



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

January 2025

Presidents' Message



Greetings to all,

We want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Thank you all for making the

December holiday luncheon a huge success. We would especially like to thank Kathy Howe and Laura McLaughlin, our Co-Program Directors, who planned and presented such an enjoyable event.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the new year at the General Meeting on Saturday, January 25. Everyone is encouraged to gather at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and to visit with friends before the 10:00 a.m. start of the program. As a reminder our Tech Trek students will be attending and will share details from their camp experience. What a joy it is to meet these young women and hear their stories! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to attend as they too will enjoy hearing about our STEM-focused camp for 8th grade girls in Sumter and Lake County.

Tickets will be available at the meeting for the February chance drawing of the fabulous gold

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bracelet donated by Gold in Art. Or you can download the donation form from page 12 of this newsletter. We hope you will support this fundraiser by selling lots of tickets and buying some, too. The money raised will support our scholarship fund. Currently, the Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW is supporting seven women with college scholarships.

Also, begin making plans now to attend the Steve Poltz concert on Wednesday February 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Venetian Center in Leesburg. See page 13 for the flyer. Leslie Flanders has planned this wonderful event as a fundraiser. The Venetian Center has seating for 450, so make a long list of friends you want to invite to join us. The concert's start time is ideal for a lunch before or a dinner afterwards.

As we start a new year, we are reminded how so many members continue to give of their time, talent, and treasure and would like to thank everyone who made 2024 such a successful year for Lake/Sumter AAUW. It was Helen Keller who said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Thank you all for being a part of our continued educational outreach to the women and girls of Lake and Sumter County, and the lifelong learning opportunities for our members and community.

Please continue to the end of this newsletter...there are flyers for several upcoming events!

Bonnie Weaver and Jennifer Thompson
Co-Presidents
Lake/Sumter AAUW

Learn – Connect – Support

501(c)(3) and You

It's a new year financially. Please remember our scholarship and Tech Trek funds when you are planning your charitable contributions for 2025.

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



LEARN

General Meeting Programs

January 25, 2025

**Coffee and Conversation at 9:30 a.m.
Program at 10:00 a.m.**

Annual Tech Trek Event



Several of the participants from the 2024 camps will be sharing their experiences and the impact camp had on their lives at the January meeting. Family and friends of each girl will also be present at the meeting along with school administrators. Please plan on attending to meet the girls and their families and to hear their presentations. See page 8 of this newsletter for more about the program

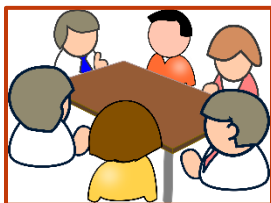
Saturday February 22, 2025

**Coffee and Conversation at 9:30 a.m.
Program at 10:00 a.m.**

We will feature the role of women in World War II. Angie Morthland of the Cheboygan and Emmet County Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association will educate our group on how women stepped up during the war effort.



Public Policy



Today, the workforce is more diverse than ever and not everyone comes to the workplace every day. These are among the changes that are happening now and will continue at an accelerated pace. Diversity and Telework are what today's workers, employers, and society are adapting to.

Diversity

The demographics of the country are changing rapidly resulting in a very different workplace. Since 2019, most new hires of prime age workers (ages 25-54) were people of color. In 2020, the U.S. population under age 18 became “majority minority” – the number of individuals who are multiracial and ethnic minorities exceeded those of

whites. Today people have different expectations of how they will work and what is important to them.

Telework

How people work is changing. Between 80% and 90% of today's workers would like to telework at least part-time. Going to a specific place of work five days a week is not essential in many fields to get the job done. About 23% of the total U.S. workforce work remotely at least part of the time, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Because employees do not want the same things from a job that prior workers did, employers must recognize and address these differences. The U.S. population is becoming more diverse and it is to the benefit of employers to have diverse employees who can better relate to customers' needs and wants.

Employers must ensure that there is equal pay and benefits, flexibility, a supportive culture and that solid recruitment, retention, and promotion policies are in place and part of the culture of the organization.

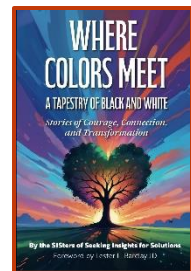
Although written in 1963, the Bob Dylan song "The Times They Are A-Changing" is as relevant today as ever.

