

# LAKE/SUMTER NEWSLETTER

February 2021



*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



This has been a memorable month full of highs and lows for sure. Among our historically high moments is the inauguration of the first woman as Vice President of the United States, a woman of color and of South Asian descent. A dramatic reminder to us all, that the cause we pursue as members of AAUW, to create educational opportunity for girls and young women through financial support, can and does have an incredible impact. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this cause. While the ongoing pandemic and minimal supply of the vaccine is causing concern for everyone's health, we look forward to more positive times.

During the next two months, we have the opportunity to engage in STEAM zoom events arranged by Diane Jacobson. Your donation of whatever amount you choose will support our scholarship programs. We look forward to having you join us at these presentations. The ongoing Diversity Committee programs challenge our minds to examine how we interact with each other, our community, and the world.

As we look ahead to maintaining a strong Lake/Sumter branch of AAUW, your involvement in leadership positions is essential. It is with this thought in mind that we strongly request you take time to consider stepping up for leadership positions in our branch. Each voice contributes to the power of the whole.

We send positive vibes to you and yours for health and camaraderie as we anticipate better times in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Anne Wilkins & Katie Haviland  
Co-Presidents

# Nominating Committee

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

- 1 co-President
- 2 co-Presidents-elect
- 1 co- Secretary
- 1 co Finance Director
- 1 co-Program Director
- 1 co-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 mentor and train 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 and your co-officer 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.

## Membership

Membership Chair Karen Pickelsimer reminds us that the proposed changes in AAUW National's bylaws will be voted on in the upcoming months. We will be asked whether we should change the rules to open membership to those without a university degree. Be informed and ready to vote in April. Be on the lookout for future messages about the procedures for a virtual vote. Check out the national website for more information <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

## Membership Booklets

Send any changes you would like to make from the 2020-2021 Membership Booklet to Diane Jacobson ([chasanddi@embarqmail.com](mailto: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.

# General Meetings

**Saturday, February 20**

## ***A Celebration of Black History: 40 Acres and a Mule***



Beverly Steele, founder of Young Performing Artists (YPA) in Royal, FL, will speak at our February General Meeting to commemorate Black History Month and celebrate the achievements of African Americans. YPA encourages young artists and provides creative solutions to youth development. Royal is one of Florida's oldest African American Communities, formed in 1865 by freed slaves whose descendants have

kept their land. The YPA presents a Royal Historic Tour, *40 Acres and a Mule*, to share the history of African Americans in our local area, which reflects the history of the country at large. For our meeting, Ms. Steele has adapted the live tour for presentation in the Zoom environment.

So be sure to join us on February 20 to commemorate Black History Month and celebrate the local Black community.

**Saturday, March 20**

## ***Celebrating Women's History Month: A delayed Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment***

Our March General Meeting will showcase a special celebration of the suffragists who fought for nearly a century to win the right, by law, for women to vote in national or local elections.

Dorothy Dobbs, a long-time member of our AAUW branch will lead our program, joining with several other women to give profiles of several suffragists in the full period costumes of purple, white, and gold, which were colors of the U.S. suffrage movement.



Why these colors? In the early 1900s, suffragists began to realize the need to come up with a brand, just as their fellow British suffragettes had done. They wanted to convey that they were smart, capable women who would bring civility to politics with the vote.

British women were using green, white, and violet, which stood for “give women the vote,” while also representing royalty, freedom, purity, and hope. American women replaced green with gold to pay homage to the use of the sunflower in the 1867 suffrage referendum campaign but decided to keep purple and white.

Purple would come to stand for loyalty, white for purity, and gold for hope. Today, women continue to wear the color white to pay tribute to the suffragists and the continued fight for women’s rights.

So, feel free to wear the colors, a hat, or other memorabilia to show your solidarity with these brave women. And, Dorothy, never failing to deliver us with a bit of entertainment, will also lead us through a few suffragist songs! Please be sure to attend this informative and entertaining program as we celebrate Women’s History Month. See you March 20<sup>th</sup> on Zoom...I’ll be the one in the wide brim black and white hat with a sunflower tucked in the band!

