

LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW is committed to a diverse community that stimulates a culture of learning and understanding and enhances a member's experience. We aspire to create an inclusive and equitable branch that represents, supports, and celebrates diversity of all kinds.

President's Message

Dear AAUW Lake / Sumter Members,

As we move into the holiday season and as the COVID crisis remains with us, we should take time to reflect upon our organization, Lake Sumter AAUW and how well our members have “carried on”, observed cautions and safety measures, and yet continued to be active in our organization.



Our Board has successfully conducted Board business via ZOOM which was so successfully researched and then implemented by Carolee Litwinka, Ann Marie Lombardi, Peg Tabor and others. A new Tech Committee was formed to facilitate our use and development of ZOOM and continues to work with members as requested. Not only has Board business been conducted by ZOOM, but our members had the opportunity to chat and catch up during the social time allowed for before the meetings themselves. The monthly General Meetings with an attendance of forty to fifty members, also conducted via ZOOM, provides updates to the members as well as interesting programs which broaden our perspective and again gives all present time to say hello.

The Board encourages anyone who has not yet joined a meeting on ZOOM, to consider doing so. The Tech Team has members, and other volunteers who will help you get acquainted with ZOOM. It is not hard!

As we look ahead, we have a number of activities under way. A Special Holiday Event with the **Spice and Tea Exchange** will be held December 12th. For information contact Ann Marie Lombardi at 352-638-0550. The jewelry raffle tickets have been sent to the members. Be sure to send in your raffle tickets to Kathy Mason for an opportunity to win a gorgeous piece of jewelry. The Diversity Book Club continues to meet, and members continue to play Bridge. Happy Holidays to all! Stay healthy and safe!

Anne Wilkins & Katie Haviland, Co-Presidents

Nominating Committee

AAUW Lake- Sumter Branch has several positions open for next year. They are as follows:

- 2 Co-Presidents-Elect
- 1 Co- Secretary
- 1 Co Finance Director
- 1 Co-Program Director
- 1Co-Membership Director



No experience is necessary for any of these positions, but of course if you have some experience or training in any of these areas, it is always helpful.

You will work with your co- officer who has held office for a year and can train you and mentor you through all the intricacies of the job.

You need not be concerned if you are a part-time Villager, or “Snowbird.” Since you will be working together, you trade off time when either of you is here to do the job. That is a very modern employment concept called job-sharing.

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please call one of the ladies on the Nominating Committee. They are Judy Bonn, committee chair, 352-217-0319, Susanne Beason, 352-573-5744, Blanche Brown Boyne, 352-874-8740, and Kathy Mason, 850-556-7986. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

If you don't call us soon, we will be calling you.

Programs

Holiday Event with The Spice and Tea Exchange



A special thank you to members and guests who have purchased tickets to attend our holiday event on December 12th beginning at 9:30 a.m. for socializing and a 10:00 a.m. program start. All ticket holders will receive a Zoom invite.

Be sure to stop by Jody Nelson's Brownwood store between December 1st and December 7th to pick up your kit with ingredients, holiday teas, and a surprise. If you requested a mailed kit, it's already on Santa's sled to you.

Planning to follow along on Zoom and cook with Jody? Be sure to take a selfie and email it to Beth Hicks (aauwlsnews@gmail.com) for the newsletter!

And a special thank you to Diane Jacobson for co-chairing the program with Ann Marie Lombardi, and to Gay Birchard for handing the kit mailing requests.

General Meetings

January. Save Saturday, January 16, 2021, for our General Meeting on Zoom. Programming is still under construction, so stay tuned!

See you soon!



Recording of November Meeting. For those who missed the November meeting with the women veterans, a recording is now available. Here is the information about the meeting and a link to the recording.

