



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

November 2022

President’s Message



Hello everyone,

Once again, we had an exceptional General Meeting. I hope your circumstances are allowing you to attend the meetings. You won’t regret it. Thank you, Carolyn and Bonnie, for your wonderful planning. Don’t forget to sign up for the holiday luncheon in December.

For any of our new members who are learning the ins and outs of the Lake/Sumter branch, the Holiday luncheon is in lieu of our December General Meeting.

I would like to acknowledge a difficult situation that we on the Board are experiencing.

Several board members are dealing with illnesses themselves or of their family members. This is most likely also the case with our full memberships and your families making it very difficult to fully participate in branch functions. You are all in my thoughts with wishes for a full recovery or resolution of your personal situation.

Beth Hicks is doing a wonderful job in getting out the newsletter. Please read it through to the end. You’ll find the information you need to be an informed and active member of our AAUW branch. Please submit articles to Beth if you have something you would like to have included in the newsletter.

I am very pleased that our overall circumstances are looking up. Several members have answered the call to address the fundraising needs of the branch. You will be learning

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more about these activities in the near future and how you may participate. We are getting back on our feet.

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

Opportunities to be an active member!



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

- **Coffee/ refreshments** for -January, February, March, April
- **Be a hostess for the guest speakers** for January, February, March, April
- **Spring Luncheon in May**- plan 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!

- November 19, 2022 – Scams and scares: Protecting yourself financially and emotionally
- December 10, 2022- Happy Holidays! The Oaks on 44
- January 21, 2023 – It is a brave new world! Tech Trek
- 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

November 19, 2022, General Meeting

Allamanda Recreation Center
Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever
Mahatma Gandhi

Scams and Scares: Protecting yourself financially and emotionally.

A panel discussion by Nicole Palacios, Financial Administrator from Edward Jones, and Charles Kantor, representative from Seniors vs Crime. The discussion will include scams by phone, mail, internet, email and ways to make solid financial decisions. These are very important topics for all of us.



Holiday Luncheon



The Lake Sumter AAUW Branch will hold its Holiday Luncheon on **Saturday, December 10**, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Paulie's the Oaks on 44. The restaurant is located at the Continental Country Club, 50 Continental Blvd. Highway 44 East, Wildwood, FL.

The cost is \$30.00 which includes a choice of entrée.

- Chop Chop Salad (mixed greens, hardboiled egg, olives, tomato, prosciutto, and peppers)
- Trio Salad (tuna salad, chicken salad, and egg salad on a bed of greens)
- Vegetable Primavera (white wine and lemon sauce with pasta)
- Chicken Alfredo (Alfredo sauce over linguine with chicken)

Dessert, beverage, and tax and tip are included.

Reservations can be made at the November 19, 2022, General Meeting. All reservations must be received by Friday, December 2, 2022. Make checks payable to **Lake/Sumter AAUW**, and **indicate your entrée choice in the memo part of your check.** mail reservations to:

Carolyn Pasquale
5803 Blue Savannah Drive
Leesburg, FL 34748

If you have questions e mail cbpasqual@hotmail.com or call 716 485 1227

Public Policy

A lifelong pay gap between men and women results in women having significantly less income than men during their retirement years. Women often have a disproportionate share of family caregiving responsibilities which often takes them out of the paid workforce. Women are more likely to move in and out of the workforce and are more likely than men to work part-time. This results in accumulating less savings and may result in less access to employer-sponsored retirement plans. Moreover, many women work in industries or occupations that do not offer 401K plans or other defined contribution plans thus limiting their opportunities to invest in their retirement.



Some Efforts AAUW Supports that Impact this Issue

The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 2465/S. 1195) - would provide full-time employees the right to earn up to 7 job-protected paid sick days a year. These days could be used for their own medical needs or to care for a sick family member.

The Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act - FAMILY Act (H.R. 804/S.248) - would create a national self-funding paid family and medical leave insurance program.

The Paycheck Fairness Act - (H.R.7/S.205) - would strengthen The Equal Pay Act of 1963 by closing loopholes that allow employers to justify paying workers unfairly, creating more robust remedies for those who have suffered discrimination, preventing employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose their wages, prohibiting employers from relying on salary history to set wages and providing training, technical assistance, data collection and research. This Bill has passed in the House of Representatives but has stalled in the Senate.