## Jewelry Drawing Deadline February 10

Members have been very generous with donations and all are hoping to win the beautiful 14 **karat gold mother of pearl pendant** on an 18-inch gold chain, retail value of \$2,595.

Tickets must be in the mail by February 10 in preparation for the drawing of the winner that will be held at our February General Meeting, Saturday February 20. The drawing will be held at Gold in Art Jewelers, the donor of the pendant.

If you are unable to locate the five tickets that were mailed to you in November or have a friend who would like to participate in the drawing, please contact Kathy Mason, co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Her address is **2444 Lay Lane, The Villages FL 32163**. For further information contact Kathy at [kmason826@gmail.com](mailto:kmason826@gmail.com). The suggested donation for each ticket is \$10, however, any donation is appreciated.



Please make your check to **AAUW Lake Sumter** and mail it along with the ticket stubs to Kathy.

## Speakers’ Bureau

The Florida Rotary eClub reached out to our Speakers’ Bureau to request a presentation about our work. So, on January 22, 2021, Linda Carpenter presented our talk about the Gender Pay Gap via Zoom to Rotary eClub members across the country. It seems that our Speakers’ Bureau has grown some legs and continues our branding and recognition activities.

# Racism Discussion Series

*February – Session #7:* The February 2021 session of the Racism Discussion Series will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. The topic will be confederate monuments.

Announcements for the session along with the link to register and the suggested preparatory materials will be out in early February. If you have already registered for at least one session, you will receive an announcement automatically via email. If you would like to join the discussion but have not registered before, send an email to [divcomaauw@gmail.com](mailto:divcomaauw@gmail.com) to request the registration link. Once you register, Zoom will send you a link to join the meeting.

This series is free and open to the public. So, feel free to share announcements, registration materials, and video links with friends and family around the country. And if you've found the preparatory materials helpful, feel free to share them as well to broaden the conversation.

*Discussion Videos.* Videos from previous discussion are now on YouTube. Search on YouTube for “Race Discussion Series,” which is the name of our channel. When the results come up, you can identify our recordings by their titles, for example, “Discussion 1 – Racism 101.”

We have posted four of the first five videos to our channel (Discussions 1, 3, 4, 5); the video for our second discussion, which focused on White Privilege, is on YouTube and can be accessed at this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIpf9ottfps>. Titles of the other recordings currently on our channel are “Discussion 3 – Antiracism” and “Discussion 4 – Implicit Bias,” and “Discussion 5 – Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome.”

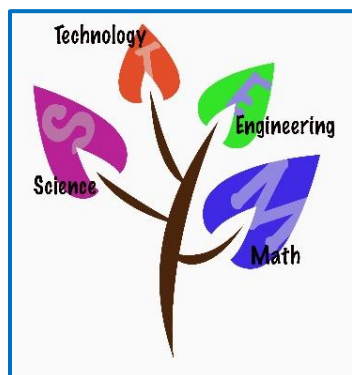
*Survey.* In late December, the Diversity Committee sent a link to a Survey Monkey questionnaire designed to evaluate the impact of the discussion series. The survey invited anyone who had attended at least one of the first five sessions to respond. By the time the survey closed on January 18, we received responses from 33 of the 48 people who had attended at least one of the discussions; this represents a 69% response rate from discussion participants. Results were overwhelmingly positive and support continuation of the program. If you are interested in more detailed results, send an email to [divcomaauw@gmail.com](mailto:divcomaauw@gmail.com).

## Help Needed



We need someone to store our branch table decorations. Approximately two crate size boxes. Contact Diane Jacobson at [diandchas@gmail.com](mailto:diandchas@gmail.com) for more info.

## STEAM Lecture Series



The pandemic has caused many organizations to re-imagine their fundraising activities. As we move forward to life getting back to “normal,” AAUW Lake/Sumter is proud to announce our online STEAM Lecture Series, which will be live on Zoom. We have arranged five exciting classes about traditional STEM fields



(science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) but we have added in the Arts as well. You will not want to miss this series!