Topic: AAUW Lake Sumter Nov 21, 2020 General Meeting
Date: Nov 21, 2020 09:20 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CF9EOJ_JbWXidS1p27VHoZX42AazhqR4v8WPlJrPzyoquAvVSuHXEQ1oMyJDU1L.8fiZ1DrPNCPhSOVz

Passcode: BT&FEB?o

Racism Discussion Series

December Meeting. The Diversity Committee's Racism Discussion Series will continue with a December Zoom meeting on the 2nd to accommodate the holidays. The topic will be Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, an idea that derives from the work of Dr. Joy DeGruy. Pre-registration is required, and we are suggesting that participants watch a 1-hour video in which Dr. DeGruy explains post traumatic slave syndrome.

We have sent out a message, which includes a link to register for the December 2 meeting. If you didn't receive it. . .or can't remember where you put it to be safe. . .or threw it away because you didn't see the registration link. . .and you would still like to register, send an email to divcomaauw@gmail.com to request the link.

The discussions are free and open to the public, so feel free to share information about the program widely with friends and family locally and across the country.

January Meeting. The first discussion session of the new year will return the series to the 4th Wednesday of the month schedule. So, save the date of January 27; the topic will be Microaggressions. Watch your email in early January for a link to pre-register.

Recordings. For those who might want to view previous discussions in the series, we have recorded them all. We are exploring uploading the series to YouTube. If you are interested in the recordings, send an email to the address above.

Feedback. At our November meeting, the committee asked participants to provide feedback about the series. Specifically, we asked three questions:

- What about the discussions is working for you?
- What suggestions do you have to make them better?
- Are there particular areas you would like to see us explore in future discussions?

If you have attended any of the discussion sessions, please send your thoughts and ideas to us at divcomaauw@gmail.com. And watch your email inbox for a message in early January that will contain a link to survey to evaluate the series.

Membership

Membership Booklets

Send any changes you would like to make from the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet to Diane Jacobson (chasanddi@embarqmail.com). Also, if you don't have a picture included with your information or if you would like to update your present picture, please send a head shot to Diane to add to our picture gallery.

Please make the following correction to your Membership Booklet,

Mary Place's new email is placemary10@gmail.com

Please add this new member to your Membership Booklet.

Linda L. Keenan spouse: Robert J.
1220 Mockingbird Lane
The Villages, FL 32163
203-470-1009
linlee312@yahoo.com
BS, General Studies, Western Connecticut State University
MA, International History

Angel Books



The Tutors4kids Board of Directors have decided that there will NOT be a book distribution for the holidays. The logistics are just too cumbersome for a distribution, especially in terms of being unable to sanitize the books. If you have books, please contribute to another group or hold the books until the summer distribution for Tutors4kids.

Scholarship

Raffle tickets have been mailed, five to each member, with several returned already with donations of \$10 for each ticket. THANK YOU! The drawing will be held in February but don't wait, return your ticket stubs now. You are returning your check and the portion of the ticket with a number and your name and contact information. You keep the master ticket with raffle information and your ticket number.



An envelope addressed to Kathy Mason was included in the mailing you received for you to use when sending in your check and master portion of the ticket.

Be sure to make your check payable to: LAKE SUMTER AAUW. Please remember due to the extraordinary year, this will be our only major fundraising event. Scholarship needs are still there! Please be generous!

For additional tickets or any questions, please contact Kathy Mason, kmason0826@gmail.com.

Activities

Small Group Zoom Coffees

We have had one small group Zoom Coffee. We are learning a lot about each other. If you would like to be involved, email Gay Birchard at gaybirchard07@gmail.com.

Finger Food and Fun/ Dine Around

The AAUW Finger Food and Fun events are on hold until further notice as a result of Covid-19. However, beginning in January 2021 Judith Anderson, chair of this activity, proposes the following ideas for Dine Around.:

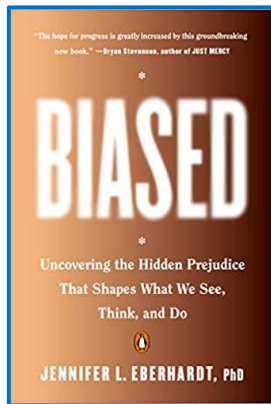
1. Limited outdoor events at various restaurants, preferably in late afternoon.
2. Driveway events in late afternoon with everyone bringing their own snack and drink.

