



American Association of University Women  
 Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc.  
*Learn – Connect – Support*

**March 2024**

## Presidents' Message



March is a long month which, according to our northern neighbors can come in like a lion and go out like a lamb. Not so much here in Florida. But it brings us the start of daylight-saving time, the wearing of the green for St. Patrick, and the beginning of spring.

Yes, there is much to celebrate in March. It is Women's History Month, National Kidney Month, and National Celery Month. Special days to observe include Read Across America Day, World sleep Day, National Canadian Bacon Day, National Potato Salad Day, and National Doctor's Day.

Our branch will be hosting an AAUW Regional Workshop at Rohan Recreating Center on Saturday, March 16. All are invited, please contact Helen Gozdanovic for more information.

Our March 23 General Meeting will feature a presentation by the Chairman of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Pete. Details are on page 4 of this newsletter.

At the meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for next year. The membership will vote on the slate at our April General Meeting, and the new officers will be installed at our May luncheon.

### Table of Contents

<b>President's Message</b>	1
Nomination Committee	2
501(c)(3) and You	2
<b>Learn</b>	
Meetings & Programs	3
DEI	4
Book Club	6
Day Trips	6
<b>Connect</b>	
Membership	7
Social Interest Groups	9
<b>Support</b>	
Fundraising	9
Tech Trek	10
Scholarship	11
<b>Upcoming Event Flyers</b>	
<b>MJ Information</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>MJ Registration</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>May Luncheon</b>	<b>14</b>

A special thank you goes out to those who have volunteered to be an officer in the coming year. Please know that you will always have help, a co-officer plus past officers and helpful friends. We work together in our branch, and that is a beautiful thing.

Our AAUW Branch is bidding farewell to the 2023 Mah Jongg Card with a special fundraising event on March 25 at Bridgeport Recreation Center. Tickets are \$25 per person with proceeds going to the work of our Branch, including but not limited to Tech Trek and college scholarships. See page 13 of this newsletter for details and page 14 for the registration form.

As always, we thank you for being a valued member of Lake/Sumter AAUW.

Barbara Fislser and Helen Gozdanovic  
Co-Presidents

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is currently hard at work locating members to serve on our 2024-2025 Board, and we are really excited about the excellent nominees we have located so far. If you are interested in serving in one of the leadership positions below, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. Also, if you know of a member who would be a good fit for one of the positions, please provide their name to the Nominating Committee. We will contact them to share the job description and determine if they are interested in serving.

We know many of you have served in positions of leadership before and might be ready to serve again or consider a new Board position. Please do not hesitate to join us. Our newer members would love the benefit of your experience. We need our seasoned members to volunteer as well as our new members! Remember, the communication and challenging activities will help keep your brain young!

Here are the positions for which we still need nominees.

### **2024-2025 Executive Committee**

- Co-Finance Directors (2). This is a **CRITICAL NEED**. For the good of the organization, please consider if you can step up and volunteer.

### **Appointed Directors**

- Fundraising

### **Operations Committees**

- Hospitality
- Scholarship
- Summer Breakfast
- Sunshine
- Tech Trek

Please consider where your skills can meet Branch needs. As always, thank you for your support in making the programs and outreach of Lake/Sumter AAUW so successful.

The 2024 Nominating Committee

Blanche Browne Boyne (cell: 352-874-8740)

Anne Sobocinski (cell: 815-210-3450)

Jennifer Thompson (cell: 678-777-5256)

Angela Vickers (cell: 904-316-9363)

## **501(c)(3) and You**

Thank you to AAUW member Diane Starr for your help! As a member of Friends of the Library, Diane connected us with that group. As a result, Friends of the Library have funded two Tech Trek campers with a \$2,400 donation. What group are you part of that is looking for a community need?



We are now able to accept such donations for our scholarship and Tech Trek funds to support deserving women and girls.

Give the committee a contact name and we will take it from there!

