



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

October 2024

Presidents' Message



We are off to a strong start this year at Lake/Sumter AAUW! There are many wonderful opportunities to serve the local community through our Tech Trek and scholarship committees.

On our social calendar, we have a day trip in November to tour Ma Barker's House in Ocklawaha (page 6). There will be plenty of fun gatherings planned by our book club, Mah Jong and Bridge group. You can see all these opportunities here in the newsletter.

Thank you to Laura McLaughlin and Kathy Howe for the wonderful program at our General Meeting on September 28. Rich Killion from Beacon College, spoke about the educational opportunities at Beacon College for neurodivergent students. We also enjoyed visiting with Amanda, one of our scholarship recipients from Beacon.

This month our General Meeting on October 26 will be at Fish Hawk Recreation Center. Fish Hawk is located at 2318 Buttonwood Run in the Village of Buttonwood. Our usual meeting location, Allamanda Recreation Center, is being used for an early voting site, so The Villages moved us to **Fish Hawk**, which is nearby. Char Griffin from the League of Women Voters, will provide a non-partisan review of the amendments on the upcoming November ballot.

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
501(c)(3) and You	2
Volunteers Needed	2
Learn	
Meetings & Programs	3
Public Policy	4
DEI	5
Book Club	6
Day Trips	6
<i>Great Decisions</i>	7
Connect	
Membership	8
Website	9
Social Interest Groups	10
Support	
Tech Trek	10
Scholarship	11

Finally, it's time to start forming a nominating committee to select members to serve in leadership positions for next year (yes, it's already that time again...). If you are interested in serving on the committee and helping shape the future of Lake/Sumter AAUW leadership, please contact us. We are looking forward to seeing you all at Fish Hawk. And don't forget to buy your drawing tickets for the lovely bracelet from Gold in Art!

Bonnie Weaver & Jennifer Thompson
Co-Presidents 2024-2025
AAUW Lake/Sumter Branch

501(c)(3) and You

Time to support folks who are supporting us. These groups have generously donated to our Tech Trek and scholarship funds. Let us support them at the upcoming events.

- Village Theatre Company *Under a Full Moon in November*
- Village Pops Chorus - Annual Christmas Concert
- Friends of the Library – Quarterly Used Book Sales



Beth Hicks
501(c)(3) Implementation Co Chair

Volunteers Needed for October 26 General Meeting



Enjoy baking pumpkin bread? Want to purchase a delicious apple Danish or make a tasty cheese and fruit plate? Please contact Bobbie or Ann Marie and volunteer to bring food items for our October General Meeting. A special thank you to members who already signed up at our September meeting.

Your Hospitality Co-Chairs,

Bobbie Peters bpeters2609@gmail.com
Ann Marie Lombardi am.lombardi1956@gmail.com

LEARN

Meetings and Programs

October General Meeting

Saturday October 26, 2024

FISH HAWK RECREATION CENTER

Please note the change in location due to Early Voting at our usual center

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation
Program starts at 10:00 a.m.



A speaker from the League of Women Voters will be at the October General Meeting with a presentation on the constitutional amendments that are on the November ballot. Come and be ready to make an informed vote.

Also, Woody High from Wildwood Boosters will be in attendance recruiting judges for their annual Science Fair. What a great way to give back to the community!

November General Meeting

Saturday, November 23, 2024

Allamanda Recreation Center

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation
Program starts at 10:00 a.m.



The community of Royal is located near Wildwood, FL, and is one of Florida's oldest African American communities. Beverly Steele, Royal historian and activist, was raised in Royal and will talk about its history.

In 1998, Ms. Steele founded Young Performing Artists, Inc. (YPA), a not-for-profit statewide corporation based in Royal that supports youth involved in performing and visual arts. She will talk about the YPA as well as the history of Royal.

Ms. Steele is the recipient of numerous awards including the Sumter County Community Hero Award. She currently resides in Royal with her husband Cliff Hughes.

Public Policy



November 2024 Election – Florida Constitutional Amendment 1
Whether you chose to vote in person or by mail it is not hard to realize that election season is upon us. The Florida Constitution has six amendments for voters to decide on. This month we will focus on Amendment 1.

What would Amendment 1 do?

