To further ensure the financial viability of our branch, right after Christmas Barbara Fieldman received confirmation that AAUW LAKE SUMTER Inc is now a 501(c)3 public charity. To add to this good news, our new designation is back dated to December 6, 2022. My thanks go to the many members who brought this status change to fruition including Barbara Fieldman, Debbie Gately, Katie Haviland, Dave Haviland, Helen Gozdanovic, and Anne Wilkins. My thanks to all of you.

Also important for the success of our branch is our membership. It is good to have an influx of new members. To meet this need Ann Marie Lombardi is organizing a membership drive open house on March 8, 2023. Thank you, Ann Marie.

Finally, to our members who work to keep our organization running, up-to-date and well informed through group emails, the newsletter, and the website, thank you Carolee Litwinka, Beth Hicks, and Linda Carpenter.

Anne Sobocinski
President
AAUW Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch
Learn – Connect – Support
(815) 210 - 3450

Nominating Committee



Nominating Committee Chair Katie Haviland along with Helen Gozdanovic, Anne Wilkins, and Diane Starr are seeking branch members to fill the 2023-2024 Executive Board positions. It is the duty of the committee to find the best candidates for each office.

These are the positions to be filled:

- Co-President (1)
- Co-Presidents Elect (2)
- Membership (2)
- Program (2)

You will find detailed descriptions of the duties associated with these positions in the Members' Pages of our website (<https://lakesumteraauw.org>). Check them out, and, if you are interested in any position or have questions, please contact Katie Haviland at katiehaviland1@gmail.com or 518-275-9466. Members may be contacted to determine willingness to serve in an elected position, so be sure to review the position descriptions. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates to the membership at the March 18, 2023, General Meeting.

Opportunities to be an active member!

There are ways to be an active member without committing to a year of service. Here are some areas of help needed by the Program Directors. The first two activities are only for **one meeting**, a few hours of your time, but a great help for our Branch.



- **Coffee/ refreshments** for February, March, or April
- **Be a hostess for the guest speakers** for February, March, or April
- **Spring Luncheon in May** needs help planning the luncheon, place, time, menu, etc. – take all of us to your favorite place!

Help is needed, please consider giving your help for one meeting – members are what makes our Branch strong! Contact – Carolyn Pasquale 716 485 1227, e mail cbpasqual@hotmail.com

LEARN

Meetings and Programs

2022-2023 General Meeting Programs

Learning of Self, Learning of Others, Learning of Your World!

- January 21, 2023 – It is a brave new world
- February 18, 2023 – Our past, our present, our future
- March 18, 2023- Real women in the real world
- April 15, 2023- New beginnings
- May 20, 2023 – Celebrating our Branch; luncheon to be announced

January 21, 2023, General Meeting: It's a Brave New World



“The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn the more places you’ll go”

Dr. Seuss

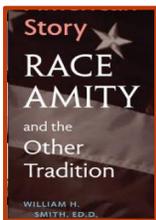
Several young women who participated in the 2022 summer STEM program will discuss their experiences at the weeklong camp. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and Tech Trek encourages young women to become interested in studying these subjects and entering these careers. At camp, they interact with women who are now in these professions and have hands on experience with projects which highlight STEM. These students are now in the 8th grade.

Lake/Sumter AAUW Branch sponsored nine (9) young women with scholarships to attend camp in summer of 2022. The students were nominated electronically by their math and/or science teachers. AAUW Florida reviewed the nominees, and our branch Tech Trek team interviewed and ranked them. The team then sent the rankings back to AAUW Florida for the final selections. The selected girls were sent applications with a submission deadline in January and a required \$50 application fee. By the end of March all girls, accepted and not accepted received letters and all AAUW branches were provided a list of girls who were invited to camp. Since 2014 our Branch has sent 49 young women to the Tech Trek STEM camps.

This is always an inspiring meeting and an opportunity to meet future leaders!

Bonnie Weaver
Carolyn Pasquale
Co-directors Program

February General Meeting: February 18, 2023: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future



“No problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking”
Voltaire

Jacque Latzer and the DEI Committee will offer an interactive meeting focused on a history of cross-cultural friendships in our country. We hope to see you all there....and invite your friends to come, too!

