



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

November 2023

Presidents' Message



In November we give thanks. Living here in the United States of America, in The Villages and the surrounding area, we have much to be thankful for: our family and friends, our great country, sacrifices made by men and women in our armed forces, cooler weather, and – of course—pumpkin pie.

We are thankful, too, for Gold in Art Jewelers and their continued generosity which gifts us with an exquisite piece of jewelry for our scholarship drawing. This year we have a beautiful gold necklace worth \$3,800. Each \$10 donation will place your name (or that of a loved one – holiday idea!) into the drawing. The winner will be announced in February. Scholarship Committee members will be available to record your donations at our October 28 meeting and our December 9 luncheon.

As we write this letter, the world is in a state of turmoil with nations attacking their neighbors. Their aim is to subdue those with a different religion or language or form of government. No one is spared – not civilians or senior citizens or women or children. It is doubly painful for us who have been seeking a greater respect for diversity and acceptance of all people. Please pray for peace and resolve to give your money and your vote to the peacemakers and not the hatemongers in our world.

We wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. As always, we are thankful for your presence in AAUW, your enthusiasm, and your physical and financial support.

Helen Gozdanovic and Barbara Fisler

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Co-Presidents

501(c)(3) and You: Donations from your IRA

Each month we will discuss an aspect of our 501(c)(3) status and the impact that it has on YOU the member.

At this time of year, prior to the holiday cards filling our mailboxes, we get many appeals from worthy organizations to make sure they are remembered in the end of the year donations many of us do.



This is a gentle reminder to add AAUW to that list of organizations worthy of an end of the year contribution. Our 501(c)(3) status means your donation is tax deductible, just like your donation to Boys Town, Christmas Seal, Salvation Army, or any other group to which you donate.

The dollars you give are so appreciated by our Tech Trek and scholarship awardees.

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

Bring your stash of our tri-fold brochures to any General Meeting, and we will give you updated ones with stickers announcing our 501(c)(3) status and new meeting dates!

LEARN

Meetings and Programs

General Meeting

There will not be a meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Next up is the Holiday Luncheon on December 9. See the details on the flyer attached to the end of this newsletter.

Cynthia Snavelly and Kathy Howe

Program Co-Chairs
Public Policy

Public Policy Chair Needed

The branch is actively recruiting a Public Policy Chair. The role calls for keeping members informed of AAUW National and State's Public Policy work. It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel. National's website has information that can be shared with our local Branch in this newsletter. In addition, State's information is readily available from their Public Policy Committee, which holds monthly Zoom meetings for branch public policy directors. Please contact Barbara or Helen if you are interested in sharing public policy information with Branch members.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Banned Book Reading Group



The DEI Committee held its first Banned Books Reading Group discussion of the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, resulting in a second meeting on October 22 to continue the discussions. We even had two AAUW members join us from Tampa. What an asset, as educated women, that we continue to educate ourselves.

DEI Movie Night

The Committee's next upcoming participatory event will be DEI Movie Night being held at the home of Jacquie Latzer on November 12. We will be watching and discussing the PBS film: *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America*. The event will run from 4:00 – 7:00 pm and the Committee will supply a light supper. To register contact Jacquie Latzer by November 2 since space will be limited. Please include the number of folks you are bringing. Be sure to bring your own beverage and if you have dietary restrictions, please bring something that you can eat.

DEI Thoughts

Just a thought. Since the “I” in DEI represents Inclusion (the act of including), what does that mean to you and what does it look like at activities with which you are engaged? How can we enhance the experience of feeling included for all attendees?



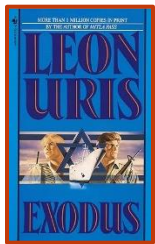
And we continue our path to ask and review: *How have you or will you use your influence and connections to enhance racial harmony?*

Great Reads from DEI

With the Israeli-Palestinian conflict very much in the news, we offer these suggestions. First, if you prefer your history to come in well-researched novels:

Exodus: A Novel of Israel

Leon Uris (1983)

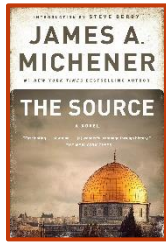


One of the great bestselling novels of all time, *Exodus* is the story of an American nurse and an Israeli freedom fighter caught up in the 20th century's most dramatic geopolitical event.