Beth Hicks

501(c)(3) Implementation Co Chair

*Bring your stash of our tri-fold brochures to any General Meeting, and we will give you updated ones with stickers announcing our 501(c)(3) status and new meeting dates!*

# LEARN

## Meetings and Programs

### *March General Meeting*

Saturday March 23  
Allamanda Recreation Center  
Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation  
Program starts at 10:00 a.m.



Join us for a thought-provoking forum on one family's history and how we can respond to antisemitism.

Our March General Meeting on Saturday, March 23 for a presentation by Michael A. Igel, of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Pete as he guides us through his own family's history as we look at how we can respond as a community to combat prejudice and hatred.

Mr. Igel is the Chairman of the Board of both The Florida Holocaust Museum and the Florida Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education. The grandson of Holocaust survivors (Stanley and Lusia Igel, Henry Ferber), he draws on his entire family's experience to reach people on a personal level and explain how Holocaust education improves the world. Igel has served on The Florida Holocaust Museum Board since 2014, assuming the role of Chair in 2018. He was appointed to the Task Force on Holocaust Education in 2021.

### *February Program Information*

The full video shown at the February 2024 Lake Sumter AAUW meeting can be found on this AAUW Florida page: [AAUW of Florida \(vimeo.com\)](#). The presenter is Andrew Sorbo, a retired history teacher and principal. The end of the video includes some of his reference documents: Selection of Florida Jim Crow Laws and Modern Variations, and Historical Outline of the History of Racism in the United States with a Focus on Florida.

### **May General Meeting**

### ***Save the Date***

**May 4, 2024**

### **Annual Luncheon**

(See the flyer on page 15)

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

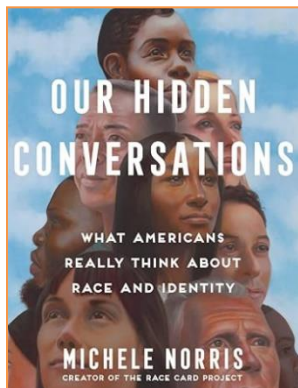
### *Banned Books Reading Group*

Our next movie event will be Sunday, March 10 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please note the time change from last month's newsletter. We will be viewing and discussing the documentary, *The Chinese Exclusion Act*. A light supper will be provided, but BYOB. Contact Jacquie Latzer to reserve your space and learn the location.

### *Our Mantra*

*How have you or will you use your influence and connections to enhance racial harmony?*

### *Great Reads from DEI*



*Our Hidden Conversations: What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity* by Michele Norris

The prompt seemed simple: Race. Your Thoughts. Six Words. Please Send.

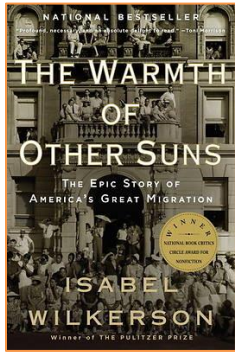
In the years since Michele Norris first posed that question, over half a million people have sent their stories to The Race Card Project inbox. Many were submitted by white respondents. The stories are shocking in their depth and candor, spanning the full spectrum of race, ethnicity, identity, and class. Even at just six words, the micro-essays can pack quite a punch, revealing fear, pain, triumph, and sometimes humor. Responses such as: You're pretty for a Black girl. White privilege, enjoy it, earned it. Lady, I don't want your purse. My ancestors massacred Indians near here. Urban living has made me racist. I'm only Asian when it's convenient.

Many go even further than just six words, sending backstories, photographs, and heirlooms: a collection much like a scrapbook of America you rarely get to see. This powerful book offers an honest, if sometimes uncomfortable, dialogue about race and identity, permitting us to eavesdrop on deep-seated thoughts, private discussions, and long submerged memories. *Our Hidden Conversations* reminds us that honesty, grace, and a willing ear can provide a bridge toward empathy and understanding, even during times of great division.

*Book summary courtesy of Amazon.com*

Michele Norris is an award-winning journalist. She was a correspondent for ABC News from 1993 to 2002, winning an Emmy and a Peabody Award for coverage of the September 11 attacks. Norris joined the NPR evening news program *All Things Considered* in 2002, becoming the first Black female host for NPR. The Race Card Project, begun by Norris in 2010, won a 2014 Peabody Award. You can view the Race Card Project website at <https://theracecardproject.com/>.