Holiday Luncheon – December 10, 2022

Forty members enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon at Paulie’s the Oaks on 44. The dining room had a large Christmas tree and many smaller trees as well as poinsettia. Piano music was provided by Michael Giordano, as well as strolling accordion music; this entertainment was a gift from a Branch member. The Oaks staff provided good service for the members. The Oaks dining room will be open on certain days for lunch in the new year. Call to confirm days and times.



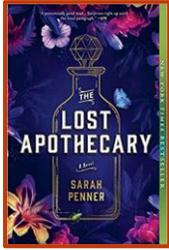
Tickets for the quilt and for jewelry drawings were available for members to purchase. And our new business cards and pamphlets were also available for members to use in recruiting new members.



The drawing for the quilt donated by Joan Krick was held at the end of the lunch and Helen Gozdanovic was the winner! Thank you to Joan for this generous gift!

It was a wonderful, festive time when members could chat and become acquainted with friends new and old! Visit our website (<http://lakesumteraauw.org>) for more pictures of the event.

Book Club



The book club will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18 to discuss the book *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner. Barb Blatchford will lead the discussion. The meeting will be in the Faith Room of the Northlake Presbyterian Church.

The February read will be *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Ginny Rivera will lead the discussion at the February 15 meeting.

All book club meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are held at the Northlake Presbyterian Church. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Remaining 2022-23 Book Club Selections				
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
1/18/23	<i>The Lost Apothecary</i>	Sarah Penner	Historical novel...18 th C. and today; mysterious poisons	Barb Blatchford
2/15/23	<i>The Lincoln Highway</i>	Amor Towles	1950s cross country trip gone awry.	Ginny Rivera
3/15/23	<i>Her Hidden Genius</i>	Marie Benedict	DNA Scientist	Jeannie Hamilton
4/19/23	<i>The Rose Code</i>	Kate Quinn	WWII Code Breakers	Joanie Schmidt
5/17/23	<i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue</i>	Fiona Davis	New York Library and living there	Cathy Cirocco
6/21/23	<i>Salt to the Sea</i>	Ruta Sepetys	WWII German escapees on the Wilhelm Gustloff	Kate Manion

Membership Recruitment Open House

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Waterlily Recreation Center
2:30-3:30

See **Page 9** to learn how you can help with the planning and implementation of this important event.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)

Happy New Year! Hopefully our new year's resolutions and actions will result in making 2023 a happy new year.



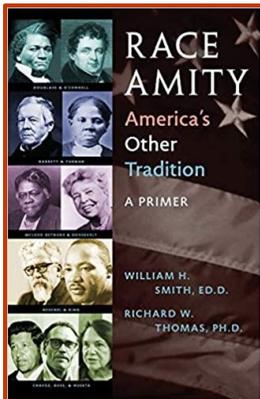
The DEI Committee encourages you all to read our recommended book for this month: *Race Amity – The Other American Tradition*. Then, plan to attend our February General Meeting where the DEI Committee will offer the positive side of American history, one of cross-cultural friendships. It will be an interactive time which we hope will be both entertaining and thought-provoking, and invite your friends to attend as well.

The MLK Commemorative Committee Scholarship Awards Breakfast –January 14, 2023

You are invited to attend the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee Scholarship Awards Breakfast. This event, begun by one of our AAUW sisters, Barbara Jones, and her late husband, Lew, will be held Saturday, January 14, 2023, at the Savannah Center, at 9:00 a.m. The food and camaraderie are good, but the true nourishment is the inspiration and hope generated by hearing the stories and presentations of the scholarship recipients.

The tickets cost \$18.00 each and can be purchased by calling Connie Lumpkin at 352-633-1315. Tax exempt donations can also be made out to MLKCC.

Great Read from the DEI Committee



Race Amity: America's Other Tradition - A Primer
By William H. Smith, Ed.D. and Richard W. Thomas, Ph.D.
Published April 2019

At 186 pages, this slim volume offers an unexplored perspective for study and action in confronting one of our country's most challenging issues—racial and cultural prejudice.

The authors propose approaching the problem through amity, defined as “close, loving, friendship and collaboration.”

A number of historical examples of interracial and multiracial cooperation, harmony, and amity are presented as proof that unity of humankind is possible. Readers may be familiar with the stories of Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune or Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Lesser known might be the conduct of Charles Thomson with Chief Tedyuscung of the Delaware Nation or Daniel O'Connell with abolitionist Frederick Douglass. These and other historic occurrences are shared to motivate the reader to reflect on these events and personally take action to promote equity and social justice in contemporary America.

