

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

October 2020



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 Ladies,

Our monthly newsletter is a positive way of keeping everyone up to date with happenings in our branch. One of the main efforts this month was to organize and conduct the September General Meeting so that it would be meaningful, informative, and productive for our members, while maintaining social distancing. During the late summer, the decision was made to conduct the meeting via Zoom, which would be a new



experience for many. Carolee Litwinka, Ann Marie Lombardi, Judy Bonn, and Katie Haviland all played significant roles in making this possible. From investigating acquiring Zoom, to implementing it for our purposes, much time and effort were expended. Peg Tabor quickly became one of our relied upon members of the Tech Team, a group of our members who continue to explore the how-tos of Zoom, and to offer support to our members. Several training sessions were conducted to acquaint the members with using Zoom. Marianne Bender-Powers and Ann Marie Lombardi, our Program Committee Co-Chairs, successfully adapted their planned program for the September General Meeting, to a dynamic Zoom presentation.



Happily, on Saturday, September 19, 2020, 46 members signed in to the first Lake / Sumter AAUW Zoom General Meeting, which highlighted our past year and focused on programs for this year. Many members contributed their thoughts through the “chat” feature. A survey taken at the end of the session indicated that the Zoom meeting was well received. We hope more of you will join us for the October meeting.

Participation in AAUW activities can take many forms. Some groups are having Zoom meetings in light of the restrictions of concerns with the COVID-19 virus. We urge you to review the listing of Interest Groups and Committees which are indicated in our on-line

membership booklet. These groups and committees help forward our mission and provide for socialization with other members that often leads to lasting friendships.

At this time of year, we begin to plan for next year. To accomplish this, we form a Nominating Committee within our branch, which requires that we have one representative from the general membership. If you would like to be that person, please contact: Anne Wilkins ancwilk@yahoo.com (352) 430-0964 or Katie Haviland katiehaviland@gmail.com (518) 275-9466.

We also received a notice from AAUW-FL Nominating Committee, requesting names of members who might be interested in being elected as State Officers: President-Elect, Director for Program, Director for Public Policy, Director for Finance. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Anne or Katie for details.

Hoping to see you somewhere on a Zoom activity before our meeting next month!

Take care and stay well!

Anne and Katie

Programs

Recording of the AAUW September General Meeting

Carolee Litwinka, Chair of our Tech Team, recorded the AAUW September General Meeting. You can view a bit of the social time prior to the meeting as well as the meeting itself by clicking the link below. The link will be available until October 15.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bwBOHnYI3JoEns8qucdJe2sQYiOVesnMwN3PMBoJRWojmTMe4KzXnE9mF-LZDIE.EF-hcsUwQ6S1setf> **Passcode: Etf4ewi=**

Social time before the meeting started gave members a chance to greet and catch up with friends using the Chat function. The meeting included a thank you to former board members and introduction of new members, as well as committee events that are happening during the pandemic. A highlight of the meeting was a review of the many colorful, collaborative, creative events of last year in a video produced by Ann Marie Lombardi. Hope you can join us next month and experience the more than virtual energy of our AAUW Sumter branch.

October 17 General Meeting

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, we will hold our General Meeting again on Zoom. The September meeting was a very successful Zoom experience for all members, and we have planned yet another terrific program for October. You can log on starting at 9:30

a.m. to visit with members and guests prior to the 10:00 a.m. start time for the General Meeting.



Our October General Meeting will feature a highly educational presentation by the League of Women Voters of the Villages/Tri-County regarding the Florida Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the ballot this year.

As you may be aware, The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in their government.

And we all know that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. But did you know the pink breast cancer ribbon has become the universal symbol of breast cancer, illustrating the cause, raising awareness, and bringing women together in solidarity? Please wear **Pink and/or the Pink ribbon** for our Zoom meeting.



