



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

February 2023

President’s Message



Hello Ladies,

We had a very interesting January General Meeting. I am always impressed by the young girls who we sponsor at Tech Trek. Their reports of their experiences show us what a valuable opportunity we help provide. Liz Schweers and her team have a lot of work ahead of

them in the next couple of months to interview and select the class of 2023.

There is a lot going on in the next few months to help us build our future. Ann Marie Lombardi has taken the lead on our membership drive that is coming up in March. Many hands are needed to make this event a success. This is your opportunity to pitch in, be an active member and in your way contribute to the membership drive. Please respond to Ann Marie’s request for participation.

Also in March, Beth Hicks is organizing the Mah Jongg fund raiser with the proceeds going directly to college scholarships for young women. Once again, you are the key to the event’s success. We need our Mah Jongg players to host a table of friends for an evening of fun tiles. Please reserve a table. See page 11 of this newsletter for information; visit the website for registration forms.

We are going to try something new after our next few General Meetings. To get to know one another better, we are going to take a page from the League of Women Voters by

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enjoying lunch together. After the meeting, those who are interested will gather, form small groups and choose their restaurant. So please plan on joining your AAUW sisters for a little social time.

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.

Thanks to those who have volunteered. These are the positions yet to be filled:

- Co-Presidents Elect (1)
- Program (1)

You will find detailed descriptions of the duties associated with these positions in the Members' Pages of our website (<https://lakesumteraaauw.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. Contact Linda Carpenter (linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com) if you need the password to the Members' Pages. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates to the membership at the March 18, 2023, General Meeting.

LEARN

Meetings and Programs

2022-2023 General Meeting Programs

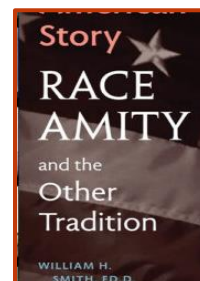
Learning of Self, Learning of Others, Learning of Your World!

- 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

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

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

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will be presenting the program at the General Meeting on February 18. It will be an interactive and thought-provoking morning. Under the umbrella of Past, Present and Future, we will look at race relations through an alternative lens – one of cooperation, mutual respect and allyship using the vehicle *Race Amity – The Other American Tradition*. We hope all will leave feeling inspired and empowered. Please invite your friends to join us for this in-person presentation.



Public Policy – Human Trafficking



“AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development and mutual security for all people.”

Overview

In the past decade human trafficking has emerged as one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world. It is a modern-day form of slavery claiming an estimated 24.9 million victims of all ages worldwide. Violence, debt bondage and other forms of coercion manipulate victims into engaging in commercial sex

acts, labor services and other forms of exploitation. Traffickers target marginalized or vulnerable populations—children, undocumented migrants, and LGBTQ+ people. Although awareness around this industry has grown, human trafficking is consistently underreported due to its covert nature, low community awareness, lack of law enforcement, limited resources for victim recovery, and social blaming of victims.

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation or soliciting of persons for commercial sex acts through force or other coercion. It occurs in residential brothels, online escort services, fraudulent massage businesses, strip clubs and on the streets. A victim of sex trafficking is any minor under the age of 18 who has engaged in commercial sex. According to the *U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime*, 50% of victims were used in sexual exploitation.

Labor Trafficking

Labor-trafficked victims are coerced and abused in farms, factories, and as in-home domestic workers. The hours are long with little pay, if any. They are often victims of debt bondage and violence. Globally, 38% of victims were men and boys used for forced labor.

Human Trafficking in the United States

Contrary to popular belief, human trafficking occurs across all 50 states and D.C. The *US National Human Trafficking Hotline* estimates there are hundreds of thousands of victims in the United States. In 2019 there were 11,500 cases involving more than 22,000 victims and survivors. The *National Human Trafficking Resource Center* reports many of those identified are U.S. citizens primarily trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Current Efforts to End Human Trafficking

In 2019 Congress re-authorized and amended the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)* which is the federal legislation used to combat human trafficking. The TVPA employs specialist services, grants prosecutors' tools to pursue traffickers and has partnerships with other countries to protect and prevent child trafficking. The *Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking Act* became law in 2015. The *Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign* focuses on bringing offenders to justice.

State statutes must include provisions covering safe harbor, victim assistance, civil remedies, the ability to vacate convictions of survivors and strict hotline posting requirements.

Florida is the *third* highest state for human trafficking!

Our democracy works best when *everyone* fully participates! Be the change you want to see! Become a **2-Minute Activist** by contacting your Senators today asking them to become active in supporting these bills and programs.

Rick Scott, 202-224-5274, rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick

Marco Rubio, 202-224-3041, rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

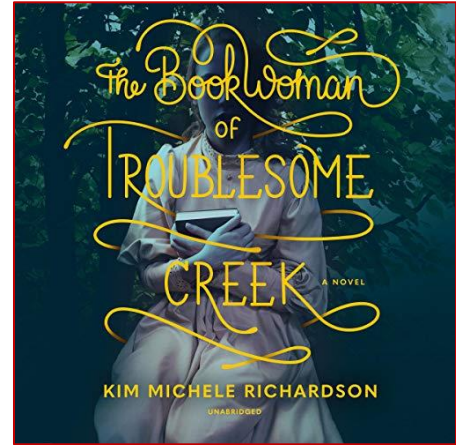
Susan Gold & Jeannie Hamilton
Public Policy Co-Chairs

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Great Read

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

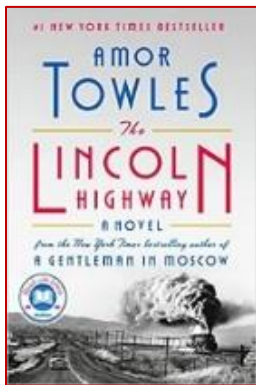
Inspired by the true story of the blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, this bestselling historical fiction novel follows Cussy Mary Carter and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves. Cussy's not only a book woman, she's also the last of her kind; her skin is a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachians and suspicion as deep as the holler. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.