William H. Smith is Founding Executive Director of the National Center for Race Amity. With a background in public education administration and communication, he promotes cross racial/cross cultural amity as a means of moving America towards E Pluribus Unum.

Dr. Richard W. Thomas is Professor Emeritus of History at Michigan State University. For thirty-eight years he taught race-related courses. He has lectured and conducted workshops around the world on race relations.

The book is available on Amazon.com and from some members of the DEI Committee.

Great Decisions

The Foreign Policy Association is busy writing and editing the book for 2023 and we now know what the topics will be for this year. In 2023, we will discuss: Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the U.S., Economic Warfare, politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Iran at a Crossroads, Climate Migration.

If your name was not on my list by October 30, you may still be included in our discussion group by sending me your name, but you will have to order the book yourself at www.fpa.org. Non-members are welcome to join our discussion groups, but will be asked to pay \$20.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Annex Conference Room at 8033 East CR 466 has been reserved for Monday mornings, starting January 23 for nine weeks. We will have one or two groups that meet for 1 hour and 20 minutes each. The books will be available in early January. I will be in touch in January with everyone who has contacted me with information on group assignments and arrangements for distributing the books.

If you are interested in joining us, please send an email (subject line: *Great Decisions*) to Christine Loken-Kim at kurusu99@hotmail.com

Please send names and email addresses of anyone who wants to participate. Please include if they are members of AAUW or not, and if they have been part of *Great Decisions* groups before.

Thank you.
Christine Loken-Kim

Day Trips



Registration is underway for our day trip to the Crystal River Plantation on Friday, March 10. The itinerary includes a boat ride to view the manatees and lunch at the Plantation restaurant. This is a bus trip via Workman Transportation. Details can be found on the Workman website at <https://workmantransportation.com>. The cost is \$82 and includes lunch. The bus is filling up fast so be sure to get your reservations in as soon as possible. You can reach Workman at 352-259-9398.

CONNECT

Membership

Numbers

Our Branch now has 105 members. This represents an increase of at least 10 members since we resumed activities after the closures of the pandemic. See below for our in-process efforts to increase our membership.

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 (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com) 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)

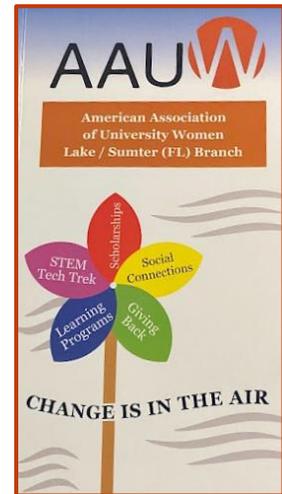
Members can also send a photo to go with their entry. The photo should be a headshot in .jpeg format; it can be sent as an email attachment. Email Linda with any changes to your entry.

Open House Planning is in Full Swing!

Detailed planning is underway for our Open House membership drive, to be held on March 8 at the new Waterlily Recreation Center. To reach our **goal of 50 registered attendees** resulting in **15 paid membership applications**, we need your support.

Consider the many ways you can volunteer:

- Promote to clubs and organizations you are a member of such as Always A Nurse or Retired Educators clubs. We have customizable cover letter templates with a PDF of our invitation/rsvp process for easy group emails.
- Participate in our “Who’s Your Plus One” program by reaching out to your personal, qualified acquaintances to register. There is \$100 in donated prize money for a member that gets the most acquaintances registered and another \$100 for a member whose efforts result in the most acquaintances to complete a membership application and pay at the event.
- Help with Public Relations to get news coverage in the *Daily Sun*, Sumter or Lake *Style* magazine, Leesburg newspapers, etc. Reporters are always looking for newsworthy happenings!
- Make the Open House informative and dynamic. Cathy Cirocco has volunteered to coordinate with Committee and Social Interest Chairpersons. Group leaders for Tech Trek, Scholarships, Book Club, Day Trips, General Meeting Programs, Diversity Discussion Groups, Bridge, Mah Jongg, Dine Around/Finger Food and Fun, Singles Group, and Summer Breakfasts will be asked to host displays and demonstrations to showcase our Branch’s initiatives and activities.
- Consider overseeing or participating on the Hospitality Committee. Organize small bites, beverages, and décor...many supplies have already been purchased.
- Volunteer at the check-in table, be a greeter, manage nametags, fill swag bags with give-aways and goodies, or help attendees complete Membership Applications...Finance Directors will be ready to take credit cards or checks.



