

Getting to Know
the members of
Lake/Sumter branch
AAUW
2008

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Polly Welburn, editor

Marie Abbott majored in education and counseling. She taught junior high math, social studies, was a junior counselor, and a high school vocational counselor. Her home state is Rhode Island. She has been an AAUW member for about 8 years. Her current interests are golf, yoga, line dancing, reading, and learning to play the flute.

Ann Barefield majored in religious education, curriculum and instruction, and educational administration. She was a teacher, principal, director of curriculum and instruction, assistant superintendent of schools, and a college professor. Her home state is North Carolina. She has been an AAUW member off and on since the 1960s. Her current interests are writing, music, and serving as president of the Board of Trustees at UUFMC.

Pat Bays majored in French, Spanish, and English. She taught for 23 years, then volunteered for 17 years as an ESL teacher. Her home state is Ohio. She has been an AAUW member for three years. Her current interests are bridge, reading, and literacy teaching.

Mary Jane Beatty majored in math and science education. She was a science teacher for 20 years. Her home states are New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. An AAUW member for 5 years, her current interests are bridge, mahjongg, college courses, piano, golf, church, and volunteering.

Nancy Bell majored in English, speech, and drama. She taught briefly, then was a professional fund raiser and consultant. She grew up in Illinois and lived in Missouri for 40 years. She has been an AAUW member since the mid 60s. Her current interests are writing and public speaking.

Agnes Berry majored in domestic science education, early childhood education, administration and supervision. She was a public school educator, and founded and directed a private pre-school in Leesburg. Her home state is Virginia. She has been an AAUW member for 17 years. Her current interests are neighborhood improvement.

Joan Bouslog majored in business education. She taught for 3 years, then helped her husband start his own business. Later, she did substitute teaching for about 30 years.. Her home states are Iowa and Florida. An AAUW member for two years, her current interests are bridge, golf, traveling, and reading.

Janice Broadbelt majored in math and economics. For 27 years she was an assistant to the vice president of a nuclear power plant in New Jersey. Her home areas are New Jersey and Canada. She's been an AAUW member for 5 years. Her current interests are bridge, book club, and tap dancing.

Joyce Brooks' undergraduate major was music education, and masters' program was in curriculum and supervision. She began the Bucket Brigade in Ohio, wrote a Gifted Program for the school, at the college level taught as adjunct, performance learning systems, was a workshop instructor and an on-campus professor. Her home states are New York and Ohio. An AAUW member since the mid 80s, her current interests are liturgical organist and accompanist.

Ann Bruner majored in biology and political science. She worked as a teacher and a travel coordinator. Her home state is Florida. She has been an AAUW member since 1961, and her current interests are current events, art, bridge, and book discussions.

Susan Christen's college majors were home economics, psychology, and adult education. For most of her career, she conducted training programs for women reentering the labor force or seeking career orientation. She also served on the professional staff of Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, and taught training courses for teachers of adults for the University of VA in Falls Church. After retirement, she created and administered the scholarship program for the MD Federation of Business & Professional Women. She has been an AAUW member since 2006. Her dominant interest remains scholarships for women.

Tina Chumbley majored in education and Spanish. Her career experiences have included teaching grades 1 - 12 in Massachusetts and Florida, serving as department chairperson of a middle school, working with GED students, also with the Department of Children and Families and Medically Needy, and as a counselor with Abused and Neglected Children in Lake county. Her home state is Massachusetts. Her current interests are a 10 month old grandson, counted cross stitch, reading, Bible studies, and church attendance.

Irene Clark majored in elementary education. She taught 34 years in the Tonawanda NY school system. Her home state is New York. She's been an AAUW member for about 5 years. Her current interests are golf, sewing, reading, clogging and line dancing.

Judi Corcoran majored in early childhood education. She taught in kindergarten and first grade in New York state. She also researched ESS (early school success) through the University of Chicago, and was supervisor of student teaching at the University of Buffalo. New York is her home state. Her interests are golf, swimming, and entertaining.

Blanche DiRito majored in elementary education, librarianship, education specialist, and library media management. She was an elementary and college teacher, librarian, system coordinator, and director of educational media. Her home states are New Jersey and Georgia. She has been an AAUW member since the late 80s. Her current interests are reading, bridge, golf, bowling, and cooking (sometimes).