## Book Club



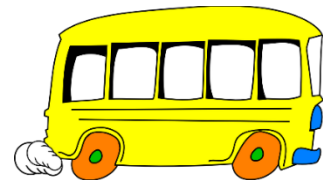
On March 20, the Book Club will be discussing *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room in the Sheriff's Office Annex. Katie Haviland will lead the discussion. All members are welcome.

Below is the schedule of books for the remainder of the 2023-24 program year, including discussion dates and leaders. Visit the Learning Programs page of our website and scroll down to Book Club for a link to the descriptions of each book.

2023 – 2024 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
3/20/24	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>	Isabel Wilkerson	Katie Haviland
4/17/24	<i>Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoom</i>	Lawrence Anthony	Kate Manion
5/15/24	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>	Bonnie Garmus	Marge McQueston
6/19/24	<i>The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek</i>	Kim Michele Richardson	Anne Sobocinski
7/17/24	<i>Ordinary Grace</i>	William Krueger	Helen Gozdanovic
8/21/24	<i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i>	Kelli Estes	Judy Reinhardt

## Day Trips

Join us for our upcoming AAUW Spring Day Trip. We will be heading out on April 10 for a day of fun, joining a Senior Adventures Bus Trip to the Calypso Breeze Boat and Buffet. The day will include Maderia Beach, John's Pass Village, the Marketplace, and Boardwalk.



The bus will leave at 10:00 a.m. from Recreation Plantation, 609 County Road 466 in Lady Lake, and will return about 7:00 p.m.

Total Cost is \$102 which includes bus, boat, buffet, and buffet gratuity.

Call 352.753.5404 for reservations.

Questions? Call Kate Manion 352.801.0901 or Carolyn Pasquale 716.485.1227

## AAUW singles upcoming outings

- **March 20, Wednesday 2:00** – *Fiddler in the Roof* at Savannah Center
  - \$35 and up -purchase your own tickets through the Villages Box Office.
  - Dinner afterwards at Bella Vida, Spanish Springs.
  - Contact Karen Pickelsimer 847 516 2877
- **May 8, Wednesday 12:00** – Okahumpka
  - Lunch at Bountiful Farms, outdoor setting.
  - Contact Carolyn Pasquale 716 485 1227.
- **June 24, Monday 3:00** – The Villages Pops Chorus
  - “Something’s Gotta Give”
  - North Lake Presbyterian Church
  - General Admission tickets on sale May 4 in person at Bridgeport Recreation Center, Saturdays 11:00 to 1:00 or online at <https://thevillagespops.thundertix.com/>.
  - Contact Liz Schweers 850 247 9489

## 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](http://www.lakesumteraauw.org)), to make sure your information is correct and complete. If you need the password for the Members’ Pages, email Linda Carpenter 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.

### *Downloading the Directory and Saving to your Desktop*

Now that you have the password, you can access the Members' Pages of our website (<https://www.lakesumteraaauw.org>) and download the current directory. If you are an Apple user, follow the instructions Leslie handed out at the September General Meeting for saving the directory to your computer's desktop. If you are not an Apple user, a similar set of instructions is also available for you. Both sets of instructions are posted in the Members' Pages.

## **International Women's Day Celebration March 8, 2024**

Come join the celebration of International Women's Day at Bridgeport Recreation Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on March 8, 2024.

**Wear purple if you can!**

## **Social Interest Groups**

### *Mah Jongg*

Please contact Lois Venus for Mah Jongg. The group plays the second and fourth Wednesday of the month and is always looking for more players.

### *Bridge*

Our Branch hosts two bridge groups: One plays on Monday afternoons and the other on Thursday afternoons. Both need new players. These are friendly groups; you don't need to be a Life Master, just be an enthusiastic player. Please contact Barbara Fisler if you are interested in joining one or both groups.