As October 17 draws closer, you will receive a Save-the-Date reminder prior to receiving an official email invitation to the meeting. The invitation will provide you with all the information you will need to connect to the meeting. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

Racism Discussion Series

Sessions 3: Antiracism

The third session in the Diversity Committee's Racism Discussion Series was on September 23. Thirty-two people discussed Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism. The large group discussion was based on two video interviews of Dr. Kendi and a short article he wrote for the September issue of *The Atlantic*. The discussion was recorded, so if you were unable to attend the live session, you can watch the video.

Session 4: Topic TBA

We polled participants at the end of the September session about their preference for the next discussion topic. They voted to discuss a new topic rather than continue to elaborate the previous three discussion topics.

So, for the October 28 session, we will discuss another aspect of racism. The Diversity Committee will select the next topic and associated materials when we meet on September 30. And we will send an email announcement to the membership with the topic selected. Possible choices include implicit bias, confederate monuments, post-traumatic slave syndrome, and the 1619 Project.

If you would like to join the discussion series, send an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com and provide your name, email address, and phone number. **Please note a change in**

the registration process: Even if you have participated in previous sessions, beginning with the October 28 session, **you will have to re-register for each meeting.** Feel free to share the registration information with friends as the series is free and open to the public.

Future Sessions

The fifth session of the Racism Discussion series will be scheduled to accommodate the holidays. The November/December meeting will be December 2. . . save the date!

Session Recordings

If you have registered for any one of the first three sessions, you automatically received a message with a link to the recording of the session. Those recordings are available to view for a month following the session. If you have never registered for one of the sessions and would like to view the recording of the September session, send an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com to request the link. That recording will be available until October 24.

Membership

Thanks to all the women who joined us September 19, 2020, for our first meeting. We had three new members present; they were Mary Place, Penny Thomas, and Aleta Wilson. It was great to "meet" you on Zoom. We also welcome new members Barbara Faigin, Mary Kay Fritts, Sarah Reagan and student member Jordan Threlfall.

Interested in the history of AAUW? Karen Pickelsimer, our Membership co-Chair, suggests you watch this AAUW presentation of our organization's first 100 years on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/HDveXxoSwgw>).

Membership Booklets

Send any changes you would like to make from the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet to Diane Jacobson chasanddi@embarqmail.com. Also, if you don't have a picture included with your information or if you would like to update your present picture please send a head shot to Diane to add to our picture gallery.

Member Updates

Please update your membership booklet to include:

New members

Mary Place
2182 Percival Way
The Villages, FL 32162
607- 625-4597
cplace@stnyrr.com
University of Kansas, BA
SUNY Oneonta, MA

Penelope (Penny) Thomas
1550 El Camino Real
Apt. 229
The Villages, FL 32159
(352) 630-2626
pt0647@gmail.com
Pace University, BS
Seaton Hall University, MSA

Aleta Wilson
947 Soledad Way
The Villages, FL 32159
703.606.6720
aletaw@gmail.com
George Mason University, PhD

Add University

Bonnie Weaver: San Diego State University, BSN Nursing

Name change/correction

Cindy Anderson-McCann to Cindy Anderson
(note you will find her in the M's – she should be in the A's)

Public Policy

September 22 was not only the first day of fall, but it was also National Voter Registration Day. Please be sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming election on November 3. Remember that mail-in ballots are **due ON November 3**. That means they are due into the Supervisor of Elections office BY the 3rd, **NOT postmarked by**

the 3rd! Need some info on the issues and candidates? Check out www.vote411.org for what you need.

You can also log into www.AAUW.org and go to AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record to review the voting records of our Senators and Representatives before going to the polls or voting by mail in the upcoming election.

Tech Trek

The committee is contacting the schools but just about everything is up in the air for 2021. We will hope for the best and start our planning...

Great Decisions

Diane Jacobson and Carol Richardson are working on offering our Great Decisions program virtually. Details on how you can participate will be worked out and once we have the details you will be invited to participate.