“Passionate summary of the inhuman treatment of the Jewish people in Europe, of the exodus in the 19th and 20th centuries to Palestine, and of the triumphant founding of the new Israel.”—The New York Times

The Source: A Novel

James A. Michener (2002)



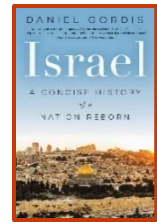
In his signature style of grand storytelling, Michener vividly recreates life in the ancient city of Tell Makor and traces the history of the Jewish people from the persecution of the early Hebrews and the rise of Christianity to the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East. “Biblical history, as seen through the eyes of a professor who is puzzled, appalled, delighted, and enriched by a land where all men are archeologists.”—The New York Times

Or, more recent non-fiction:

Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn

Daniel Gordis (2016)

Winner of the Jewish Book of the Year Award! Guiding us through the milestones of Israeli history, Gordis relays the drama of the Jewish people’s story and the creation of the state. Clear-eyed and erudite, he illustrates how Israel became a cultural, economic, and military powerhouse—but also explains where Israel made grave mistakes and traces the long history of Israel’s deepening isolation.



Love Israel, Support Palestine: An Israeli Story

Nir Avishai Cohen (March 2023)

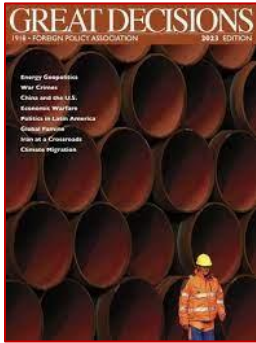


Cohen writes about the past, present, and future of the State of Israel, the occupied Territories, and the people living within it, revealing a different point of view that challenges the primary Israeli narrative. He confronts the reader with his multiple identities: his Jewish heritage as the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, his military service as a Major in the IDF Reserves who must defend his country, and his humane identity as a citizen fighting for human rights and the rights of his Palestinians neighbors.

NOTE: This book almost wasn’t published in Israel because of claims that a book about the occupation would hurt the Israeli public’s feelings. It was published in Hebrew thanks to crowdfunding.

Book blurbs courtesy of Amazon.com

Great Decisions



We are planning to hold the *Great Decisions* discussion group again this year. This is an activity prepared every year by the Foreign Policy Association in New York, a non-partisan association which analyzes issues from geo-political and historical perspectives. We use their prepared text and read one chapter per week. During our meetings, we discuss the reading and watch a video lecture on the topic which expands on the readings. Members of the group in past years have found the experience very worthwhile and often a real stretch from how we have thought of the issues in the past.

Based on the survey at the end of our 2023 session, we will be having two groups on different days. Our schedule will be 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. on either Monday or Tuesday (your choice) for eight weeks. Our meetings will begin with everyone meeting on Tuesday, January 23, then the group will split, and we will continue with the Monday or Tuesday schedule until March 11 and 12.

The location will be the same: The Sumter Country Villages Annex Conference Room at 8033 East CR 466 near the corner of Morse Blvd.

Topics for this year will be:

- Mideast Realignment
- Climate Technology and Competition
- Science Across Borders
- U.S. – China trade Rivalry
- NATO's Future
- Understanding Indonesia
- High Seas Treaty
- Pandemic Preparedness

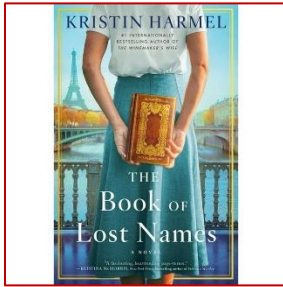
We had a very active group last year and we would like to have even more participants this year. Please encourage your friends and significant others both in and out of the AAUW group to join us. Please let me know if you are able to help me by facilitating one of the sessions.

Please email me at: kurusu99@hotmail.com with your name, contact information, and your choice of Monday or Tuesday. You will need to let me know NO LATER than October 30 to get your book through me.

See you there.

Christine Loken-Kim
Great Decisions Coordinator

Book Club



The November read is *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. It is the story of a young woman who uses her talent for forgery to help hundreds of Jewish children escape the Nazis. Dee Sherman will lead the discussion.