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 . . .

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

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

PLEASE VOTE!

Susan Gold & Jeannie Hamilton
Public Policy Co-Directors

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)



Last month we defined the frequently used terms of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This time we go a bit further from National's AAUW Toolkit.

Diversity vs. Inclusion

Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique. Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts.

To be truly inclusive, we often have to change the culture — and culture shifts can make people uncomfortable or give the sense that they are losing something. But that is absolutely not the case. In fact, the exact opposite is true: [Research suggests](#) that in environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected and valued are actually more productive; everyone feels a greater connection to the organization's mission.

Inclusion vs. Belonging

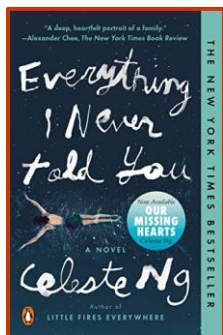
So, if diversity means the characteristics that make us unique, and inclusion refers to behaviors and actions, then what is belonging? And why is it important?

Belonging is feeling like you are a part of something, that you actually matter. It isn't necessarily about being liked — but rather being needed.

AAUW needs all of these things together — diversity, inclusion, and belonging — for our branches to continue to grow and thrive.

Great Read From DEI

This month's great read is *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. The book was published in 2014 and was a bestseller. In addition to recommending this book, we are featuring Ms. Ng as her work focuses on issues in diversity



Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins this thought-provoking novel about a Chinese American family living in a small town in Ohio in the 1970s. (It is interesting to note that anti-miscegenation laws were only declared to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.) Lydia is the beloved middle child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill their unrealized dreams. But when sixteen-year-old Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balance of the Lees' family dynamic is thrown into disarray.

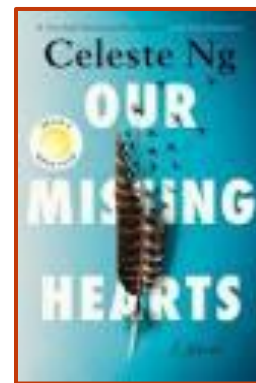
Recommended by Carolyn Olsen

Celeste Ng is the author of two New York Times bestselling novels *Everything I Never Told You* and *Little Fires Everywhere*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the

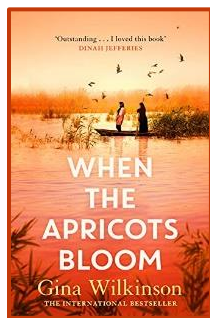
National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, and her work has been published in over thirty languages. She brings a unique Asian perspective and experience to her stories about American families.

Ng's third novel, *Our Missing Hearts*, was published in October 2022. This is Amazon's synopsis:

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve “American culture” in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old. Bird has grown up disavowing his mother and her poems; he doesn't know her work or what happened to her, and he knows he shouldn't wonder. But when he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is pulled into a quest to find her.



Book Club



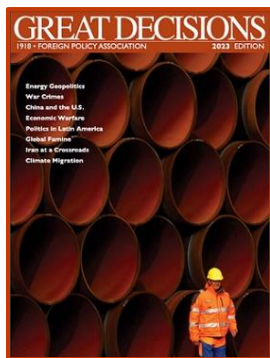
The book club met to discuss *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge on Wednesday, October 19 at the North Lake Presbyterian Church. Anne Wilkins led the discussion.

The club will meet again at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 16 to discuss *When the Apricots Bloom* by Gina Wilkinson. This meeting will be in the Faith Room at the North Lake Presbyterian Church on Rolling Acres Road (behind the Home Depot) and Katie Haviland will lead the discussion.

The club will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 7 at 12:00 noon at the Chop House in Lake Sumter Landing. Reservations for this event may be made via email to kmanion52@gmail.com.

Remaining 2022-23 Book Club Selections				
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
12/14/22	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>			
1/18/23	<i>The Lost Apothecary</i>	Sarah Penner	Historical novel...18 th C. and today; mysterious poisons	Barb Blatchfold
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

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.

As we decided at the October 15 General Meeting, the cost of the books is \$35 for both members and non-members. However, non-members will be asked to pay \$20 to attend the course. People may share a book, but each non-member should pay \$20.