We know it has been a tough year for many and have decided not to sell the classes for a set price. Instead, we are offering them as a *thank you* for donations to AAUW Lake/Sumter, and participants can choose the amount to donate that fits their budget.

The classes are available to all AAUW Lake/Sumter members, as well as their families and friends. We encourage you to tell anyone you know who might be interested in supporting AAUW Lake/Sumter and who would enjoy this fabulous thank you gift in recognition of their donation.

Donations, which are tax-deductible, fund the Lake/Sumter AAUW College Scholarships and AAUW Florida Tech Trek camperships. Scholarships are awarded to women who are completing their baccalaureate degree at local universities. Camperships are awarded to rising 8th-grade girls to attend a week-long STEM-focused summer camp sponsored by AAUW Florida. This fundraising effort will offer women and girls opportunities to discover, learn, and succeed.

To donate, send your check, payable to AAUW Lake / Sumter, to:  
Diane Jacobson  
755 Mallory Hill Drive  
The Villages, FL 32162

Please include your **printed email address** for class registration.

Your donation gains you access to any and all classes in the series. A link to each Zoom meeting will be sent just prior to each class. Each lecture will last approximately 40 minutes and will be followed by a Q&A period. You are able to attend any or all of these events.

Check out the information below for class titles, teachers, dates, and times. Direct any questions to Diane Jacobson at [diandchas@gmail.com](mailto:diandchas@gmail.com); Diane can also provide tax code information if needed for your donation.

### ***2021 Topics, Teachers, Dates, and Times***

#### **Class #1**

**Title:** *Women Artists: Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better!*

**Teacher:** Debbie DeWitte

Debbie DeWitte is a professor of Art History. She holds a PhD from the University of Texas at Dallas and she is a co-author of *Gateways to Art*.



**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. EST

#### **Class #2**

**Title:** *Arts Integration and Its Impact on Students*

**Teacher:** Nicole Duslak

Nicole Duslak is the Founder and Head of School at CREATE Conservatory in Leesburg, FL. She was a school principal for grades K-8 and a director at the college level. Nicole was named the Sumter County District Teacher of the year in 2013.



**Date:** Monday, February 15, 2021

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. EST

#### **Class #3**

**Title:** *Random Numbers That Aren't So Random: A Look at Benford's Law*

**Teacher:** McKenzie West

Mckenzie West is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; she holds a PhD in Mathematics from Emory University.



**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2021

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. EST

## Class #4

**Title:** *Keeping Your Online Information Safe*

**Teacher:** Brenda Bjerke

Brenda Bjerke is Senior Director, Information Risk Management at Target Corp. She is also an Executive Leadership Team member for the Diversity Action Committee and the Executive Women's Forum (EWF) Champion advancing women in security. She is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP). She holds a Bachelor of Applied Business and a Master of Business Administration.



**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2021

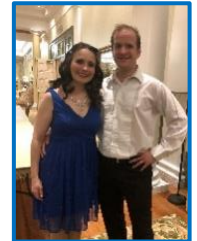
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. EST

## Class #5

**Title:** *Puttin' on the Ritz: The Process of Solo Stage Performance*

**Teacher:** Lindy & Greg Pendzick

Lindy & Greg Pendzick, the headliners at last year's AAUW Music of the Night, are actors/singers/dancers. Lindy holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Stetson University and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The Ohio State University. Greg holds Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts from Boston University.



**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. EST

Each class will be around 40 minutes. A Zoom invite will be sent just prior to the class. When you sign on to Zoom set your device on Speaker view and enjoy the class. Turn off your video and sound as the questions will be taken through the chat feature.

## Public Policy

Judy Bonn attended a meeting of the AAUW Branch Public Policy Chairs to prepare for Lobby Day, which will be virtual this year.