Nancy Dunn majored in social science with a geography emphasis, and a minor in math. Her career was as a systems analyst for the federal government. California is her home state. She has been an AAUW member for 12 years, and her interests include puzzles, reading, genealogy, and history.

Kathleen Endress majored in home economics, hospital dietetics, elementary education, science, and social studies. She worked as a Home Service Representative for Detroit Edison at first. Then, since DE did not employ married women, she became a high school lunchroom manager, and later, after her children were in school, became an elementary and middle school teacher. Her home states are Michigan and Iowa. An AAUW member since the late 50s, her current interests are genealogy, Questers, reading, water aerobics, music, live theater, and gardening.

Dr. Ruth Ferguson majored in teaching, counseling, psychology, curriculum, and instruction. She was a professor of teacher education. Her home state is New Jersey. An AAUW member for 20 years, her current interests are opera, theater, piano duets, and bridge.

Nancy Fornshell majored in library science and education media. She worked over 31 years as an elementary school media specialist. Her home state is Florida. She has been a member of AAUW for 2 years. Her current interests are reading and photography.

Diane Geach majored in K - 12 teaching of Spanish. She taught high school Spanish for 7 years, then taught adult ed, worked as a tutor, and also worked in retailing and educational software marketing. Illinois and Michigan are her home states. She's been an AAUW member since the 1970s. Her interests include reading, computers, quilting, stamping, and travel.

Barbara Hall majored in physical education. She taught physical education at the elementary, high school, and college level. She also taught elementary special education. Michigan is her home state. She has been an AAUW member for 45 years. Her current interests are kite flying, croquet, travel, bridge, mahjongg, reading, concerts, plays, and golf.

Diane Jacobson majored in business and liberal arts studies. Her career experience was in business production control. Minnesota is her home state. She has been an AAUW member for 5 years. Her interests are teaching English as a second language, book club, alto saxophone, some flute, and piano.

Gloria Jaffre majored in French, Spanish, and business. She taught 8 years in Indiana and 19 years in Birmingham, MI. The last 7 years were as an administrator. Her home state is Indiana. She has been an AAUW member since 1990. Her current interests are music, reading, family, and bridge.

Carolyn Johnson majored in psychology and secondary guidance. Her career has involved psychometrics, being a homemaker, high school guidance counselor, franchise owner and tax preparer. Her home state is Illinois. She has been a member of AAUW for about 30 years. Her current interests are watercolor painting, art history, genealogy, golf, League of Women Voters, and the Villages activities of eating out and going to movies.

Margaret Kaufman was an education major. She has been a teacher, hotel desk clerk, and fine jewelry salesperson. Her home state is Michigan. She's been a member of AAUW since 1955. Her interests are book club, cheerleading, mahjongg, and travel.

Barbara Keate majored in nursing. She was a psychiatric nurse clinical specialist, and was employed in a Maryland Community Mental Health center. Her current interests are politics and the environment.

Bonnie King majored in education and education administration. She taught elementary grades in Hawaii and also taught in the University of Hawaii School of Education. Her home states are Colorado and Hawaii. She has been an AAUW member about 12 years, and is a dual member in Maui, Hawaii. Her current interests are travel, bridge, and judging international figure skating.

Harriet Koehler majored in psychology and education. She spent her career as both an elementary teacher and a social worker. She is a life member of AAUW. Her current interests are reading, literacy volunteer, theater and travel.

Jackie Lachowicz majored in early childhood education. She taught 3 year olds through kindergarten, then directed and taught in a private day care center; also prepared high school students to work in day care centers. Her home state is Michigan. She has been an AAUW member for a year. Her interests are volunteering in clubs, organizations, and church.

Elizabeth Ann LeFevre majored in elementary education. Her teaching career first began in the US, then she taught in several American Dependent schools overseas: Okinawa, Japan, England, Germany, and Iceland. She has been an AAUW member since the early 1950's, and is now a life member. Her current interests are reading, history, archaeology, conservation, and crafts.

Linda MacLeod majored in journalism. Her career experiences included accounts receivable for a major department store, dental receptionist, and nanny. Her home state is Maine. She has been an AAUW member for 1 year. Her current interests are church choir, Parish Council, Friends of the Library, reading, and walking.

Donna Marzek graduated with a nursing degree. She served as nursing supervisor of a medical/surgical unit, cardio-thoracic/transplant division, and member of the surgical team. Her home state is Kentucky. She has been an AAUW member since 1995. Her current interests include volunteering in several Leesburg high school organizations, church work, reading, and attending concerts.