If I have your name on my list by October 30, I will order a book for you and you will not need to pay for shipping. You may still register after October 30, by sending me your name, but you will have to order the book yourself and pay for shipping. Books can be ordered at www.fpa.org.

The Sumter Country Villages Annex Conference Room at 8033 East CR 466 has been reserved for Monday mornings, January 24 and 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, and March 7, 14, and 21. We will have one or two groups that meet for one hour and twenty minutes each. The books will be available in early January.

All we need now is to know how many of you, and your friends, would like to participate this year. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email (subject line:) to Christine Loken-Kim at kurusu99@hotmail.com. If you want to prepay for your book,

make the check payable to Christine Loken-Kim, and send to 894 Barrymoore Loop, The Villages, FL 32162

Please send names and email addresses of anyone who wants to register. 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
Great Decisions

CONNECT

Membership

As of October 21, we have 97 members.

We also welcome two new members. Their information has been added to our online *Members' Handbook and Directory*. If you have downloaded and printed a copy of the directory, please be sure to add these members to the listing.

Gretchen Sholar

2964 Burnett Terrace (Fernandina)
The Villages, FL 32163
(757) 647-2512 gmsolar@comcast.net
Duke University, BA; MAS Management and Supervision

Frances Aaron (dual member)

1543 Gifford Court (Mallory)
The Villages, FL 32162
(561) 373-0901 frantasia2@gmail.com
New York University, BS

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE EVENT - MARCH 8, 2023

Mah Jongg

The Conversational Mah Jongg players met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12 at the home of Kate Manion. At that game, plans were made to meet at the home of Margie Raub Hunt on Wednesday, October 26.

Upcoming games will be held on Wednesday, November 9 and Wednesday, November 23. Games begin at 1:00 p.m. and end between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.

All AAUW members are welcome regardless of skill level. If you don't know how to play mah jongg, we'll teach you.

Interested players may contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the email distribution list so that they receive future announcements.

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

Fund Raising

Plans are being made for several mini fund raisers to happen during the year. We still need a coordinator but are thankful for the individuals who have stepped up to coordinate a specific event. Details when plans are firmed up

If you have an interest in contributing to our fundraising efforts, please contact Anne Sobocinski!

Save the Date!

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Allamanda Recreation Center

*Farewell to the Old Card
Mah Jongg Fundraiser*



Tech Trek

With the money earned from working the polls for the primary and general elections, the Tech Trek Committee is getting an idea of how many girls we can support this year.

The Tech Trek committee is connecting with school STEM coordinators in Lake and Sumter Counties to start the process of nominating girls for camp.

AAUW Florida plans to hold two camps in 2023. Both will be in person and will be held on two different college campuses.

Liz Schweers
Tech Trek Chair

Scholarship



If you attended the October General Meeting, you were able to hear the inspiring story of one of our scholarship winners, Hannah Davis. She is pictured at left with Susan Gold and Kathy Mason of the Scholarship Committee; Hannah is holding this year's jewelry for the drawing to support the scholarship program.

Hannah is living proof of the difference we make in a young woman's life. Please support this jewelry drawing to continue our work impacting these women's lives!

For those of you who missed meeting Hannah in person, she is a delightful young lady. She is in her last year at the University of Central Florida. She is working on her degree in event management and is also working part time. She has earned many honors and is keeping a 4.0 grade-point average. On a personal note, she is getting married in the spring. She shared with us how much our scholarship has meant to her.

We are off to a good start with donations to fund scholarships for students who are selected to complete their last two years of college and earn baccalaureate degrees. If you haven't yet contributed now is the time: before the holidays when we all become very busy with other activities. The lucky winner of the 14-karat yellow gold 20 mm ribbed tapered bangle bracelet (pictured at right) will be selected at our February meeting.



For each \$10 you donate, a ticket in your name will be entered into a chance drawing.

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

===== Cut along this line =====

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your Email: _____

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



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

Please consider where you can fit in to make our branch succeed in its mission! Our next edition will be a December/January edition. Deadline for this combined newsletter will be December 1. **Please respect the deadline and get your contributions in by the due date.** 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>