There is a role for everyone to share their time, talents, and treasures. A Volunteer Sheet will be passed around at the January and February meetings, so consider how you can get involved.

Ready to volunteer now? Contact me at am.lombardi1956@gmail.com or 352-638-0550.

Thank you for your continued support of our Open House to create and enhance awareness of who we are, what we do, and why we are different and to increase new memberships for our Branch's long-term sustainability.

Ann Marie Lombardi
Open House Membership Drive Chair

Branch Website

In case you missed it, here's a repeat from the December 2022 newsletter.

Changes to our branch website (www.lakesumteraauw.org) are ongoing. Many are updates, adding new members to the Directory or posting news to the homepage. Others add content that was omitted in the original development of the site; check out the new Public Policy page. Still other changes make content easier to access, particularly the Members' Pages. Here is what you will find in the Members' Pages now:

2022-23 Branch Leadership is a link to a page that includes Board of Directors (Executive Committee and Appointed Directors) and Branch Committees and Appointed Chairs (Standing and Operations Committees). There is now a link to download a PDF of this content.

Branch Organizational Documents is a heading (not a link) that covers four documents with a link to a page for each: Bylaws, Strategic Vision and Goals, Strategic Plan, and "Elevator Speech." Each page has a link to download the content in PDF format.

Board of Directors Position Descriptions is a link to a page that contains links to PDFs for each of the nine Board positions.

2022-23 Board Handbook is a link to a page that contains links to information of particular importance to Board members.

2022-23 Membership Directory is a link to a PDF of all current members of our branch. It is updated regularly as new members join us. Please check your entry to make sure the information is complete and correct; see page 8 of this newsletter for the required information. Send any corrections to me (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com). And if you want your photo in the Directory, send a headshot, too.

AAUW State and National Goals is a self-explanatory link to a page that will help members see the connection between our branch and the work done by State and National. The page also contains a link to a PDF of the content.

2022-23 Learning and Social Groups and Leaders is a link to a page that includes a list and descriptions of our various groups; leaders' names are linked to their email addresses in case members want to contact leaders for more

information about the groups. A link to a PDF document of the content is also included.

Historical Lists is a heading (not a link) for links to PDFs of Past Branch Presidents, Former Tech Trek Campership Recipients, and Former College Scholarship Recipients. These lists are updated annually as new awardees are selected.

Forms and Templates is a heading for links to PDFs of our Expense Reimbursement Voucher, Logo, and Name Tag Order form.

Our Members' Pages require a password. If you have forgotten or misplaced the password, please send me a message (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com) and I'll include the password in a return message. We won't publish it in this newsletter as it's not secure.

Some members have expressed concerns over the length of the password. The strongest, most secure passwords are longer than eight characters; are comprised of random symbols, numbers, and capital letters; never use personal information; and are changed frequently. They should be relatively easy to remember, but easy-to-remember is also easy-to-crack. We followed these guidelines in creating the password.

So, please visit our website at www.lakesumteraauw.org for the latest updates and information about our branch.

Linda Carpenter
Webmaster

Social Interest Groups

Dine Around

Dine Around will be held at the Legacy Restaurant the last week in January. Please email Judith Anderson (jcdukeirl@aol.com) by January 23 if you are interested in participating.

Finger Food and Fun

Finger food and fun group will meet the end of February as soon as we have a home to host this party. Please email Judith Anderson (jcdukeirl@aol.com) if you are interested in hosting this event in February or March.

Mah Jongg

The mah jongg group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11 at the home of Anne Sobocinski. Group size is limited to eight (8). Please let Anne know if you want to participate. Her email address is annesobocinski@yahoo.com.

The group will also meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25 at the home of Kathy Howe. Again, group size will be limited to eight (8). If you wish to play, let Kathy know. Her email address is kamphowe@aol.com.

Bridge

Bridge Players Needed! Have you played bridge recently, or in the past, or in the very long ago past?

The Monday AAUW Bridge Group is looking for players! We play a friendly game and would welcome players currently playing, just learning, or "haven't played in years." Interested? Call Carol Zoellner at (351) 753-4711 or Anne Wilkins at (352) 430-0964. Hoping to be welcoming you to the AAUW Lake/Sumter Bridge Group!