(Information courtesy of Amazon.com)
Recommended by Carolyn Olsen

*Editor note: The sequel to this book is out and just as good. Look for **The Book Woman's Daughter** also by Kim Michelle Richardson*

Book Club



The Book Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. on February 18 to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Ginny Rivera will lead the discussion.

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>
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

Day Trips



Our spring excursion will be a trip to Crystal River with a scenic 1-hour boat tour and lunch at the Crystal River Plantation. The cost is \$82 and the trip is described in detail at the Workman Transportation website (<https://workmantransportation.com>). Reservations may be made with Workman at 352-259-9398. In making your reservation, be sure to tell them that you are with the AAUW. Questions about the outing may be addressed to Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com.

CONNECT

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

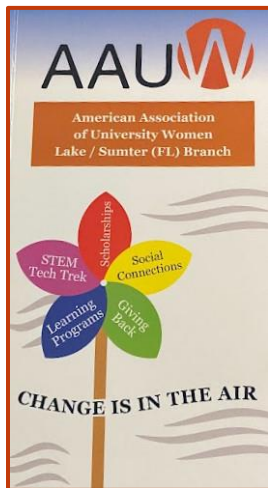
Village (if applicable)
Phone
Email
Partner/Spouse/Significant Other (if applicable)
Village (if applicable)
School(s) and Degree(s)

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.

**Need the password
to fully access our website?**

Contact Linda Carpenter!

Open House Planning is in Full Swing!



Support our March 8th Open House
Waterlily Rec Center 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
(guests flow through 2:00 – 3:30)

Volunteer Today!

During our January General Meeting, we talked about the importance of Member support.

Now is the time to step up, take action, and volunteer to ensure our Open House is a true success!

Areas in which we need help include:

- 10 members to welcome guests, be door greeters, escort guest to the room, escort guests around the room and introduce them around, wear an Ask Me badge to help.
- 2-3 members to help the Swag Bag chair gather up all the items, make the bags, and help hand them out to guests.
- 2 -3 members to work on décor...we have many stored items to repurpose.
- 4-5 members to show up at 1:00 to work with us to stage the room including helping the 13 Information and Display Tables leaders find their tables, outlets for computers, put up any general signage (use glue dots) and the like.

- 2-3 members to work with the Hospitality Chair on small bites and beverages.
- 2-3 members who can give support throughout the day to troubleshoot various needs that arise...need to be quick on your feet!
- 2 members to manage the Who's Your Plus One incentive program and award the gift cards.
- Enjoy our programs? Love the book club? Proud of our scholarship awardees? Can't get enough of Tech Trek's campership stories? Volunteer to support the Information and Display Table leaders at their table...there's literally 13 tables representing our initiatives and social interests that would welcome your help.

Please take the time to read any Branch emails asking for your support and give a timely response...hopefully a big YES!

There is a role for everyone to share their time, talent, and treasures. 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.

And, special thanks to Members that have already volunteered...we truly appreciate you!

Ann Marie Lombardi
Open House Chair

Social Interest Groups

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

This month's mah jongg games will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 22. Kathy Howe will host the on February 8. Please let Kathy know if you will be attending. Her email is kamphowe@aol.com. Anne Sobocinski will host the February 22 mah jongg game Please let Anne know if you want to attend. Her email is annesobocinski@yahoo.com.

Bridge

Bridge Players Needed! Have you played bridge recently? In the past? 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! We fully funded a scholarship last time in 2019. We have hopes that we can do the same again.



See the flyer on page 11 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!

Tech Trek



Those members lucky enough to attend the January General Meeting left with the feeling that the future is indeed bright! Three intelligent, well-spoken young women shared their Tech Trek experiences and awed us with their knowledge. They were joined by parents, administrators, and boosters. We even had two 7th grade guests who hope to be included in the 2023 Tech Trek event.

They all were so appreciative of our support! And we are busy recruiting for this coming summer.

The Tech Trek committee is very thankful for the support of all.

Liz Schweers
Tech Teck Chair

Scholarship

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



Jacklyn Lee is from Leesburg and will graduate from Lake Sumter State College (LSSC) in August 2023 with a BAS (Bachelor of Applied Science) in strategic leadership. She has a beautiful little girl who is 4 years old and is in preschool. Jacklyn is now working at Ulta Beauty and has become a manager. She hopes to stay with the company and would like to become a district manager. Although Jacklyn no longer works at LSSC she still is active with Phi Theta Kappa and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Jacklyn wants our members to know that our scholarship helped her with the stress of balancing two jobs and an internship at the same time.

Visit our website

lakesumteraauw.org

for

- Open House information and registration
- Mah Jongg fundraiser information and registration



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

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

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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