The book club will meet on Wednesday, November 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sheriff's Annex Conference Room (corner of Rt. 466 and Morse Blvd.). All AAUW members are invited to attend.

Below is the full schedule of books for 2023-24, including discussion dates and leaders. Visit the Learning Programs page of our website and scroll down to Book Club for a link to the descriptions of each book (<https://www.lakesumterraauw.org/learning-programs>).

2023 – 2024 Book Club Selections			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Discussion Leader</i>
11/15/23	<i>The Book of Lost Names</i>	Kristen Harmel	Dee Sherman
12/13/23	<i>Holiday Luncheon</i>		
1/17/24	<i>Magnolia Palace</i>	Fiona Davis	Anne Wilkins
2/21/24	<i>The Warmth of Other Suns</i>	Isabel Wilkerson	Katie Haviland
3/20/24	<i>Pandora's Clock</i>	John J. Nance	Cathy Cirocco
4/17/24	<i>Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoom</i>	Lawrence Anthony	Kate Manion
5/15/24	<i>Lessons in Chemistry</i>	Bonnie Garmus	Marge McQueston
6/19/24	<i>The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek</i>	Kim Michele Richardson	Anne Sobocinski
7/17/24	<i>Ordinary Grace</i>	William Krueger	Helen Gozdanovic
8/21/24	<i>The Girl Who Wrote in Silk</i>	Kelli Estes	Judy Reinhardt

Day Trip

Clermont Day Trip Set for November 11



A fall day trip to Clermont has been planned for November 11. The itinerary includes a visit to the Presidents Hall of Fame Museum, a museum dedicated to the U.S. Presidents and their families which includes a miniature White House replica; an elevator ride to the top of the Citrus Tower for a view of the surrounding countryside; lunch at a nearby restaurant; and a docent-led visit to the seven homes in the Clermont Historic Village Museum.

Participants will meet at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center at 9:00 a.m., leave for the drive to Clermont at 9:30 a.m., and return to The Villages at about 3:00 p.m. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$30.00 plus lunch and a \$5.00 tip to the driver to help cover the cost of gas.

Costs breakdown as follows:

- Presidents Hall of Fame \$11.71 for 10 or more persons
- Citrus Tower \$10 for those over 65
- Clermont Historic Village \$5 donation
- Docent donation at the Historic Village \$3.00 per person
- tip for the driver \$5.00 per person
- lunch expenses individually variable

As we will be traveling by car, volunteer drivers will be needed. Those willing to drive should contact Kate Manion and let her know how many passengers they can take. Those interested in signing up to participate in the trip should also contact Kate Manion.

For those interested in shopping, there are several shops available in the Clermont area that one may visit after the Historic Village tour. Drivers and their passengers may decide to stay on and explore the shops.

This outing has been planned by the Day Trip Planning Committee consisting of Carolyn Pasquale, Angela Vickers, Terri Slotterback, and Kate Manion. Questions about the trip should be directed toward Kate Manion.

CONNECT

Membership

Membership Numbers

Currently we have 88 paid members and 21 who have not renewed as of now. We have called, emailed, and voicemail the entire list. Some have said they would be mailing a check and others said they would be paying at the September/October meetings. Several are known to have health problems and some of those may be moving back home. We sometimes do also have new members who attended, paid dues, and never really were involved. If each of us tries to meet and greet at least one visitor at each of our meetings, we may be able to encourage their membership and involvement.

Leslie Flanders and Terri Slotterback
Membership Co-Chairs

We've Got a Secret

And it is Lake/Sumter AAUW, the best-kept secret in The Villages! Now, it is time to spread the news of AAUW to others. They want to know about us. So, plan a coffee or a wine-and-cheese party, invite every eligible woman you know, and tell them about AAUW, who we are, and what we do. We'll reimburse you for up to \$50 of receipted expenses. Yes, we'll pay you to have a party. Get an AAUW friend to host it with you.

Call Leslie Flanders if you want to help increase our membership. Only 10 of these opportunities are available, so call now!

Online Membership Directory

Our 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.