Elizabeth White and Susan Laluk
Public Policy Co-Chairs

DEI Committee

Banned Books Reading Group

The reading for the next book discussion has not yet been banned, but it could be. So...The Likely to be Banned Books Reading Group will gather on January 19, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Jacquie Latzer's home. The book is *Where Colors Meet: A Tapestry of Black & White: Stories of Courage, Connection, and Transformation* by Karen Flaherty, et al. and is available on Amazon. Please contact Jacquie to let her know you will be participating. And BYOB and a light snack to share.



DEI Movie Night

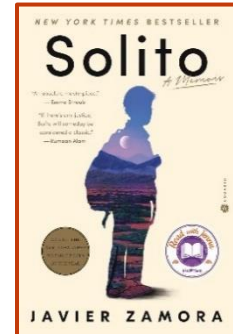
Life changes and so will DEI Movie Night. Originally scheduled for February, Movie Night will now be in March. Stay tuned for updates.

Great Reads from DEI

Solito: A Memoir

by Javier Zamora

Javier Zamora tells the inspiring story of his three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. At the tender age of nine, he left behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who had gone four years earlier and a father he barely remembered. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a “coyote” hired to lead them, Javier expected his trip to last two short weeks.



He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family. *Solito* provides an intimate account not only of a treacherous journey, but also of the kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. It is a tale of bravery and hope.

New York Times Bestseller • Read with Jenna Book Club Pick as seen on *Today*
Winner of American Library Association Alex Award • NY Public Library 10 Best Books of 2022 • Winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiography

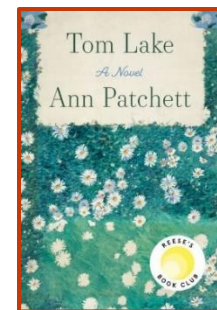
Book information courtesy of Amazon.com

Book Club

January's read will be *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. Ann Wilkens will be discussion leader.

The books for the remainder of the year along with the meeting dates are listed on the next page.

For more information, please contact Kate Manion.



2024-2025 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</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

CONNECT

Directory

To accommodate member requests, we have printed the 2024-25 Membership Directory. It is available for \$5.00; contact Membership Co-Directors Leslie Flanders or Terri Slotterback to get yours. The printed directory is current as of October 14, 2024, and will not be re-printed this year.

Our online 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.

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

Our Branch website (<https://www.lakesumteraauw.org>) has been updated, with particular emphasis on the Members Pages. You will find resources for current branch

administration as well as branch archival documents. But members who are contemplating more active participation will want to visit our Leadership Resources. This information provides after-action reports on past fundraisers, position descriptions, and marketing materials among other resources for branch leaders.

We will add 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.

Work will now begin on our digital scrapbook. 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

Mah Jongg

Please contact Barbara Fieldman (Bfieldman@gmail.com) if you are interested in playing AAUW Mah Jongg. Time to get a group together!

Bridge

Barbara Fisler (kiddielit5@gmail.com) remains the contact for the weekly bridge games.

SUPPORT

Fundraising

Steve Poltz Concert and Claudia Schmidt Encore



Planning for our fundraising concert featuring entertainer Steve Poltz is moving right along. Steve is a Canadian-American alt/folk singer, songwriter, guitarist, and storyteller. He was a founding member of the California rock band Rugburn. Now, as a solo artist, he often performs acoustic-only “good old-fashioned sing-along” shows.

We have secured the Venetian Center at Leesburg’s Venetian Park for our event on **Wednesday**,

February 26 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with the doors opening at 1:30 p.m.

There are 450 seats available, all at circular tables, and we will have trays of cookies and bottled water on each table for refreshments.

Tickets are \$30 for General Seating and \$15 for Students; the front four (4) tables will include donor seating at \$100 per seat or \$1,000 per table. Online ticket sales will be available January 10 on our website (<https://www.lakesumteraauw.org>).

Marketing plans are underway. With over 400 tickets to sell we will be marketing far and wide, and we plan that the show will be a sell-out. You can help by sharing the flyer for this event (see page 13) with friends and neighbors.

In addition, Claudia Schmidt will be playing an intimate concert at Leslie Flanders' home on Tuesday, January 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There are 40 seats at \$30 each, and each person or couple needs to bring an appetizer to share. The Flanders will provide beer, wine, soft drinks, and water.

Claudia has reduced her fee by half so that we can raise funds to pay for the incidental expenses of the Steve Poltz concert. Give Leslie a call if you want her to reserve a seat for you. Donors have already contributed \$4,000 for the entertainer and \$440 for the venue. The Claudia Schmidt concert should bring in another \$700 to cover the refreshments.