This amendment would require candidates to disclose their political party in both primary and general school board elections.

Background

In 1998 Florida voters approved a ballot measure to make the school board races nonpartisan. The thought was that without party designations voters would look at the candidates and vote for whomever was best suited for their community and school. In 2023 the Florida legislature, with the support of Governor Ron DeSantis, passed a measure to disclose the candidate's political party in school board primaries and elections. The measure to become part of the Florida Constitution, 60% of the voters must agree.

Four states – Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana and Pennsylvania – label school board candidates by party. Other states either allow school districts to decide for themselves or do not indicate political party.

Supporters' Position – Vote Yes to require disclosure of political party

In our busy lives we often use political party as a shorthand for our positions and disclosing political party would make it easier for voters to vote accordingly.

Critics' Position – Vote No to keep school board elections nonpartisan

Opponents of Amendment 1 say that passing Amendment 1 would further divide school boards and communities. Without political affiliation, voters could select candidates who best represent their views and the needs of the community. In Florida, voters must be registered with a party to vote in a primary. Since many voters today are unaffiliated, they would not have a voice in the most basic issues facing their communities if elections were not nonpartisan.

Conclusion

There is a lot going on politically in 2024 and the school board amendment might get lost in all the discussion. It deserves attention. Whether you currently have children in

school, they graduated, or you never had children in school, the school board represents the basic beliefs of a community.

Come to the October General Meeting to learn about all six amendments so you can be an informed voter and decide for yourself.

Elizabeth White & Susan Laluk
Public Policy Co-Chairs

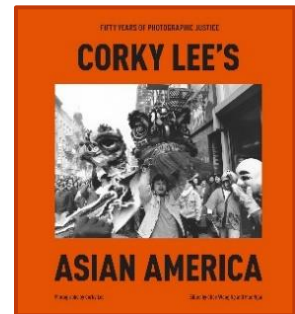
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Great Reads from DEI

Corky Lee's Asian America: Fifty Years of Photographic Justice

Corky Lee, Chee Wang Ng, & Mae Ngai
Published April 9, 2024

Known throughout his lifetime as the “undisputed, unofficial Asian American photographer laureate,” the late photojournalist Corky Lee documented Asian American and Pacific Islander communities for 50 years, breaking the stereotype of Asian Americans as docile, passive, and, above all, foreign to this country. This collection of over 200 breathtaking photos is a stunning retrospective of his life’s work--a selection of the best photographs from his vast collection, from his start in New York’s Chinatown in the 1970s until his untimely passing in 2021.



Featuring never-before-seen photographs alongside his best-known images, this book represents Lee’s mission as an activist social photographer to chronicle a history of inclusion, resistance, ethnic pride, and patriotism. Iconic photographs feature protests against police brutality in New York in the 1970s, a Sikh man draped in an American flag after 9/11, a reenactment of the completion of the transcontinental railroad of 1869 featuring descendants of Chinese railroad workers, and his last photos of community life and struggle during the coronavirus pandemic.

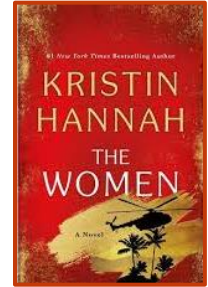
Asian American writers, artists, activists, and friends of Lee reflect on his life and career and provide rich historical and cultural context to his photographs. It is a fitting epitaph to a beloved photographer who sought to change the world, one photograph at a time.

Book summary courtesy of Amazon. com

*Hardcover list price \$50, currently available at \$29
Kindle edition \$17.99*

Book Club

The book club will meet on Wednesday, October 16 with a discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. The club will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Sheriff's Office Annex located at the corner of 466 and Morse Boulevard. All members are welcome to attend.



2024-2025 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
10/16/25	<i>The Women</i>	Kristen Hannah	Katie Haviland
11/20/95	<i>Babylon's Ark</i>	Lawrence Anthony	Kate Manion
12/11/24	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>		
1/15/25	<i>Tom Lake</i>	Ann Patchett	Anne Wilkens
2/19/25	<i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i>	Kelli Ester	Judy Reinhardt
3/19/25	<i>The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir</i>	Kao Kalie Yang	Linda Carpenter
4/16/25	<i>An Unfinished Love Story</i>	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Katie Haviland
5/15/25	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i>	Shelby Van Pelt	Marge McQueston

Day Trips

AAUW Fall Trip

*Tour the Ma Barker House in Ocklawaha
Thursday, November 14*

Some say the house is haunted! It was the home of gangster Ma Barker and the location of an historic FBI shootout.

