

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch Inc.

February Meeting

21st Annual Fashion Show



Directions to Grandeza Country Club

- Exit I-75 at Corkscrew Rd (exit #123)
- Follow Corkscrew Rd EAST to Ben Hill Griffin Parkway
- Turn left onto BHG Parkway
- Follow BHG Parkway to Grande Oak Blvd.
- On Grande Oak Blvd. stop at security gate, show drivers license and tell attendant you are there for the AAUW Fundraiser.

Upcoming Programs

February 7, 2015 Fashion Show
Open Your Heart With Style

March 21, 2015 Luncheon
Women as Leaders
Ginger Lew, Senior Counsel to White House National Economic Council

April 18, 2015 Luncheon
Odyssey of the Mind
Patricia Wiegman and students North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts

May 16, 2015 Luncheon
Human Trafficking Awareness
Nola Theiss, Executive Director, Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships

Exciting Auction Items Continue To Pour In A Few Tickets Still Available

Our 21st Annual Fashion Show is finally here! The big day is **Saturday, February 7 at Grandeza Country Club in Estero**. Our theme, **"Open Your Heart With Style,"** definitely summarizes the collective spirit, energy and generosity of our members and patrons. AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Members are an amazing group of women who continue to give back in so many ways. Whether you are a Board member, a committee chair or dedicated member, you are making a difference in the lives of young women in our community.

At this gala, let us celebrate our collective efforts and be grateful for all that we have and are able to do for others. We thank each and every one of you for your participation.

As mentioned in the January Torch, the Thomas Alva Edison Regional Science and Engineering Fair is also being held on Saturday, February 7. Several of our colleagues and spouses are judging at this important event. We will miss their energy, contributions and presence. We apologize for the schedule conflict.

Doors will open Saturday at 11:00 AM giving you time to socialize and view the fabulous raffle items and silent/live auction packages. A few tickets are still available! Call Carolyn Nance at 239-257-1727, to make your last minute reservation. We have a packed house with 160 enthusiastic participants. Bring cash and/or your check book. Credit cards will be accepted for the silent and live auction bids. Improve your chances of winning many of our restaurant and department store gift certificates when you buy six tickets for \$5 dollars. In addition, we have the "money hat" for a chance to win a \$100 dollar bill. Look for Nancy Kuyoth and Marilyn Edwards working the floor sporting their glamorized hats.

Story continued on page 2.

President's Message

On February 7 our branch will host "Open Your Heart With Style", our annual and major fundraising event. The co-chairs, Jemetta Hunt and Phyllis Wayco, and all of the members who are donating their time, effort and money are doing so because the income generated will fund scholarships and awards to area women and girls.

Why is this so important? By 2018, sixty-three percent of all jobs in the US will require at least some postsecondary education according to Georgetown University. In addition, the cost of tuition continues to rise as federal aid shrinks and family incomes fail to keep pace. Faced with few alternatives, students are taking out loans. In 2011, two-thirds of college seniors graduated with an average student loan debt of \$26,000.

Our FGCU scholarship recipient, Shannon Pool, shared that her college experience would not have been possible without our extremely generous and kind scholarship. *I am one of four children and we are each in college at the moment. . . this is an enormous financial burden on my family which has gone through tough times . . . with my father losing his job due to the declining economy. My mother is kindergarten teacher so times were hard when he wasn't able to work. It meant the world to me that there is an organization out there that is willing to help me finish college and achieve my dreams.*

Scholarships help students begin or continue their educations. They also produce a ripple effect that continues to pay dividends for decades to come. Our scholarships and awards are an investment in the minds of our future leaders in the fields of business, government, education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Few investments guarantee the returns that scholarships do.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Story continued from page 1.

The Style Show will begin at 12 noon with fashions by Razzle Dazzle and modeled by our beautiful AAUW members. Lunch will be served at approximately 12:30, Sharron Thompson will share her wit and skill as our MC for the afternoon. I understand a few surprises are in store. Always a favorite for the live auction are the Florida Rep Theater tickets donated by Naomi Bloom. There are 15 vouchers and each voucher can be redeemed for two tickets to a show of your choice. The starting bid will be \$30 per voucher good for two tickets.

Extraordinary finds and original art work treasures among raffle items !!!



A collectors item by Brigitte Deval from the Georgetown Collection. Emma's face, arms & legs are all china. Still in original packaging Emma is in excellent condition. Original price over 20 years ago was \$100.



From SU CASA "a furniture boutique"

A treasure package including a gift certificate for \$25.



Hand Painted talavera, gecko chimes, mouse pad & Suzy Toronto coasters. Value: \$75.

Ladies tennis shorts & shirt from **Old Hickory Golf and Country Club**. Winner may exchange for correct size. Value: \$80.