The Foreign Policy Association has announced preliminary topics for 2021 Great Decisions:

- Topic 1: The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic
- Topic 2: Global supply chains and national security
- Topic 3: China and Africa
- Topic 4: Korean Peninsula
- Topic 5: Persian Gulf Security
- Topic 6: Brexit and the European Union
- Topic 7: The fight over the melting Arctic
- Topic 8: The End of Globalization?

Scholarship Fundraiser

Gold in Art Jewelers has once again donated a piece of jewelry to us to use for raising funds for scholarships for women in our area. This year it is a 14 karat yellow gold mother of pearl pendant along with a gold chain. The retail price for the pendant is \$1,800.

Gold in Art Jewelers is located on Clay Avenue South in Lady Lake, visible from Rt 466. Traveling toward Rt 441 it is on the right a short distance beyond Recreation Plantation RV Resort. Be sure to visit the store and let the manager know how appreciative we are for these annual donations.



Tickets for a raffle will be mailed to all members with a request to donate or solicit funds from family, friends, and neighbors. Five tickets will be sent, each valued at \$10. Return envelopes will be provided. Expect to receive the tickets in November. The drawing will be scheduled around Valentine's Day on February 14.

2020 EqualiTea

We may have been virtual this year, but it was still a wonderful event. Thank you, Carolyn Ingham, for your inspiring talk titled "What Took So Long." We had great coverage from The Villages Daily Sun.



Speakers Bureau

During the month of September, Linda Carpenter represented our branch and gave two presentations to clubs in The Villages.

- On September 2, Linda spoke to the Evening Rotary Club about our Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten study. Eighteen people attended the presentation, which was followed by a Q&A.
- On September 7, Linda spoke to the Civil Discourse Club about the gender pay gap. Thirty-four people attended the presentation, which stimulated lively discussion.

No additional presentations are scheduled, and the Speakers' Bureau will wait to solicit new opportunities until additional members join its Steering Committee. Send inquiries to Linda Carpenter (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com) or Jeannie Hamilton (jeannie@jeannierealtor.com).

Activities

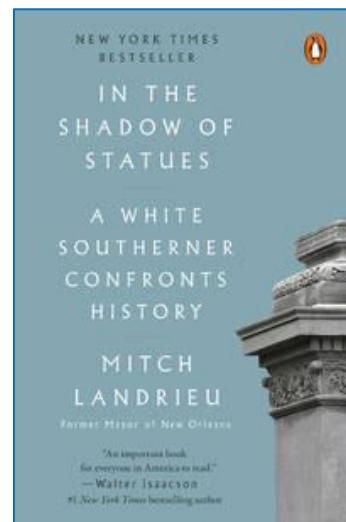
Our in-person activities are on hiatus. Check with the coordinators for when they will resume. Their names and contact information are available in the membership booklet.

Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month's recommendation is *In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History* by Mitch Landrieu. The following description comes from Penguin/Random House, the book's publisher.

The New Orleans mayor who removed the Confederate statues confronts the racism that shapes us and argues for White America to reckon with its past. A passionate, personal, urgent book from the man who sparked a national debate.

"There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence for it." When Mitch Landrieu addressed the people of New Orleans in May 2017 about his decision to take down four Confederate monuments, including the statue of Robert E. Lee, he struck a nerve nationally, and his speech has now been heard or seen by millions across the country. In his first book, Mayor Landrieu discusses his personal journey on race as well as the path he took to making the decision to remove the monuments, tackles the broader history of slavery, race and institutional inequities that still bedevil America, and traces his personal relationship to this history. His father, as state legislator and mayor, was a huge force in the integration of New Orleans in the 1960s and 1970s. Landrieu grew up with a progressive education in one of the nation's most racially divided cities, but even he had to relearn Southern history as it really happened.