Here is the information needed for all member entries in the directory:

Name
Street address
City, State zip code
Village (if applicable)
Phone
Email
Partner/Spouse/Significant Other (if applicable)
Village (if applicable)

School(s) and Degree(s)

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.

**Need the password
to fully access our website?
Contact Linda Carpenter!**

Downloading the Directory and Saving to your Desktop

Now that you have the password, you can access the Members' Pages of our website (<https://www.lakesumteraaauw.org>) and download the current directory. If you are an Apple user, follow the instructions Leslie handed out at the September General Meeting for saving the directory to your computer's desktop. If you are not an Apple user, stay tuned...we're working on a similar set of instructions for you.

Social Interest Groups

Mah Jongg Players Group

The mah jongg group will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at the home of Barbara Fieldman. Play will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please let Barb know if you will be attending.

Play on Wednesday, November 22 has been cancelled as this is the day before Thanksgiving.

Singles Group

On Sunday, November 19 AAUW Singles is sponsoring a bus trip through Senior Adventures to a Manheim Steamroller Christmas musical performance in Sarasota at the Van Wetzel Performing Arts Hall. The cost is \$128. Departure is from the Recreation Plantation, 609 Hwy 466. Reservations can be made by calling Senior Adventures: 352-753-5404. Departure is at 1:00 with returning arrival at 11:30pm. The show includes dazzling multimedia effects performed in an intimate setting with orchestra seating.

Dinner is on your own before the show at St. Armand's Circle from 3:30-6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Kathy Mason who is coordinating the event.

SUPPORT

Fundraising

Lake/Sumter AAUW Branch brings **Claudia Schmidt** to The Villages in January



Claudia Schmidt has been perfecting her craft of performing for almost four decades. It is a quirky and wonderful hodge-podge (her word!) of music, poetry, story, laughter, drama, and celebrating the moment. Work in clubs, theaters, festivals, TV, radio has added depth and dimension, and since she has always included her original work along with very personal versions of the work of others, what you get is a unique look at the world from someone who says what she sees with clarity, humor, and wonder. The San Francisco Bay Guardian said, "Schmidt's shows are a lot like falling in love. You never know what's going to happen next, chances are it's going to be wonderful, every moment is burned into your memory, and you know you'll never be the same again." More succinctly, Garrison Keillor said, "When Claudia sings a song, it stays sung."

Tickets (150 of them) will be available for sale from AAUW members after our October General Meeting for \$25 each. The concert will take place on January 11th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tri-County Unitarian Universalist Church at 7380 SE 135th Street located about halfway between US301 and US27/441.

Support the 2024 Adopt-A-Precinct Program



We have a wonderful opportunity in 2024 to earn \$7,500 for our Tech Trek and scholarship programs. See Jennifer Thompson for more information. (She is still recruiting interested members!)

The Sumter County Elections Office will pay our local AAUW branch \$2,500 per election to provide volunteers to staff the precinct at Seabreeze Recreation Center in The Villages. In addition to our members, spouses, friends, and neighbors of AAUW members are welcome to work for our Branch at the precinct as well. All volunteers need to be Sumter County residents and willing to work some, if not all the dates below:

- March 19, 2024: Presidential Preference Primary
- August 20, 2024: Primary Election
- November 5, 2024: General Election

Tech Trek



Judging by the wonderful thank you notes we received from the six 2023 campers, all the girls had a fantastic time at camp. If you couldn't read the girls' notes at the September meeting, they all said the experience was wonderful. One thing we learned is how important it is for the girls to share their experiences and to spend time with like-minded girls.

We are about to ramp up for a new group of seventh grade girls who we hope will also be as enthusiastic as their predecessors. Soon State AAUW will be connecting electronically with seventh grade math and science teachers to request that they nominate outstanding girls for next summer's camps at Deland and Jupiter.

We have learned that Abby Lacayo, a virtual camper in 2022, attended Aim High Camp for future doctors this past summer. She was nominated by one of the state Science Fair evaluators who was so impressed with Abby's project that she wanted Abby to attend the 2023 camp at a cost of approximately \$1,500. Abby got busy and raised that money. In addition, this past summer Abby was a speaker for the AVID state convention in Orlando. She continues to shine, and we will be welcoming her back to the January General Meeting to give us updates on her amazing upward path.