Emily Marzek majored in English. She taught in schools in Illinois, Missouri, and Arizona. Her home state is Illinois. She is an honorary life member of AAUW, having joined in 1953. Her interests are reading, music, theater, church work, and her five grandchildren.

Carolyn Moores majored in elementary education. She was a substitute teacher, taught elementary education, and business subjects in high school. She was also a part-time realtor. Her home state is Kentucky. She's been a member of AAUW since 1982. Her current interests are singing, reading, traveling, and her grandchildren.

Jean Morelli majored in education and guidance counseling. She was involved in education for 40 years, both teaching and counseling.. Ohio is her home state. She has been a member of AAUW for 14 years, and her current interests are bridge and genealogy.

Elizabeth Morris majored in education and French. She also studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, Belgium. Her career included teaching, being an administrator of a retirement community, and raising four sons. New York is her home state. An AAUW member for 4 years, her current interests are bridge, reading, golf, mahjongg, music, and genealogy.

Doris Paillet majored in English. She taught 42 years in public and Quaker schools. Her home state is New York. An AAUW member for 9 years, she also has a dual membership with North Shore Long Island branch. Her current interests are volunteering, exercise(aerobics, bicycling, walking, etc.) mountain hiking, and reading (archeology/history).

Maxine Petris majored in English, Spanish, education, library studies, and educational communications. She taught elementary and secondary school, was a school librarian; was director of adult services/community/school library trainer/creator/director, and held adult and children's personal development seminars. California is her home state. An AAUW member off and on since 1960, her current interests are Spanish and Italian, Mexico, reading, swimming laps, knitting, gardening, and pets.

Gypsy Marie Roberts majored in English education. She taught in the Denver public schools, Fugazzi Business College, University of Kentucky, and Lexington Community College. Her home state is Kentucky. She has been a member of AAUW for 2 years. Her current interests are writing: she started a creative writing group in The Villages, and doing promos for our branch.

Virginia (Ginny) Stiles majored in elementary education and teaching reading. She taught kindergarten for 32 years, and was a part-time reading specialist for about 15 years. Her home state is Wisconsin, and she is a dual member with the Geneva Lake branch. She has been an AAUW member for about 40 years. Her current interests are painting:(watercolor and acrylics), reading, and attending theater productions.

Eleanor Strickland majored in journalism/ advertising/ art, communications/advertising, and computer science. She was media estimator and media buyer for Young & Rubicam, Inc. Advertising; was software developer for IBM, Control Data, EMS Software Development (her own company) and several other software development firms. She is a native of Georgia, and also lived in Chicago and the Minneapolis area. An AAUW member for 2 years, her current interests are politics, current affairs, environment, art, books, movies, golf, mahjongg, and bridge.

Mary Ann Swisher majored in education and communications. She taught English and science for 31 years in high school and middle school. She also created and published the local teachers' association newsletter, and an orientation booklet for the local school district. Her home state is Pennsylvania. She has been an AAUW member for about 4 years. Her currents include bridge, volunteering for Seniors Versus Crime and Friends of the Sumter Co. Library, reading, and taking lifelong learning courses.

Ella Taylor majored in math. She was an elementary, middle school, and high school teacher, a department head, assistant principal and principal in middle school; taught for 2 years at the International School in Islamabad, Pakistan ;and taught at U of M Dearborn, working with student teachers. Michigan is her home state. She has been an AAUW member for about a year. Her interests are travel, family, reading, games, volunteering, and friends.

Patti Weasel majored in family resources and public administration. The first 25 years of her career , she was involved in providing social services to senior citizens through non-profit agencies, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Since then she has been employed at Lake-Sumter Community College , first as Women's Program Coordinator, then as Manager, Workforce Education Programs. Patti is a native of West Virginia. She has been a member of AAUW for about 9 years.

Pauline (Polly) Welburn majored in early elementary education. She taught briefly in Michigan and Georgia, then retired to raise a family. She later tried teaching again, then several other jobs, finally settling on her favorite, owning three needlework shops (not all at the same time) Her home state is Michigan. She has been an AAUW member since the late 60s. Her current interests are quilting and other needlework, Friends of the Library, writing poetry, and reading

Peggy Wolfson majored in biochemistry and literature. Her career was in biochemistry, doing weed science research for the USDA and later at Cornell University, the Institute for Genomic Studies. She is originally from New York state, and spent many years living in suburban Maryland. She has been an AAUW member on and off for 10 years. She has always written poetry, and said that she had a career to support her writing habit. She is presently an editor for the Comstock Review and reads and writes poetry, and writes reviews and articles.