At the branch level, we should be identifying our state legislators, and arranging to meet with them to encourage them to support bills that we consider important to our branches and to AAUW. We can meet with them by phone, email, or virtually.

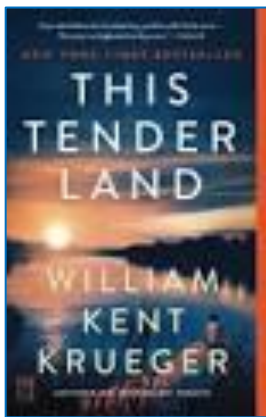


There will be a virtual pre-Lobby Day Meeting on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting we will plan our strategy for meeting with legislators and to learn what bills we are supporting at this time. We will also learn how to track bills as they go through the process in the Florida Legislature so that we can do this on our own.

Meeting facilitators encouraged all members of our branches to plan to attend both the pre-Lobby Day virtual planning meeting on February 23, and the actual virtual Lobby Day on March 17, 2021. Both are on Zoom and Judy will be sending out registration links as soon as she gets them for people who wish to participate.

So much can be learned by doing this, and it will not be costly this year, so Judy encourages everyone to take part.

## Diversity Book Club



The Diversity Book Club will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Diane Jacobson will lead the discussion. An invitation will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

Our March read will be *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Ginny Rivera will lead the discussion. The March meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17.

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](mailto:kmanion52@gmail.com).

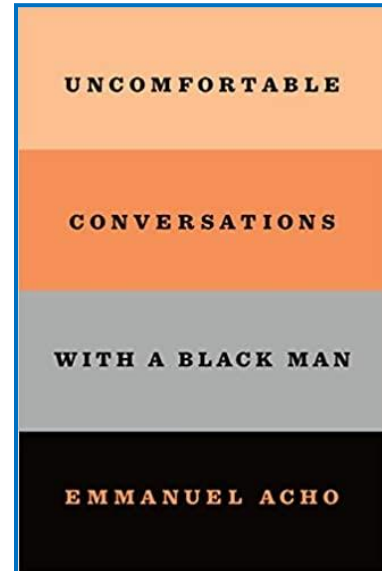
### Book Club Selections for 2020-2021

	Title	Author	Facilitator
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>		

# Great Read from the Diversity Committee

This month's Great Read is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. The following information comes from the book's publisher.

*Emmanuel Acho grew up in Dallas with his three siblings, the son of Nigerian immigrant parents. In 2012 he was drafted into the NFL by the Cleveland Browns, and later played with the Philadelphia Eagles, while earning a master's degree in sports psychology at the University of Texas in the off seasons. In 2016 he left the NFL for ESPN, where he served as the youngest national football analyst, and was named a 2018 Forbes Under 30 Selection. He is now a Fox Sports analyst and the creator of the ongoing online video series "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man."*



***An urgent primer on race and racism, from the host of the viral hit video series***

*"You cannot fix a problem you do not know you have." So begins Emmanuel Acho in his essential guide to the truths Americans need to know to address the systemic racism that has recently electrified protests in all fifty states. "There is a fix," Acho says. "But in order to access it, we're going to have to have some uncomfortable conversations."*

*In **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man**, Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever. With the same open-hearted generosity that has made his video series a phenomenon, Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and "reverse racism." In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both. He asks only for the reader's curiosity—but along the way, he will galvanize all of us to join the antiracist fight.*

**"Emmanuel Acho answers questions that many white folks have thought but either did not know who or how to ask and does so in a non-threatening, engaging style. It is especially helpful for those who are newly contemplating or just beginning their journey to becoming antiracist. Especially helpful are suggestions of what his readers can do with their newly found "aha" moments to assist in the work to eradicate racism as well as a comprehensive list of resources to help in learning more about this critical topic."**



*Jacquie Latzer*

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS



There may be a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines rolling in. We just need to get an appointment...and vaccine available for that appointment! Please contact me with information you think needs to get out to the membership. The deadline for the March edition is **February 20**

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

## AAUW Websites

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