Reservations are required. We need 20 participants to qualify for this group tour. Wayne, the tour guide, can hold no more than 25 participants.

There still may be room for you to join the Ma Barker tour. As of Sunday September 29, we have 18 reservations.

We will carpool from Colony Cottage, meeting at 9:00 a.m. We will catch the tram about 40 minutes from Colony Cottage at 13275 SE 115th Avenue, Ocklawaha, Florida.

The tickets for the tour are \$10, payable at the location. Riders will contribute \$5 to drivers, and a \$3 tip for Wayne would be appreciated. The tour will run from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., or noon, if we ask a lot of questions. We will order lunch off the menu at Gator Joe's Beach Bar and Grille which is about 5 minutes away at 12431 SE 135 Avenue, Ocklawaha. There are display cases with more about the Ma Barker House. We should be back in The Villages by 3:00 p.m. This should be a fun chance to get to know AAUW friends on an interesting outing.

Please make your reservation with Angela Vickers at 904-316-9363 or email her at Angvickers@aol.com.

Angela will email participants with more information closer to the trip. **

Great Decisions

We are planning to hold the *Great Decisions* discussion group again this year. This is an activity prepared every year by the Foreign Policy Association in New York, a non-partisan association which analyzes issues from a geo-political and historical perspective. We use their prepared text and read one chapter per week on the topic of the week. During our meetings, we discuss the reading and watch a video lecture on the topic which expands on the readings. Members of the group in past years have found the experience very worthwhile and often a real stretch from how we have thought of the issues in the past.



We will have two groups on different days. Our schedule will be 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on either Monday or Tuesday (your choice) for 8 weeks. Our meetings will begin on Monday, January 20 (yes, I know that's MLK day) and Tuesday, January 21. The meetings will run for 8 weeks and end on March 10 and 11.

Our meeting place will be The Sumter Country Villages Annex Conference Room at 8033 East CR 466 near the corner of Morse Blvd.

Great Decisions 2025 Topics

- American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
- U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
- U.S.-China Relations
- International Cooperation on Climate Change
- The Future of NATO and European Security
- AI and American National Security
- India: Between China, the West, and the Global South
- After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

We had a very active group last year, and we would like to have even more participants this year. Please encourage your friends and significant others, both in and out of the AAUW group, to join us.

For me to plan for the course and order the books, I need to know who is planning to participate, which day you would like, and a check (made out to me, Christine Loken-Kim) by October 25, 2024. The cost for the book will be \$40. An extra participation fee of \$20 will be charged for non-AAUW members who would like to join us.

Please email me with your name, contact information, and your choice of Monday or Tuesday. Then either mail me your check or give it to me at the AAUW meetings. Please email me at kurisu99@hotmail.com with any questions or to enroll!

If you cannot make the October 25 deadline, you may still participate, however, you will need to order the book online from the Foreign Policy Association yourself. But I would like people to try to decide before October 25, so I can order at the bulk rate.

See you there.

Christine Loken-Kim
Great Decisions Coordinator

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 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

Once you have the password, you can access the Members' Pages of our website and download the current directory to your computer's desktop. Instructions for downloading the directory are posted in the Members' Pages.

Website

Over the summer, we updated the Members' Pages of our Branch website (<https://www.lakesumteraauw.org>). Here is what you will find when you visit:

Branch Administration

- 2024-25 Branch Leadership
- Branch Foundation Documents
- Current Membership Directory
- 2024-25 General Meeting Minutes
- Board Handbook
- Forms and Templates

Leadership Resources

- DEI
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Position Descriptions
- Tech Trek

Branch Archives

- Early Bylaws
- Goals and Strategic Plans
- General Meeting Minutes Archive
- Board Meeting Minutes Archive
- Membership Directories Archive
- Historical Lists
- Lifetime Members

These are not static entries. We envision adding to these materials as new programs and events are planned and implemented. Our intent is to provide readily accessible resources so future leaders won't have to start their work from scratch. In that regard, Finance Resources will be coming soon.