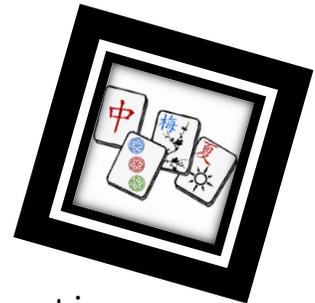
SUPPORT

Fundraising

Mah Jongg

March 22, 2023
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Allamanda Recreation Center Card Room

Farewell to the Old Mah Jongg Card! Back by popular demand is our fundraiser for all MJ players. We fully funded a scholarship last time in 2019. We have hopes that we can do the same again.



See the flyer on page 15 of this newsletter and plan your table! This event is open to Villages Residents and those with a Villages ID only. Get your table together, then go to the AAUW website (<https://lakesumteraauw.org>) and download the registration form! Send in your registration form along with \$ to reserve your place!

Casino Night

As Anne Sobocinski noted in her President's Message, Cathy Cirocco has volunteered to head up a Casino Night fundraiser. So, be prepared to hear from Cathy and consider how you can help launch this event.

Tech Trek

We are excited to have over half of last summer's Tech Trek campers respond that they will attend and share their camp experiences at the January General Meeting. These campers had a unique experience because they attended camp virtually. What a challenge for the AAUW Florida Tech Trek organizers to provide an enriching

experience for these campers, and by all accounts the girls had a great time and learned a lot.

Not only will the meeting be a great opportunity for our members to meet these outstanding girls but also for the girls to meet each other in person. Please plan to attend the meeting on January 21 to hear their presentations and to congratulate the girls. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation.

Liz Schweers
Tech Trek Chair

Scholarship

We are pleased to share an update from another of our scholarship winners.



Amanda Cyr is a Junior at Beacon College in Leesburg majoring in Anthrozoology with a concentration in Business. Anthrozoology is the study of animals and their relationships to humans. She loves animals and has her own pet sitting business in The Villages. She has just completed the Fall semester with four science classes which included very good hands-on experiences. Her "fun" class was "Alien Syfy Literature" which involved reading and watching science fiction and then analyzing the sci-fi genre as a whole industry. She is proud to say (and relieved) that she has a solid B or better in all her classes this term despite the stress. She was a Student Orientation Leader for the Fall semester and will be again for the Spring Term. Amanda wants all of our members to know that she is very thankful for the scholarship which has made her finances less stressful. She wishes each and every one of you an amazing holiday!

Tickets for the beautiful bracelet in the photo at right support the college education of young women who are from either Lake or Sumter counties.

For each \$10 you donate, a ticket in your name will be entered into a drawing which will be held at the February 18 General Meeting. But don't wait to the last minute, complete the form on page 14, add your check, and mail it to Kathy Mason

Please ask your friends to participate as well. Remember: the more money we raise, the more scholarships we can give.



To enter the drawing, download this page to print the form below. Clearly write your name, phone number, and email address on it. Then for each person contributing to the scholarship fund, yourself included, indicate the number of tickets to be entered into the drawing, and the amount donated.

Mail the form with your check(s) made payable to **AAUW Lake/Sumter** to:

Katherine Mason
 2444 Lay Lane
 The Villages, FL 32163

We will email you a *thank you* as a receipt for your donation and will call on February 18, 2023, to tell you if you or one of your friends will receive the bracelet. To be entered in the drawing, submit your donations with this form by **February 8, 2023**. Extra forms are available on our website (www.lakesumteraauw.org).

QUESTIONS: (850) 556-7986

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your Email: _____

Name on Ticket	#Tickets	Amount	Check #
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
<i>For Administrative Use Only</i>			
Form# _____	Date Received _____	Date Confirmed _____	Totals _____



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

Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration

Location: Allamanda Recreation Center, Card Room
Date: Wednesday March 22, 2023
Time: 6:00 -8:30 p.m.
Doors open at 5:50 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00 per person; \$100.00 per table

**All proceeds will go to Lake/Sumter AAUW
College Scholarships
(*Not a Tournament. Cannot Play for Money*)**

- Pre-registration is required by March 15, 2023
- Mah Jongg sets will be provided; BYO Pusher and 2022 card
- Water and coffee will be provided; BYOB
- 50-50
- All participants must have a Villages ID or guest pass

For more information, contact Beth Hicks
ethicks71@gmail.com



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**
Learn – Connect - Support

Happy New Year to all! So many exciting things happening with our branch. See where you fit in and volunteer! Deadline for the February issue will be January 20. Please continue to use the newsletter email address.

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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