



LAKE-SUMTER HI-LITES

President's Letter

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Hello, everyone, and welcome to a new year at Lake/Sumter Branch of AAUW.

I'm Judy Bonn and I'm one of our new Co-Presidents for 2011-2012. This year we have some exciting new ideas and we are trying some brand-new things we've never tried before.

Barbara Jones and I really appreciate the work done by our predecessors, Joyce Tisovec and Barbara Fisler. They did a fabulous job last year running the organization, and really made the transition to our leadership quite easy and enjoyable this spring.

Just to help you get to know me, I grew up in New Jersey and became an elementary school teacher. We moved to Florida in 1972. I earned my M.A. at USF in 1986. I worked as a middle-school counselor for 14 years in Pasco County and then as an elementary school counselor in Wildwood for 6 years. Although I entered a "traditional" field for women, I saw enough of the difficulties women have to face in education and the workplace for me to be determined to try to make it better for those young women who are coming up. Thus my interest in AAUW and in advocating for women and girls.

As Judy indicated, all of us in Lake/Sumter Branch of AAUW are dedicated to the education and advancement of women and girls. With these objectives in mind, our co- program directors, Anne Marie Lombardi and Anne Marino have developed a calendar of interesting and pertinent presentations. To encourage more attendance at our monthly meetings, there will be fewer meetings involving member expense. Our current membership numbers 99 women, and we encourage every member's active participation. So, check your handbook, and mark your calendar with all the well planned meeting dates.

This year we will be presenting an extraordinary, fun filled, evening event, on February 4, 2012. It is " Lake/ Sumter AAUW Taste and Bid : Advocating for Girls and Women". This will be our ONLY FUNDRAISER, and it will feature food tastings and a silent auction. To make this a success, we will need the help of every member of our chapter. This is our one time to raise money for all the worthwhile programs we support in the advancement of women and girls. Look for more information on this event, and plan on participating to make it a huge success.

Judy and I, along with the officers, directors, and committee and group chairs, look forward to a wonderful term, and we are eager to work with all our achieving ladies. With everyone working as a team, we are guaranteed an exciting, fulfilling year.

Judy Bonn and Barbara Jones, Co- Presidents





Meetings and Programs

Our first meeting of the AAUW year will be held Saturday September 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Leesburg Public Library, Room B, 100 Main Street. No reservations are required. Optional lunch at local restaurants will be suggested post-meeting. The program will include an AAUW Funds Update and introduction of the scholarship winners, Jessica, Ashley, and Alyssa, who will update us on their summer school courses (if they attended summer classes) and/or how they are doing thus far in their fall studies at UCF.

Directions: From the Villages and north of Leesburg, take 441 south. Stay on Route 27 (right lanes) through Leesburg to Main Street. Make a left on Main Street and go to the 100 block. The library is on the left and has a parking garage nearby.

Saturday October 8, coffee and pastries will be served during our monthly meeting from 10 a.m. to noon at Venetian Gardens, Dixie Road, Leesburg. The program will focus on Lake County Schools: Successes and Challenges.

Saturday October 15 at 10 a.m. a **New Member's Orientation Coffee** will be held at the home of **Blanche DiRito**, 13 Hickory Head Hammock, The Villages. Please RSVP: 352-753-2301 by Friday, October 7, 2011.

Special Interest Groups

MONDAY BRIDGE: The next game will be held **September 12**, 1 p.m. at the home of **Barb Meyer** and **September 26** at the home of **Mary Ann Swisher**. Players will receive directions by e-mail or phone. Members who are interested in joining the group should call Mary Ann at 259-3739 or <mswiper@mindspring.com>.



THURSDAY BRIDGE will be held **September 1**, 1 p.m. The host is **Barbara Mayoras**. On **September 15** at 1 p.m., the host is **Barbara Hall**. For more information, contact **Barbara Mayoras** at 391-1688 or <bamayoras@comcast.net>.

DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB will be held Wednesday, **September 21** at 1 p.m. at the home of **Pat Bays**. The book to be discussed is *Room* by Emma Donoghue. For more information call Pat 751-3777.

EDUCATED PALATES is a social group where participants plan and cook a dinner which is served at the designated host's home. Spouses and partners are welcome. They will meet on **Thursday September 15** at 9:30 a.m. to plan a fall dinner. If you wish to participate, please call or e-mail **Carolyn Moores** at hcmoores@aol.com. (259-9955). Bring either recipes or a menu for a favorite country or region for which you would like to prepare a dish.



DINING OUT AND FINGER FOOD AND FUN, like the **Educated Palates**, are fun social events that include spouses and partners. **Judi Corcoran** will host a Finger Food Party on **Friday October 21** at her home. The time will be announced later.