Hand Painted Treasures from Ron Glasgow



"Frozen" toy chest. Hand painted by Ron Glasgow. Value: Priceless



Hand painted cigar box purse. Inside is colorfully lined with pockets to store items. Value: \$20

New Members

Mary Lou White, a long-time friend of Cathy Chapman, has joined our branch. She is a mid-westerner with a dual AAUW membership in Farmington Hills, Michigan where she spends the months of Apr - Oct.



Mary Lou received her Bachelors Degree from Michigan State and began a career in social work. Finding that her efforts were thwarted by inefficiencies in the social work system, Mary Lou changed her career plans and became a preschool teacher. This was much more productive and rewarding. "Those 3-4 year olds were like sponges. Every new experience was an eye-opener for them."

With retirement came the opportunity to travel. Italy is her favorite destination. Retirement has also provided more time to cook and bake. Mary Lou probably bakes a lot of cookies when visiting with family. She has two grandchildren by one son, and triplet grandchildren by her son living in Philadelphia.

Liz Foster was certainly a model of perseverance when it came to her education. She married Bob when they were just youngsters, raised their children, moved as a military family and then moved again for Bob's career advancement. They lived in IL, IN, MA, MO, MD and KY.



It took about 20 years, 145 undergrad credits and five different colleges to complete her BA from Suffolk University. Liz also holds a Masters of Ed. from the Univ. of MA. She is now retired from teaching high school English.

After retiring, Liz and Bob sold their home and traveled for four years in a motor home, crisscrossing the US several times. One of their favorite locations was the beautiful coast of Oregon with its cliffs and beaches. They also traveled overseas and Liz is anxious to share travel information with members of our newly formed Travel Club.

Liz was urged to join AAUW by her daughter's mother-in-law who is active in the Venice Branch. She has already substituted with one of our bridge groups and hopes to become more involved based on her love of reading and writing.

Branch Notes

Postal Address: P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115
Email: aauleecounty@gmail.com
Website: fmlc-fl.aauw.net

Return Engagement

The Men In Black

Be entertained by the charm and wit of the Men In Black when you buy raffle tickets.



Ron Glasgow



Norton Sims



Bob Kuyoth

To answer, what's for lunch? The entrée is basil and roasted red pepper stuffed chicken breast, wrapped in applewood bacon with creamy spinach potatoes, grilled asparagus bundles, shallots and thyme jus. The dessert is a sacher torte: chocolate cake layered with raspberry jam and covered with ganache, fresh berries and whipped cream. Soft beverages, coffee and tea are included. Cocktails, wine and beer can be purchased at the bar.



Be welcomed by Bob Cihl at the piano.

We look forward to seeing you there! Again, we appreciate the hard work and effort by all of our members who made this event possible.



Fashion Show Co-Chairs Phyllis Wayco and Jemetta Hunt



Vera Bradley computer bag & business accessory set. Value: \$35



Cut glass mixing pitcher and strainer. Value: \$25



The moon at sunset. Photo by nature photographer Frank Moore. Value: \$45



Hand painted cigar box purse. Inside is colorfully lined with pockets to store items. Value: \$20

This & That

Nominations Open for New Officers

It is amazing to me how fast the season is going! We have talked about the Fashion Show for months, and now it is just a few days away! I look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your help with our biggest fundraiser of the year. It was fun last year to hear Marie and Jayne say, "Ladies, we have money to spend!" It is a good feeling to be able to continue to nurture our endowments at FGCU and FSW (formerly Edison) and to be able to help women trying to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

I am pleased to announce that the following members will be serving with me on the Nominating Committee: Myrna Frantz, Carolyn Nance and Cathy Tucker. We are looking for candidates for the following offices: President-elect; Secretary; and Program VP. In addition, we will have numerous committee chair and member assignments to fill for next year, including Fashion Show Chair (or Co-Chairs). Remember that you do not have to wait for one of us to call you to have your name considered. If you're interested you're welcome to contact any of the following members on your own: Myrna Frantz, Carolyn Nance, Cathy Tucker or me. We can be reached by email or phone as listed in our Branch directory. Feel free to call just to get more information as well.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Suzan Harden

Best Wishes To Our February Birthdays

Anne Allan Nora McColm
Barbara Briggs Lucy Rathgens
Laurie Folgate-Carey

AAUW

Personalized Business Cards

Sandy Johnston announced the availability of AAUW business cards with your name and contact information on them.

Consider these cards when looking for a gift for an AAUW friend.

Cards are 40 for \$10. To order please contact Sandy at smrlfw7@centurylink.net.

Proceeds will go to our StarBright Fund.



Mark Your Calendars

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will gather Thursday, February 5, 2015 with a visit to the Twisted Vine Bistro, 2214 Bay St., at 11:30 am. If you can join us this month, contact Mary Kellner at 239-599-8458 or kellnerAAUW@yahoo.com.

Bridge

Bridge groups meet the 2nd and 3rd Mon of each month. Join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship; snowbirds are welcome. Contact: Marilyn Myli 239-482-0272 or email marilynmy7@hotmail.com

Book Groups

Contact Muriel Freedman 239-481-0391 for meeting information.