I am delighted that several members have expressed interest in becoming involved with the Tech Trek Committee. If you haven't connected with me and are also interested in becoming part of promoting this exciting and rewarding process, please contact me by phone or email. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes effort that takes place!

Scholarship

Co-Coordinators Step Up

Susan Gold and Gretchen Lewis, long-time members of the Scholarship Committee agreed to serve as co-leaders of the group. Thank you to Susan and Gretchen for filling this important need.

Here is an update from past winner, Kelli-Ann Wallace

This semester has been so busy. I just finished a 7-week Advanced Business Communications class and start another 7-week class on October 16. I am also in a full-term Accounting for Managers class. There is so much to learn, and time flies by fast!

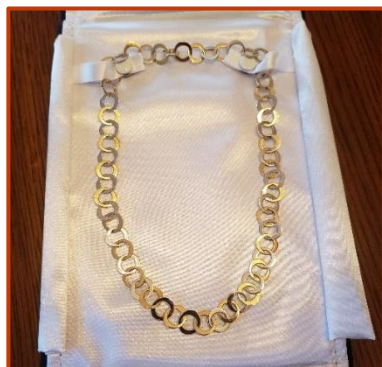
I have used some of my newfound knowledge in my current position, which has been helpful. The communications class has helped me rethink how some of my previous communication skills may not have been the most effective. I just completed a group project where I was paired with three other ambitious women of various age groups. It was great working with other students who are in school to learn and not just get through the class with a passing grade.

Going back to school in my fifties, I did not think I would be able to connect with my younger classmates, but I was surprised by how many technological skills I picked up from them. It has been great to be able to use those skills in my online content for work.

Being awarded the AAUW scholarship has opened more doors for me and broadened my mindset. It has been wonderful not to have to worry about being able to pay for my classes, and just dedicate my time to my studies. I am so glad to be a part of AAUW and hope to become an inspiration for other women to go catch that dream of a college degree



Jewelry Drawing



In support of our scholarships, Gold in Art has again gifted us with a beautiful piece of jewelry for our fundraiser. The necklace (pictured at left) has a retail value of \$3,800. Gretchen Lewis of our Scholarship Committee said, “I continue to be amazed at and grateful for their generosity.”

The proceeds from our drawing enable us to award scholarships to very worthy women to help them finance their college educations. Tickets will be available at the October meeting.

And if you stop by Gold in Art, be sure to thank Richie Kluesener for his generous donation to our Branch.



**American Association of University Women
Lake/Sumter (FL) Branch**
Learn – Connect - Support

Thanks so much to Linda for her splendid job on the October newsletter. As an AAUW team we work together to accomplish a goal. If you volunteer for something, you are not alone...there is a full membership ready to help. Please consider it! Deadline for the December/January edition will be November 20. Please note: it is a double month issue!

Editor: Beth Hicks
aauwlsnews@gmail.com

AAUW Websites

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

**SUMTER-LAKE AAUW
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**CONTINENTAL COUNTRY CLUB - PAULIE'S OAKS ON 44
75 CONTINENTAL BLVD. WILDWOOD, FL 34785**

NOON - 3 PM

COST \$33.00

TAX & GRATUITIES INCLUDES

HEART SMART SALAD

Apples, pears, strawberries, nuts on mixed greens raspberry vinaigrette w/feta cheese

PEP'S JERSEY CHEESE STEAK

Hand-sliced ribeye, sauteed onions & peppers w/ White American cheese on torpedo roll

TRIO SALAD

One scoop of our homemade chicken, tuna & egg salad. Served on a bed of greens

CHICKEN PICCATA

Chicken breast sauteed w/ lemon & capers in white wine sauce - over sauteed spinach

RIGATONI WITH VODKA SAUCE

Rigatoni, prosciutto and peas in a vodka cream and Marinara sauce

BEVERAGES

Non-alcoholic beverages included. Alcoholic beverages available at cast bar

DESSERT

Cheese Cake or Tiramisu

Contact Kathy Howe @ kamphowe@aol.com or call 631-219-4289

Reservations must be made & paid **before** December 1, 2023