The net proceeds of both concerts will be used for our Tech Trek camperships and our college scholarships for women in the final two years of their undergraduate study.

Tech Trek

The focus of the **January General Meeting** will be to recognize girls who attended the 2024 Tech Trek Summer Camps. The meeting will be held at **Allamanda Recreation Center** on **Saturday, January 25, 2025**.



The week-long Tech Trek Summer Camps provide an opportunity for middle school girls who are entering 8th grade to experience classes and workshops that emphasize STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics). Lake/Sumter AAUW is the only organization in The Villages that promotes the summer camps.

Several of the participants from the 2024 camps will be sharing their experiences and the impact it has had on their lives at the January meeting. The family and friends of each girl will also be present at the meeting along with school administrators. Please plan on attending the **January 25th** meeting to meet the girls and their families and to hear their presentations.

Visit our website (<https://www.lakesumteraauw.org/tech-trek>) for more information about Tech Trek.

Scholarship



The holiday season is over, time to move on to AAUW activities! Our Jewelry Drawing is our traditional fundraising event, and this year is no different. NOW is the time for you to fill in the donation form found on page 12 at the end of this newsletter. Our scholarship winners continue to need your support. Please put this at the top of your To-Do List.

To date, only 12 people have purchased chances for the drawing of the beautiful bracelet donated to us by Gold in Art Jewelers. Only \$670 has been received so far. We also will be receiving \$1,000 in special donations to the scholarship fund. Unfortunately, our scholarships are not sustainable with the limited contributions we have received.

Please, please sell your tickets as soon as possible and send your checks to Susan Gold. The scholarships are one of the main philanthropic programs of our organization. The date for the drawing of the beautiful bracelet has been moved to February 26, 2025, during our concert at the Venetian Center.

And visit our website (<https://www.lakesumteraauw.org/scholarships>) for more information about our scholarship program.



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

Learn – Connect – Support

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season! Now we are into the “meat” of our year and there are many ways you can help. Check out where you fit into AAUW!

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
_____	_____		_____	_____



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

**Please join us for an exclusive concert with
singer, songwriter, storyteller**

Steve Poltz



Steve Poltz

Celebrated by a worldwide fanbase, Steve Poltz is a renowned festival performer including *Bluesfest* in Byron Bay, *High Sierra Music Festival* in California, and *Telluride Bluegrass Festival* in Colorado.

Join us for an afternoon of unconventional Americana music and true inspiration!

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025
Doors Open 1:15 Concert 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
The Venetian Center
1 Dozier Circle Leesburg, FL**

Tickets are \$30 per person (\$15 for students)
Learn more at www.lakesumteraauw.org.

Tickets will be available on our website beginning January 10, 2025

Proceeds support AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy.

Learn – Connect – Support



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

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

Not a Tournament - No Cash Prizes

Location: Canal Street Recreation Center, Card Room
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025
Time: 6:00 -8:30 p.m.
Doors open at 5:50 p.m.
Cost: \$25.00 per person

**Proceeds to support the work of
Lake/Sumter AAUW 501(c)3**

- Pre-registration is required by March 20, 2025
- **BYO Pusher, 2024 card, and Mah Jongg set**
- Water, coffee, tea and a goodie snack bag will be provided
- 50-50, Door Prizes and Raffle
- Villages ID or guest pass required

For more information, contact Kathy at
kamphowe@aol.com

Farewell-to-the-Old-Card Mah Jongg Celebration
6:00 p.m. – March 27, 2025 Canal Recreation Center
Registration Form*

Please Print Clearly

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2025

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

Register Today!

How to Read the Constitution...and Why

Beacon College Salon

Venetian Center

Leesburg, FL

As part of our expansion plan into Lake County, our Branch is proud to sponsor the beverage service for Kimberly Wehle's presentation of "How to Read the Constitution -- and Why" for the Beacon College Salon on February 10, 2025.



Author, journalist, television legal analyst, and constitutional law scholar **Kimberly Wehle** reveals the essence of America's Constitution with a presentation based on her book, "How to Read the Constitution — and Why." In clear, simple terms, Wehle unpacks its significance and relevance today. By incorporating excerpts from the Constitution, she highlights its erosion and why it's crucial for every American to grasp this "red flag" moment in our democracy.

Each ticket includes a free meal
(vegetarian and gluten-free options available).

Meal service begins at 6:00 p.m.

Speaker presentation begins at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are Free; Reservations are required. Visit beaconcollege.edu, click on the Salon Series page to register.