

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

February 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,



Welcome to 2022. Our January General meeting was held in person!! There was an opportunity to welcome some new members, who expressed interest in becoming active participants. Particular thanks to our Program team's careful planning to

ensure everyone's comfort and wellbeing: chairs were well separated, everyone wore masks.

Kudos to the Tech Tech team, Laura McLaughlin and Liz Schweers, for providing an inspiring program that featured the 2021 Tech Trek participants supported by our Branch. Sharron Albrecht, past Tech trek chair, served as emcee and Program Host for the students she enrolled for last summer.

Thank you to Diane Jacobson and Ann Marie Lombardi for the narrated video detailing the Adopt a Precinct fund raising project. Judy Reinhardt, is the contact for anyone would like to participate in this fund-raising event for Tech Trek. We invite you, your spouse, neighbors, friends to join the team. Sign up must be completed before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Judy's contact information: 352 775-2234 and [jlreana@gmail.com](mailto:jlreana@gmail.com)

And in support of our college scholarship recipients, the drawing for the beautiful necklace donated by Gold in Art,

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will be at the General Meeting in February. You still have time to participate. Kathy Mason is the go-to person for tickets... or just send Kathy a check and she and her committee will fill out the form. We are close to last year's amount of \$4,000. Let's top it this year.

Kathy's address: 2444 Lay Lane, The Villages, FL 32163. 850 556-7986.

You will be hearing from our Nominating Committee, chaired by Sharron Albrecht and includes Anne Sobocinski and Laura Ferrens, about the Board positions that are open for next year. We look forward to welcoming you to active participation on the leadership team. For our branch to continue moving forward and provide the services and scholarships we offer, your involvement matters and makes a difference. Remember, you can suggest member names for nomination to the committee.... That includes nominating yourself. Sharron Albrecht contact info: (352) 552-7072 [slha1948@gmail.com](mailto:slha1948@gmail.com)

We received notice from Florida AAUW, that the State Conference will be virtual on April 1, 2, and 3. This is an excellent opportunity for many members to participate in some part of the program. Details available soon.

Warm welcome to all, to 2022

Katie Haviland & Gay Birchard, Co-Presidents

## **The Future of our Branch**

Thank you to all members who volunteered to serve on the committee to develop the branch's strategic plan. As the committee begins its work, we will keep the general membership informed of progress through articles in this newsletter and through updates presented at General Meetings. So, stay tuned.

We are now turning our attention to planning a membership recruitment drive which we will launch in the fall. Co-Presidents-Elect are facilitating the planning committee; other committee members are Membership Co-Chairs Karen Pickelshimer and Joanie Schmidt and Co-Presidents Katie Haviland and Gay Birchard. Feel free to send ideas you have for a membership drive to any committee member. Discussions are just beginning, but the committee is considering targeting newer (and maybe younger) residents south of 44. Please think about volunteering to serve on the committee that will implement the plan. It will take many of us doing small tasks to make the drive successful.

Linda Carpenter and Anne Sobocinski, Co-Presidents-Elect

# Programs

## February 2022, General Meeting

### Plant A Pollinator Paradise with Native Plants



On Saturday, February 19 our General Meeting will be held in the Allamanda Recreation Center. Doors open at 9:15 a.m. and the meeting begins promptly at 9:30. Our program will feature Nini Conner, the Past President of The Villages Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. She will talk about how to help pollinators who are facing threats to their survival so you can create a habitat that can give them the resources they need. You will learn about the basic

steps you can take to attract pollinators.

She will display plants that can make your home a paradise for pollinators and you! A very special thank you to our branch member Sue Egloff, President, The Villages Chapter, FNPS for partnering with us on this unique program.

We will continue to make every effort to keep us safe during our time together. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Ann Marie Lombardi and Diane Jacobson, Co-Program Directors

## March 2022, General Meeting: Celebrating Women's History

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Tweet Coleman, a new Branch member and a long-standing AAUW member, will be our March program's guest speaker to discuss "The New Normal in Aviation".



She made history in 1986 as a pilot of the first all-female crew of pilots and flight attendants to fly a Boeing 727 from Agana, Guam, Saipan, Northern Marina Islands to Narita, Japan and returned to Guam (Tweet is pictured on the far right).

Tweet is a trailblazing woman in aviation and acclaimed author. Her career has spanned positions as a senior FAA representative at the American Embassy in London, FAA Program Manager, and Regional Representative; Boeing 747 and 727 pilot with Continental Airlines, U.S. commercial carrier; Dale Carnegie communications coach; and surgical nurse with the Cleveland Clinic & Mayo Brothers Clinic (to name a few).

Tweet earned a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University—where she also served as an adjunct faculty member in Hawaii and London, England—and a Doctorate degree in Aerospace Aviation Education from Oklahoma.