Below are corrections and additions to the Getting To Know You bios. Please add this page to your booklet.

Gypsy Marie Roberts taught at Lexington Community College, an adjunct of the University of Kentucky.

Tina Chumbley majored in education with a minor in Spanish. Her career experiences have included teaching grades 1-12 in Massachusetts and Florida. She served as language arts department chairperson at a middle school in Broward Co. FL. She has worked with GED students at both Sumter Correctional institution and Marion Correctional institution. She was employed with the Department of Children and Families at the Marion Co. FL branch working with the medically needy, and at the Lake Co FL branch as a Senior Protective Services Counselor, working with abused and neglected children. Her home state is Massachusetts but, because she has been in Florida since 1967, claims Florida as her home now. Her current interests are a nearly one year old grandson, Bible studies, church attendance and worship, and counted cross stitch.

Patti Weasel's current interests are water activities, travel, photography, and her teen age daughter.

New bios:

Gladys Corbin majored in political and business administration, history, and education. She taught school for several years. Her civic experiences include town council, economic development corporation, planning commission, and city charter commission. She also assisted in the development of apartment complexes, Senior housing, and in real estate sales and property management. Her home state is Michigan. She first joined AAUW in the early 1950s. Her current interests are AAUW, League of Women Voters, golfing, Mah Jongg, reading, and caring for her somewhat disabled husband.

Janice Heber majored in literature and British literature. She taught at Case-Western Reserve University in Ohio, Olivet College in Michigan, and Inter American University of Puerto Rico. Her home state is Iowa. She has been an AAUW member for about 5 years. Her current interests are book clubs and gardening.

Roselyn McHugh majored in elementary education and special education. She taught 2 years each in Alaska and Minnesota, 7 years in the upper peninsula of Michigan, and 20 years in Wisconsin. Her home state is Iowa. She has been an AAUW member about 7 years. Her current interests are

environmental issues, Village Greens, reading, swimming, volunteering at the Wildwood soup kitchen, Village Birders, hiking, aerobics, and yoga.

Anne Rogers Schlick majored in home economics and special education. She taught home ec for 5 years, special education for 22 years and worked as a realtor for 5 years. Her home state is Michigan. She has been an AAUW member for 35 years. Her current interests are cooking, sewing, bridge, and volunteering.

Marilyn Watts majored in business education. She taught in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. She also organized a Head Start program, and started a Learning Disabled program for Pekin, Indiana. Her home state is Ohio. She has been an AAUW member "for many years". Her current interests are MahJongg, travel, reading, and many Villages activities.

Phyllis Williams majored in nursing and psychiatric nursing. She was involved in various nursing pursuits for 30 years, the last 20 in various psychiatric nursing settings, providing individual and family psychotherapy and teaching psychiatric nursing in a community college. She has been an AAUW member about 2 years. Her current interests are reading, socialising, exercise, exploring history, field trips, and travel.

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Barbara Blatchford majored in education and public health. She taught early elementary in the Chicago area for 10 years. While raising her family, she served on many boards, including the American Lung Association and Alpha XI Delat national fraternity. She also did volunteer tutoring of Hispanic children. She is a native of Illinois, and is a new member of our branch. Her current interests are travelling, book clubs, bowling, movies, and dominoes.

Helen Gozdanovich majored in education, and received a master's as a reading specialist. She taught in upper elementary and middle schools. She also served as language arts chairman of her school district. Her home state is Ohio, and she has been an AAUW member for about 10 years. Her current interests are reading, League of Women Voters, golf, and spending time with family and friends.

Ann Thomas received a master's in business administration. She taught in high schools, Alfred University, and Alfred State College. Her home state is New York, and she has been an AAUW member off and on since 1952. Her current interests are bridge, euchre, reading, computer, water aerobics, square dancing, line dancing, and travel. She has travelled to over nine foreign countries and throughout the US, and has taken many cruises.

Margaret Zezulinski majored in early childhood education and business management. After teaching , she got a degree in data processing and worked for the town of Hempstead in the Data Processing department. Her home state is New York.