An organizational meeting for future Dine Arouds will be held on **Wed. October 6** at 10:00 am at Judi's house. The first Dine Around will be on **November 18** at Lopez Legacy Restaurant.



Branch News

***2011 Local Stem Awards:** In May and June, Lake Sumter Branch AAUW awarded its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Awards to eight eighth grade girls at four of our local middle schools. These girls were chosen by their teachers using our criteria in science and math. Most likely these recipients have never been recognized for academic achievement. Each girl received a \$50 savings bond, certificate of achievement and a \$25 cash prize.

Marie Abbott and Doris Paillet, our branch STEM Educational Equity chairs, presented the awards. The eight students receiving the STEM awards are: The Villages Charter Middle School: Cailey Frederick (math) and Amanda Hutchings (science); Wildwood Middle High School: Emma Palmer (math) and Dayonna Mapp (science); Carver Middle School (Leesburg): Mi'Taun Burney (math) and Cassidy Clayton (science); and Oak Park Middle School (Leesburg): Martha Esalera (math) and Mariah Richardson (science). A big Thank You to Marie and Jean for doing another great job this year in coordinating with the schools so these awards could be given.

Marie with Wildwood winners



Oak Park Middle School Winners



Carver Middle School Winners



***To Benefit This Year's Scholarship Fund, Rosella Valentine** will begin selling tickets for the beautiful amethyst with diamond wrap ring at our September meeting, so I hope many members will wish to buy a chance or two (or three or four....). The cost is \$5 each.

***A Special Invitation to All AAUW Members** is extended to attend the League of Women Voters first meeting of the year **Sept. 26** at 10 a.m. at Community Bank, CR 466, to discuss one of the most important topics of our time: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. Contact either **Carolyn Johnson** (751-4103) or **Carolyn Moores** (259-9955) for more information.

*** Neighborhood Coffee Hosts Needed: Iris Holtz and Charlene English** are looking for AAUW members to host neighborhood coffees in their homes this fall. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with AAUW members who reside in your "Village" or nearby "Villages". The next Neighborhood Coffee is being hosted by **Helen Maddox** of Hemingway Village on **September 1** at 10:00 a.m. Members from Hemingway, Hadley & Duvall may contact Helen at 753-5319 to RSVP.

Please call Iris Holtz at 633-2531 or Charlene English at 614-562-9810 to schedule a Coffee.



***Save the Date! Saturday, February 4, starting at 6 p.m, our Branch will hold a Taste and Bid: Advocating for Girls and Women.** This will be our one and only fundraiser to raise money to support girls and women through education. All the money we make on this event will be used for our local scholarships and to support the AAUW funds for education. In the past we had two separate events to meet these goals. This year, for the first time, we'd like to do it with just one event.

The planning committee is busy getting restaurants lined up for the "taste" part of the event. We need your help with the "bid" part. We are asking every member to secure a donation suitable for bidding. This could be anything from a hotel room, having your windows washed, music lesson or whatever you can think of. The more creative and interesting the more fun the bidding will be!

The goal is to have every member bring in at least one bid item worth at least \$50, but don't let that stop you from securing an item. If you secure an item of lesser value, we can combine items to create an enticing bid package. After all, we're in this together and together we can make it happen. **Barbara Mayoras**, bid item chair, will be getting a donation packet ready for distribution in October to help you with your solicitation process. We're looking forward to working together and having a wonderful success story.

Anne Marie Lombardi, Ann Marino and Diane Jacobson, Event Co-Chairs.

***Coffee and Conversation at Panera's** was again a success. Thanks to our group leader, **Linda Macleod**.

***Membership Handbooks** will be distributed at the September and October meetings. If you wish to pick yours up, contact **Margaret Kaufman** to make arrangements. (750-4658 or <donmarg2@comcast.net>).

***To Have Your Newsletter Mailed**, the cost is \$10, made payable to Lake/Sumter AAUW and mailed to **Mary Ann Swisher**, 821 Ramos Drive, The Villages 32159.

***The Next Board Meeting** will be held **September 27**, 10 a.m. at the Lady Lake Library. All members are welcome to attend.

Members in the Limelight



Congratulations to Judi Corcoran who will marry Robert Anderson on September 2 in an intimate ceremony. A reception will be held in November.

Get Well Wishes to Nancy Bell who is recovering from heart surgery.

Thank You to Diane Jacobson for publishing our 2011-2012 Member Handbook.