In addition to these updates that only members can access, we have made some changes to the public pages of the website as well. The Newsletter Archives offer access to Branch newsletters back to 1982, the Support page now includes links to separate pages for Tech Trek and scholarships, and the Public Policy page now links to AAUW-Florida's Public Policy Forums.

Work will now begin in earnest to design our digital scrapbook, which will highlight for the public the programs, activities, and accomplishments of Lake/Sumter AAUW. If you would like to work on this project or have suggestions about digital scrapbooking, please contact me...I'd love to hear from you.

Linda Carpenter
Webmaster

Social Interest Groups

Bridge

Please contact Barbara Fisler if you are interested in joining the bridge group.

SUPPORT

Tech Trek



The Tech Trek Florida Summer Camps are a wonderful opportunity for girls entering 8th grade who have expressed a strong interest in STEM fields. The girls participate in a variety of core classes and workshops which focus on various STEM careers. They also attend a STEM women's dinner at the camp where they interact with professional women in STEM careers.

The Lake/Sumter Branch was able to provide the funds necessary to send 13 girls to the 2024 Tech Trek Summer Camps. Our branch sent more girls this past summer than any other Florida branch!

To send girls to the Summer Camps, your help is needed. Consider being involved in this important endeavor by either volunteering to be a member of the Tech Trek Committee and/or donating to specifically support Tech Trek.

Contact Sue Hanson-Otis, Tech Trek Coordinator, if you are interested in being a member of the Tech Trek Committee.

New Tech Trek Coordinator

Meet our new Tech Trek Coordinator. This successful program is now in the capable hands of Sue Hanson-Otis who is assuming leadership from Liz Schweers. Let's welcome Sue to the Board and join her as a Tech Trek Committee Member. The word is out! We have a great program. Let's support it!



Scholarships



Once again Ritchie Kluesener, owner of Gold in Art, has given our branch a beautiful piece of jewelry to support our fundraising efforts. Please support the scholarship committee by asking your friends and neighbors to participate in our drawing. See the picture below of the beautiful 18 karat yellow gold bracelet consisting of 9 1/4" rope textured circles within 9 highly polished circles. The retail value of the bracelet is \$3,200.00.



The end of this newsletter has your personal flyer and donation form to support our scholarship fund by selling tickets to friends and neighbors.



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter Branch, Inc**

Learn – Connect – Support

Welcome back! Let's gear up and make this a special AAUW year. There will be a place for everyone. Come to a meeting and get involved!

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwsnews@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

Lake/Sumter AAUW Scholarship Fund

Help worthy young women complete their college education with AAUW scholarships, while giving yourself and your friends a chance to receive this stunning 18k gold bracelet.



Past recipients of Lake/Sumter AAUW Scholarships have had this to say about their awards:

- “Being awarded the AAUW Scholarship has opened more doors for me and broadened my mindset...” Kelli-Ann W.
- Evelyn O. is originally from Chile and is the first in her family to attend college.
- “All my accomplishments have been made possible because ...the American Association of University Women has given me the opportunity to pursue my goals through their generous support. I am beyond grateful for this inspiring group...” Jordan T.

Someone will be gifted with this beautiful piece of jewelry, valued at \$3,200, which has been donated by **Gold in Art Jewelers**. Why shouldn't it be you? Or one of your friends, a family member, or a neighbor?

Using the attached form, clearly write the name of each donor (including yourself if you are donating), the amount of the donation, and the donor's email address. For each \$10 donated, a card with the donor's name on it will be entered into a chance drawing.

If the donation is made by check, also write the check number on the form. Donors should make checks payable to **AAUW Lake/Sumter**. Mail the form with the donation(s) to: Susan Gold, 3022 Dafoe Terrace, The Villages, FL 32163-2597

Visit our website www.lakesumteraauw.org for additional forms.



Donation Form

Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
Name:	Amount		Check #	Email:
Phone:				
<i>For Administrative Use Only</i>				
Form #		Total	Date Received	Date Confirmed
_____		_____	_____	_____