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend this very special program!

## January 2022 General Meeting Highlights

It was wonderful to see many branch members and guests, along with Tech Trek girls and their families, for our first in-person meeting in a very long time! Social-distanced seating, no lines to stand in, and masks worn during our time together, kept us all safe.



We surely appreciate the time and effort Sharron, Liz, and Laura dedicated to bringing us this truly inspirational program.

### *Tech Trek*



The Lake/Sumter Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) gathered at the Allamanda Recreation Center recently to hear from middle school girls who attended an AAUW-sponsored STEM-focused camp last summer. Tech Trek is a week-long summer camp for rising eighth grade girls who were nominated by their math and science teachers. The camp promotes STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning through hands-on instruction, team building, and problem-solving experiences. Girls gain needed skills for success through their participation in Tech Trek.

Three of the girls who attended Tech Trek in the summer of 2021 spoke at the recent meeting. The girls provided video presentations describing their application process and their camp experience and how it enhanced their lives and influenced their educational goals. Each in their own ways, all the girls expressed that participating in the camp had an enormous impact on them; Tech Trek changed their educational goals. Aspy Winter found not only an interest in biology but also a new level of confidence in her own ability. Jayley Lewis was influenced by the women she met at camp who work in various STEM fields; those experiences sparked her interest in marine biology. Having hands on activities stimulated Maisie Vega to consider an education in architectural engineering. And interacting with girls from different parts of Florida encouraged the girls to form new friendships and connections.

Tech Trek began at Stanford University in California in 1998. AAUW adopted the model in 2013 and by 2020 had programs running in nine states. The camps are organized by each state's AAUW affiliate. Historically, AAUW-Florida offered one camp each summer; a few years ago, they organized two camps to serve more girls. In the past,

camp was held on college and university campuses where the girls lived in the dorms and ate in campus cafeterias; these experiences also gave the girls a taste of college life. In 2021, camp went virtual due to Covid-19, and that format will continue this year.

AAUW-Florida has operated a STEM camp since 2013 and the Lake / Sumter branch has sponsored between three and six girls at Tech Trek each summer since 2014. In 2021, 94 middle school girls participated and were sponsored by 20 AAUW branches. This summer the Lake / Sumter branch hopes to sponsor four or five girls for camp.

Branches in the state pay for each girl they send to camp, and the Tech Trek experience doesn't come cheap. The tuition for each girl is \$1,100 when camp is held on a college campus. In 2021, when Covid-19 forced the camp to change from in-person attendance to a virtual experience, the cost was reduced to \$750 per student; in 2022 the virtual tuition has been further reduced to \$500 per girl. For the 2021 camp, 20 AAUW branches across Florida sponsored a total of 94 middle school girls to participate in Tech Trek. Our branch sponsored four of those were girls.

If you or your family and friends would like to support Tech Trek or would like more information about this outstanding STEM educational program, contact Liz Schweers, at 850 247 9489.

Carolyn Pasquale, Branch Secretary

## Fundraising

### Scholarship Jewelry Drawing



#### ***February 9 Deadline Fast Approaching***

Please submit your tickets and send your contributions to Scholarship Chair, Kathy Mason. The funds support scholarships for women who reside in Sumter and Lake counties as they complete their college degrees. The deadline is fast approaching, so send your donations in now.

Questions? Contact Kathy Mason by email ([kmason0826@gmail.com](mailto:kmason0826@gmail.com)) or call (850-556-7986).

Kathy Mason, Scholarship Committee Chair and Past Co-President

## Adopt-A-Precinct Poll Worker Initiative

Join the Lake/Sumter Adopt-A-Precinct team. Poll workers need to be registered by March 1. Requirements include

- Sumter County resident
- Attend training June 22,
- Work the polls August 23 and November 8, 2022

If you meet these requirements let Judy Reinhardt ([JLRerna@gmail.com](mailto:JLRerna@gmail.com)) know as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who have already signed up for the program. Our branch will raise \$4,400 for Tech Trek Florida by participating in Sumter County's Adopt-A-Precinct Program for the 2022 elections.



Diane Jacobson, Fundraising Chair and Co-Director of Programs

## Membership

At latest count, our branch has 118 members, including one new member. Please welcome Ann Cobb and put her contact information in your Membership Directory.

Ann Cobb  
1143 Duncan Drive  
The Villages 32162 (Village of Virginia Trace)  
240.731.8597 [annecabb2009@gmail.com](mailto:annecabb2009@gmail.com)  
University of South Carolina BSN Nursing  
Catholic University of Washington, DC MSN Nursing

Rest in Peace ....Ann Schlick and Ellen Thompson

## Public Policy

This year's Lobby Days are once again virtual, thanks to the still-virulent COVID virus. AAUW-FL has chosen to present four one-hour sessions from noon to one PM on four consecutive days from January 18 to 21.