# SUPPORT

## Fundraising

### *Farewell to the Old Card*

It's back! Farewell to the Old Card Mah Jongg gathering will be on Monday March 25 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Bridgeport Recreation Center. **Details are in the flyer and registration form on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter.** Time to gather your players and get your table together. See you then!



## Tech Trek



We thank the Friends of the Library for their generous donation that will fund two girls for the upcoming Tech Trek.

Liz and her committee are in the process of interviewing the candidates and is awed by the intelligence of them! They have some difficult choices to make.

After several years of outstanding leadership, Liz will be stepping down as Tech Trek Chair. Are you ready to step up and continue her good work?

## Scholarships

### *Scholarship Recipient Update*

Here is an update on Charity Bishop, one of our current scholarship awardees.

Charity Bishop received her AA degree in the summer of 2023. She started on her baccalaureate degree at Lake Sumter State College and is majoring in Strategic Leadership. She has taken four courses so far and received an “A” in all of them!

Ms. Bishop has a 3-year-old son and works full time in the hospitality industry while attending college. She has family support and has learned a lot about time management!

Ms. Bishop wants our members to know that she is “super” grateful for our scholarship and that her son is her prime motivation in all that she does. This delightful woman is committed to her education, and it is a pleasure to know her.

## *Jewelry Drawing*



What a wonderful turn of events!!! Scholarship Committee Co-Chair Susan Gold was the lucky winner of the beautiful necklace in our annual jewelry drawing.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise \$2,290 for the scholarship fund. Thank you to all members who took part in our annual fundraiser. The scholarship recipients are the real winners!

And if you stop by Gold in Art, be sure to thank Richie Kluesener for his generous donation to our Branch.



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

***Learn – Connect – Support***

This is a busy time of year all around the area. Many snowbirds are here and all the activities are at a frantic pace. Take the time to relax and find a place to help AAUW! Deadline for the April edition will be March 20.

**Keep scrolling! There is information about our Mah Jongg fundraiser and our Spring Luncheon on the next pages.**

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

AAUW Websites

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



American Association of University Women  
Lake/Sumter Branch

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

**Location:** Bridgeport Recreation Center, Card Room  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024  
**Time:** 6:00 -8:30 p.m.  
Doors open at 5:50 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$25.00 per person

**Proceeds will support the work of  
Lake/Sumter AAUW**

***(Not a Tournament. Cannot Play for Money)***

- Pre-registration is required by March 18, 2024
- Mah Jongg sets will be provided; BYO Pusher and 2023 card
- Water and coffee will be provided; BYOB
- 50-50
- All participants must have a Villages ID or guest pass  
For more information, contact Kathy Howe at  
[kamphowe@aol.com](mailto:kamphowe@aol.com)

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

6:00 p.m. – March 25, 2024 Bridgeport Recreation Center  
**Registration Form\***

**Please Print Clearly**

**Registration Deadline: March 18, 2024**

Send registration and payment to:

Kathy Howe  
1391 Eagle Ridge Drive  
The Villages, FL 32162

Make Checks Payable to: **Lake / Sumter AAUW**

Please register as a table of four so you can play with your friends. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to arrange a foursome for individual registrants.

Name of Primary Contact for the Foursome: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

**All participants must have a Villages ID or a guest pass.**

For more information, contact Kathy Howe at [kamphowe@aol.com](mailto:kamphowe@aol.com)

## AAUW MAY LUNCHEON

Legacy Restaurant  
Nancy Lopez Country Club  
17135 Buena Vista Blvd  
The Villages, FL

Saturday, May 4, 2024

11:30-1:30

Fireplace Banquet Room  
(based on 30-40 people)

Cost \$23/person

(includes tax and gratuities)

Legacy Chicken Salad over Romain Lettuce  
Eggs Benedict served with country potatoes  
Beer-battered Haddock on Brioche bun  
With coleslaw and house chips

Non-Alcoholic beverages included (no coffee)

Alcoholic beverages – Cash Bar

Make Checks out to Lake-Sumter AAUW  
Mail before 4/20/2024 to Kathy Howe  
1391 Eagle Ridge Drive, The Villages, FL 32162