Hand & Foot Card Club

Contact Nancy Kuyoth 239-471-7806 Meets 1st & 4th Mondays.

Mahjongg

Contact Jean Schoenthaler 239-277-5174 Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 PM.

AAUW Art Contest

The seventh annual AAUW Art Contest is under way. Members can submit their original art on line in January and vote for their favorites in February. The winning entries will be printed in a collection of AAUW note cards mailed to members and supporters this spring.

This contest has featured some amazing AAUW artists over the years. This is a lovely way to bring attention to the talent we have within our membership. For more information go to www.aauw.org.

AAUW Trivia Questions

Q: Seventeen women college graduates met in Boston in 1881 to discuss the organization of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae which was chartered in early 1882. They were always interested in research. When and what was their first research report?

Q: Which long time AAUW member was a charter member of Book Club II, a bridge player, and co-chair of Scholarship when the Endowed Scholarship at FSW (then Edison) was established? She represented AAUW in selecting recipients for South West Florida Community Foundation and in reviewing nominations for the Golden Apple Award for Lee County School District. She was a retired Business Education teacher and a pianist who enjoyed giving concerts.

Answers on page 4

Film Fare

So many good movies, so little time.... *Selma* was both fantastic as a film and terrible in reminding us how bad things were and how inhumane we humans can be. I was reminded again of the power of non-violence.

Since Ferguson TV ads say it's time we had a conversation about race. After seeing *Selma*, my husband shook his head, "I never knew it was that bad. During those years, I was concentrating, studying... I didn't watch the news, or read a newspaper." Some of us alive at the time were unaware.

As to criticism of the portrayal of LBJ, this may be a different perspective. What struck me was the respect they seemed to show for each other even as they argued about the timing of civil rights legislation. Perhaps LBJ did the right thing because he was nudged. Still he did it.

Maybe *Selma* should be required viewing to get our driver's licenses, or to vote. Perhaps then could we begin to talk constructively about race. Perhaps all our citizenry would have a greater appreciation for non-violence and peace.

Speaking of violence, *American Sniper* is breaking box-office records and is excellent, highly controversial. According to the Washington Post, it can be interpreted as "jingoistic (blatantly patriotic) propaganda" or as "a paean to...our...under-appreciated veterans." The use of "jingoistic" was too close to Jihad-istic for me... confusing and thought provoking. Think.

This is a story of two snipers, one, an Olympian from Syria. Facts: some soldiers are patriotic. Some are excellent. Killing takes its toll on the killer. This wounded hero finds redemption? healing? through helping others. Ironically he is still undone by the effects of war even while consulting on the making of this film from his autobiography.

We can cut off the news and watch a musical. But a film like this makes us face the reality and effects of war. It honors two beautiful, patriotic young men, one American and one Muslim. It is a poignant, Oscar winning, indictment of war itself. I'm glad so many people are seeing it. I hope they all "get it."

Judy Sims

Financial Statement

Bank Bal, as of 1/20/2015	\$ 12,241
Payables, HC, StarBrite	\$ - 404
Fashion show tix & exp, net	\$ 4,429
Adopt-a-precinct donations	\$ 6,120

January Meeting In Review



New Member Orientation

Pictured from L to R: Liz Foster, Mary Lou White, Marian Engstrom, Judy Morgan, Suzan Harden, President-elect, Jill Mawhinney, Myrna Frantz, Public Policy, and Colleen Wheeler, VP Programs.

Just prior to our January Membership Meeting/Luncheon, five of our newest AAUW members attended a coffee hosted by Nancy Kuyoth, Membership VP. Various officers and chairs introduced themselves and talked about their area of responsibility. This informational meeting was sweetened with the delicious truffles that Nancy brought.

It was delightful to see all of our members who finally returned to SWFL after the holidays. Welcome back and you're just in time to attend our Fashion Show, Open Your Heart With Style, on February 7. Tickets are still available, so please join us.

Celeste Fournier, Beekeeper/Owner of Bee Run Farms, was our speaker. We learned the history of bees; the different roles of Queen, Worker and Drone bees; the many beneficial properties of honey and so much more. We unfortunately had to cut short our question/answer period but we do urge you to go on Celeste's website, beerunfarms.com.

With the return of Jemetta Hunt, who delayed her return so she could enjoy her "first time grandma" status, we were able to award her the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Certificate of Recognition for co-chairing last year's successful fashion show with her sister, Phyllis Wayco.



Celeste Fournier



Marian Engstrom & Jill Mawhinney

President-elect, Suzan Harden, announced that the Nomination Committee is accepting nominations for the elected positions of President-elect, VP Programs and Secretary for two year terms beginning July 2015.

Trivia Answers

A: In 1885 "Health Statistics of Women College Graduates" was published which established that contrary to prevailing medical opinion, women's health is not adversely affected by attending college. Recent research has shown that longevity correlates with years of education.

A: Fran Leeper: She will be missed.

Additions/Corrections to Directory

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