On the first day, AAUW-FL Director for Public Policy Dr. K. Lee-Smith Explained how things would go and introduced AAUW-FL President Pat DeWitt. Pat greeted us and welcomed us to the virtual lobby day.

Representative Kelly Skidmore's legislative aide Dr. Gwynne Gonzalez discussed the bill HB521 that Rep. Skidmore is sponsoring. This bill is also Senate bill SB760 sponsored by Senator Lori Berman.

These bills concern human trafficking and revise the wording of the term "coercion", adding the words "includes but is not limited to...." They set higher penalties for human trafficking, including making that which was a misdemeanor into a felony. They would require a DEI department in the governor's office and this person would make sure that there is implicit bias training. There was an office like this in the state of Virginia, but the new governor Youngkin has already removed it.

Representative Fentrice Driskell spoke about House Joint Resolution (HJR) 77. This would make the commissioner of education an elected, rather than an appointed position.

Sen. Anna Eskamani and Rep. Lauren Book are cosponsoring SB628 and HB 6023. If passed, this bill will eliminate the mandatory 24-hour waiting period before a woman can get an abortion, eliminate the need for a large amount of paperwork evidencing that she is obtaining the abortion because she is a victim of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking. The abortion can be paid for by state agencies, local government agencies and Medicaid manages care plans. And the bill would also remove the requirement that an agency that provides abortions and is undergoing a license inspection must allow review of at least 50% of patient records since that last license inspection.

But Florida is also facing legislation like that in Texas which would provide NO abortion services after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

At this point, Senator Berman entered the meeting and spoke for a few minutes about human trafficking.

Wednesday, Day 2 was all about Title IX and some of the changes that have taken place in it as a result of the last Commissioner of Education, Betsy DeVos. Title IX has been altered, but not done away with. Because of COVID, staffing is difficult, and demand is rising. Because of COVID, school age children as well as college students are staying longer in toxic situations. Some students are reporting older incidents because they have not been able to use college as an escape from their home situations. Adding to that, students must now have an advisor to represent them, and must consent to being cross-examined by the defendant's attorney, making a Title IX investigation now into a court of law, pitting a college advisor against an actual lawyer.

Thursday, Day 3 was all about financial aid. It is interesting to note that Aaron Johnson, a doctoral pharmacy student at Nova Southeastern University, and another student, Emily Norris have set up a scholarship for first generation applicants from low- income families to help them become eligible for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. These awards are only for students in Broward County, Florida.

Friday, Day 4 dealt with the paperwork required to be sent with college applications. Two of concern are the School Report and the School Profile. The School Report tells how the student did at his/her high school and describes what that school is like. The School Profile refers to the college to which the application is going and what that school is like. The biggest challenges there are inconsistency in reporting by different people at different times when describing the same student. There are so many applications for colleges that outside readers must be hired, and there is room for inconsistency there. There is much more that could be reported, but since this is to go into our newsletter, I think this is already quite sufficient. Thank you for allowing me to attend all these sessions.

Judy Bonn, Public Policy Chair and Past Co-President

## Great Read

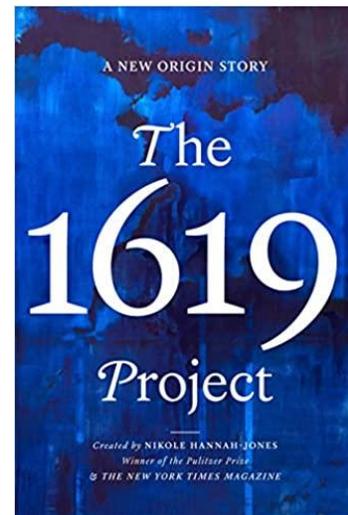
### From the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

This month's Great Read is *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Caitin Roper, Ilena Silverman, and Jake Silverstein. The following information is provided by One World, the book's publisher.

*In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.*

*The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.*

*This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today. It reveals long-glossed-over truths around our nation's founding and construction—and the way that the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation but continues to shape contemporary American life.*



# Activities

## Singles Group



In January eight members of the Singles Group traveled to Ocala, Florida to visit the Appleton Museum of Art. The building as well as the art work, events and activities is a gem for central Florida.

Arthur Ivar Appleton from Chicago began his career in his father's company Appleton Electric. He contributed many inventions to the electronics field. His mother, Lillian was a concert pianist, and a collector of fine art. She passed this interest on to her son and daughter. Arthur became interested in horse racing in Chicago and in Florida. In the 1970's he constructed Bridlewood Farm in Ocala which bred Southern Image and David Junior. In 2004 the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Smarty Jones was trained at his farm.