Equal parts unblinking memoir, history, and prescription for finally confronting America's most painful legacy, In the Shadow of Statues contributes strongly to the national conversation about race in the age of Donald Trump, at a time when racism is resurgent with seemingly tacit approval from the highest levels of government and when too many Americans have a misplaced nostalgia for a time and place that never existed.

“This is a must-read, but really great fun to hear his voice on Audiobook.”



Judy Reinhardt

Movie Recommendation from Ginny Rivera



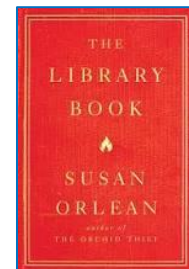
My son, Alex Rivera, and Cristina Ibarra, his partner in life and in film, have made a documentary about immigration, *The Infiltrators*. Its premiere was at the Sundance Film Festival at the end of January 2019, where it won the NEXT Innovator Award and the Audience Award. This year, they had plans to go to New York City at the end of March to see it open in a

theater, but the pandemic cancelled that. Now, you will have a chance to see the film; it will be on the PBS show, *POV*, on Monday, October 5.

The Infiltrators describes events during the Obama Administration; young Latino activists get themselves locked up in a privatized Florida detention center, where they work to free detainees. It blends documentary footage with scripted scenes. I think you will appreciate the film...and feel free to ask me about it.

Diversity Book Club

The Diversity Book Club will meet via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21 to discuss *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Katie Haviland will lead the discussion. Anyone wishing to join the club or participate in this discussion should contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com.



Selections for 2020-21

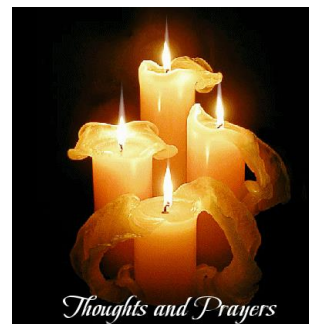
Please note: As it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold a holiday luncheon this year, we are instead going to read *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. You'll see this change reflected in the grid below.

Date	Title	Author	Facilitator
Oct. 21	<i>The Library Book</i>	Susan Orlean	Katie Haviland
Nov. 18	<i>Giver of Stars</i>	JoJo Moyes	Barb Blatchford
Dec. 16	<i>The Dutch House</i>	Anne Pachett	Diane Jacobson
Jan. 20	<i>The Nickle Boys</i>	Colson Whitehead	Mary Place
Feb. 17	<i>This Tender Land</i>	William Kent Krueger	Diane Jacobson
Mar. 17	<i>Born a Crime</i>	Trevor Noah	Ginny Rivera
Apr. 21	<i>See No Stranger</i>	Valerie Kaur	Judy Reinhardt
May 19	<i>Caleb's Crossing</i>	Geraldine Brooks	Myra Mervine
June 16	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i>	Paulette Jiles	Blanche Boyne
July 21	<i>American Dirt</i> *	Jeanine Cummins	Blanche Boyne
Aug. 18	Selection of 2021-22 Books		

* Oprah's Book Club

Healing Thoughts and Prayers to . . .

- Susan Gold and Dorothy Dobbs as they continue their recovery from Covid-19.
- Margie Hunt on the sudden death of her husband Bill.
- Cindy Anderson on the passing of her husband Larry. Cindy invites us to join her for a Celebration of Life service for Larry Anderson on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. at Fairway Christian Church located at CR466, east of Morse Blvd, at 251 Avenida Los Angeles (2nd Church Of left side of street) The Villages FL 32162. Masks and social distancing required, seating capacity up to 160 now. Luncheon to follow service beginning at noon at Francesco's (on 441 in Baylee Plaza on left side of street next to Sears) 16770 S US 441, Summerfield FL 34491.



Please let me know of any other members who need our thoughts, prayers, and good wishes.

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



This is your newsletter. These days it is an important part of keeping in touch with friends while keeping the appropriate social distance. Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the November edition is October 20.

Editor: Beth Hicks
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AAUW Websites

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