State and National AAUW News

As the Director for Development for the AAUW Florida State Board, I'm pleased to share with you some of the "inside scoop" from the board. First, the State won a \$1000 grant to develop voter education for the 2012 election. Details for how they plan to proceed are in the works. Second, on October 29, 2011, the board is hosting a president's meeting at the Hutchinson Island Marriott (the location of the 2012 State Convention this April 20-22) in Stuart, Florida. This will be 'an everything' branch presidents need to know about AAUW information session. The board was inspired to put this meeting together as a result of the National Convention in June. Finally, the board is looking for ways to better serve the local branches of Florida. I'd like to hear from you with thoughts on the subject.

Reporting, *Diane Jacobson*

AAUW Public Policy Highlights

The information provided is excerpted from AAUW Action Network and/or AAUW Washington Update

Access to Preventive Care for women and contraception: The Department of Health and Human Services is considering adopting the Institute of Medicine's recommendations that women's preventative health care be covered by any new health insurance plans under the new health law. However, efforts are underway to expand "religious refusal" exemptions. This move would allow employers to be exempt from providing coverage for contraceptive services if the employer is opposed to contraception. **AAUW encourages** the membership to express support of the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers". Language has been developed for this purpose by AAUW. Anyone interested can contact Anne Wilkins (ancwilk@yahoo.com) for a copy of this language.

A provision of the **Affordable Care Act** was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. In response to a lawsuit representing 26 states, the court said that Congress exceeded its authority by requiring Americans to buy health insurance, but allowed the rest of the law to stay intact. **AAUW affirms** that everyone is entitled to health care that is high quality, affordable and easily accessible. **AAUW believes** that, while not perfect, the new law contains many reforms which will improve the health of the American people.

Comprehensive Sex Education: Following the announcements of requirements for sex education in New York Cities middle and high schools, **AAUW reiterates** its belief that now is the time to end abstinence-only programs and begin funding medically accurate, age appropriate, comprehensive sex education in our schools.

Regarding current concerns over the national budget, debt, and considerations and possible recommendations by the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, **AAUW reiterates** that it is guided by the principle that the nation's budget should not be balanced at the expense of vulnerable Americans, including students, women, and working families.

Hate crimes are reported to be on the rise. The 2011-2013 **AAUW Public Policy Program advocates** freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces and communities to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Regarding **School Vouchers** being pushed in some states **AAUW reasserts its belief** that a strong, free public education system is the foundation of a democratic society and has long opposed diverting public funds to private or religious elementary and



secondary schools. The appropriate strategy for improving our nation’s schools is to direct resources toward improving public schools to provide an excellent education for all children.

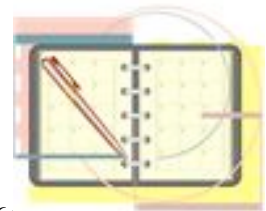
College grad earnings continue to vary by race, gender and field...**AAUW advocates** for increased support and access to higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations. **AAUW supports** promoting and strengthening STEM education for girls and underrepresented populations.

Education Fund “Name Grant Honoree” Recommendations Requested

Once again we wish to honor members who have served our branch and AAUW. One way we do this is by choosing Name Grant Honorees and donating to the AAUW Funds on their behalf. You may recall that last year's honorees were **Susan Christen** and **Nancy Bell**, with our donation going into the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. Please contact **Diane Geach** (kdgeachware@juno.com or 1670 Anthem Rd., The Villages, FL 32162), EF/LAF chair, with your nominations. They will be passed on to the Board for final decision.

Calendar of Events (clip and save)

Neighborhood Coffee	Sept. 1	10 a.m.	Helen Maddox’s home
Thursday Bridge	Sept. 1	1 p.m.	Barbara Mayoras’ home
AAUW meeting	Sept. 10	11 a.m.	Leesburg Library
Monday Bridge	Sept. 12	1 p.m.	Barb Meyer’s home
Educated Palates Planning	Sept. 15	9:30 a.m.	Carolyn Moores’ home
Thursday Bridge	Sept. 15	1 p.m.	Barbara Hall’s home
Book Club	Sept. 21	1 p.m.	Pat Bays’ home
LWV meeting	Sept. 26	10 a.m.	Community Bank on 46th
Monday Bridge	Sept. 26	1 p.m.	Mary Ann Swisher’s home



Welcome New Members

Denise Azio, 12880 SE 91st Ct., Summerfield, FL 34491, Del Webb.
Phone: 352-433-1346; email: deniseazio@aol.com. College: S.U.N.Y.; BS in Psychology.

Corrections

Please make these changes in your Member Handbook.

Janice Broadbelt’s new email address is <rich4738@comcast.net>

Harriet Finch’s correct phone number is 350-6882.

Food for Thought: Don’t be afraid to try new things.

The Ark was built by amateurs;

The Titanic was built by professionals.