Arthur, his wife, and his sister started the Appleton Museum of Art in 1987. The Museum was built by more than 300 tradesmen from 130 companies. It contains 80,000 square feet of Italian travertine marble and 15000 square feet of Bolivian Capao Bonito granite for the flooring. In 1996 the Edith-Marie Appleton Wing was funded and named after Arthur's sister. This addition brought the size of the Appleton to 82,000 square feet.

We were privileged to view an exhibit of Alphonso Mucha's (1860-1939) works. He was a Czech painter, illustrator, and graphic artist. Living in Paris during the Art Nouveau period, he was known for his theatrical posters, especially of Sarah Bernhardt. But he also produced advertisements, decorative panels, and designs. At the age of 50 he returned to the Bohemia region in Austria and painted a series of canvases known as the Slav Epic. This work represented the history of the Slavic peoples. He presented it to Czechoslovakia, and it is on display in Prague. This traveling exhibit ended its showing January 6.

The permanent Appleton collections include a variety of areas among them – Asian, African, Pre Columbian, European, Maritime, Equine, Modern Contemporary, and Florida. Each piece is given a narration, and an appropriate display in the various galleries. Special exhibits are rotated. There are more than 24,000 works including art and artifacts.

Because it is the holiday season there were beautiful displays of holiday trees, nutcrackers, Santas, and nativities. The Museum sponsors art instruction for all ages, speakers, and guided tours by appointment. This gift to us is a gem which is close to home, and a joy to see.

The Appleton is located at 4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, Florida, on a beautiful, landscaped area with a large reflection pool to greet each visitor and outdoor sculpture to draw you into this outstanding building. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 to 5, Sunday from noon to 5 and is closed Mondays. Phone 352 291 4455. It is handicapped accessible and has an elevator to the second floor. There is also a gift shop.

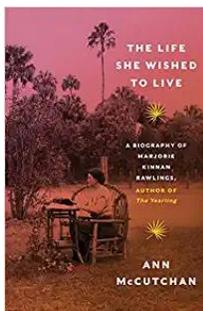
We headed to Mojos at 4620 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, Florida for a tasty lunch. Mojo was inspired by Rondo Fernandez’s love of blues music and passion for good food. It is a mix of Cuban and Cajan delights. Rondo grew up working in Florida restaurants and is a graduate of Lake County Vo-Tech culinary school. He started with a small 12 table restaurant in downtown Ocala in 2009. He now has restaurants in Ocala, Silver Springs, Bellview and Leesburg. The one we enjoyed on Silver Springs Blvd, was decorated with pictures of music greats, records, guitars and a larger-than-life picture of Elvis! There is indoor and lots of outdoor seating as well as parking. I enjoyed the Crazy Cuban sandwich, but there are tacos, quesadillas, fajitas, burgers, wings, and salads – something for everyone! Interesting signature drinks and desserts – I had to have the bourbon peach bread pudding! Warm and topped with ice cream, whipped cream and caramel sauce - truly a meal by itself!



The AAUW Singles Group plans an activity each month, the planning is done by members of the group. We are always looking for suggestions!

Carolyn Pasquale, Branch Secretary and Singles Group Member

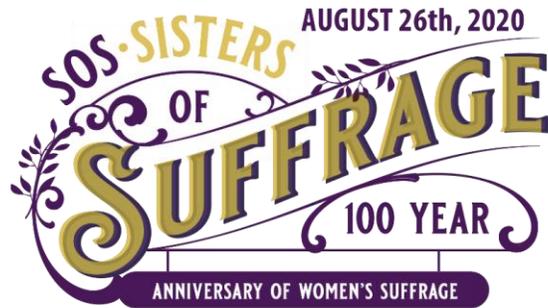
## Book Club



For our January 19 meeting, we will be reading *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah. Barb Blatchford will lead the discussion. A decision as to whether we will continue to meet via Zoom or in person at the Northlake Presbyterian Church will be made closer to the January date and will be based on the COVID situation at the time. An email announcement will be sent out to all club members advising them of whether the meeting will be online or in person.

Kate Manion, Book Club Coordinator

<b>Date</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Discussion Leader</b>
Feb. 16	<i>The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings</i>	Ann McCutchan	TBD
Mar. 16	<i>The Barbizon</i>	Paulina Bren	Linda Carpenter
Apr. 20	<i>The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell</i>	Robert Dugoni	TBD
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		



**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. I am sure we are all looking forward to the upcoming IN PERSON meetings! Next Edition will be the March edition and deadline is back to the normal February 20. Be safe all!

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

### AAUW Websites

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