Please forward to Judith any other safe ideas that you might like to offer regarding future Dine Around gatherings. You can email her at jcdukeirl@aol.com.

Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month's recommended book is *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think, and Do* by Jennifer L. Eberhardt, PhD. The following information comes from Penguin Press, the book's publisher.

From one of the world's leading experts on unconscious racial bias come stories, science, and strategies to address one of the central controversies of our time.



How do we talk about bias? How do we address racial disparities and inequities? What role do our institutions play in creating, maintaining, and magnifying those inequities? What role do we play? With a perspective that is at once scientific, investigative, and informed by personal experience, Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt offers us the language and courage we need to face one of the biggest and most troubling issues of our time. She exposes racial bias at all levels of society—in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and criminal justice system. Yet she also offers us tools to address it. Eberhardt shows us how we can be vulnerable to bias but not doomed to live under its grip. Racial bias is a problem that we all have a role to play in solving.

“In her book, *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think and Do*, Jennifer Eberhardt, an African-American Stanford University psychology professor, writes about her decades of experience studying race and our everyday interactions. . .and suggests that in order to overcome our own racial biases, we must first acknowledge them. She also acknowledges that racial conditioning starts at a young age.”



Jeannie Hamilton

Great Decisions

The Great Decision program for 2021 will be delayed until we can meet safely in person. Normally we have met for the 8-week series beginning in January. As soon as it is safe to meet inside, Diane Jacobson will organize the series for all those who are interested in participating. In the meantime, stay safe and take care. If anyone is interested in getting the guide book and/or video presentations at this time please check out www.fpa.org/great_decisions for ordering instructions.



Diversity Book Club

The AAUW Diversity Book Club is celebrating the holidays with a luncheon on Wednesday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Evans Prairie Country Club. Dining will be out

of doors to help protect against the coronavirus. Those wishing to participate should contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com so that we can provide the restaurant with an accurate headcount.

Our book for December is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. We will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. Diane Jacobson will lead the discussion. An email invitation for Zoom will be sent out to all club members prior to the meeting.

All are welcome to participate in the Diversity Book Club and anyone who is interested in joining should contact Kate Manion at kmanion52@gmail.com.

Book Club Selections for 2020-2021

	Title	Author	Facilitator
Dec. 9	<i>Holiday Luncheon at Evans Prairie Patio</i>		
Dec. 16	<i>The Dutch House</i>	Ann Patchett	Diane Jacobson
Jan. 20	<i>The Nickle Boys</i>	Colson Whitehead	Mary Place
Feb. 17	<i>This Tender Land</i>	William Kent Krueger	Diane Jacobson
Mar. 17	<i>Born a Crime</i>	Trevor Noah	Ginny Rivera
Apr. 21	<i>See No Stranger</i>	Valerie Kaur	Judy Reinhardt
May 19	<i>Caleb's Crossing</i>	Geraldine Brooks	Myra Mervine
June 16	<i>Simon the Fiddler</i>	Paulette Jiles	Blanche Boyne
July 21	<i>American Dirt</i> *	Jeanine Cummins	Blanche Boyne
Aug. 18	<i>Selection of 2021-22 Books</i>		

American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter Branch presents a

14 Karat Gold Mother of Pearl Pendant
on a 18" 14 karat white & yellow gold
superflex spring wire (retail value \$2595)

Support **Local Scholarship for Women**

The drawing will be held February 2021

(Need not be present to win)

Suggested minimum donation per ticket: \$10.00



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For more information: contact Kathy Mason 850-556-7986

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



The Holiday Season is heading our way. It will NOT be a normal one. Remember those missing their families. Remember those who need a kind word. Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the January edition is **December 15.**

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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