

AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co.
Branch Inc.

March Meeting

Date: Sat, March 21, 2015

Board Meeting 10:30 AM

Gathering: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Vegetable Quiche

Choice 2

Southern Fried Chicken Salad

Dessert

Chef's Choice

Beverages from the bar are available.
Wait staff will accept charge payment.

Reservations

Tina Hoegler will be taking reservations.
Please contact her at 941-505-8483 or
c_hoegler@msn.com no
later than Mon, March 16. Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues,
Mar 17, otherwise payment is expected.
Price of the luncheon is \$18.00

Luncheon Selections

If you have specific dietary needs and our menu for the month does not meet them, don't let that keep you from attending. When you call Tina with your reservation let her know what you need. We have been assured that the chef will make appropriate changes for your entrée and dessert.

Financial Statement

March 2015	
Cash on hand, 2/25/2015	\$17,123
Payable and	
designated gifts	\$1,235
Prior year carryover	\$6,711
Balance	\$9,177

March Speaker

Ginger Lew currently provides regulatory, financial and operational expertise to Enduring Hydropower, a company formed to acquire and modernize hydroelectric facilities and develop power at unpowered dams. By doing so, the firm demonstrates the value of renewable hydropower and reduces our nation's reliance on harmful carbon-based energy.

From 2009 to 2011, she served as Senior Counselor to the White House National Economic Council. She provided economic policy advice on a broad range of matters, including innovation, commercialization, small business, capital access and formation, and entrepreneurship policies.

Ginger gained regulatory experience as the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Commerce, for which she was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Under the Clinton Administration, Ginger was the Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Small Business Administration and had oversight responsibility for a \$42 billion loan portfolio.

Earlier in her career, she was the Chief Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy for the western United States.

Ginger is the former CEO and partner to two venture capital funds located in the Washington, DC area. She was chair and board member of an European based investment fund.

Ginger also served on the NASDAQ Listing and Hearing Review Council for 10 years.

Slate of Officers for 2015-2016 to be Announced at March Meeting

We will be announcing the slate of officer candidates at the March meeting. Remember, we are looking for candidates for President-Elect, Vice-President – Programs, and Secretary. The Nominating Committee consists of Myrna Frantz, Suzan Harden, Carolyn Nance, and Cathy Tucker. Please feel free to contact any of us if you would like to discuss the responsibilities of the positions and/or ask to be considered.

President's Message

Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

March is National Women's History Month. Every year the National Women's History Project selects a unifying theme to be shared with all who want to promote women's history. This year's unifying theme is *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*.

Accounts of the lives of individual women are critically important because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. The stories of women's lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience. Knowing women's achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who women are and what women can accomplish today.

President Obama in last year's proclamation of Women's History Month wrote: *As we honor the many women who have shaped our history, let us also celebrate those who make progress in our time. Let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds. And from Wall Street to Main Street, in the White House and on Capitol Hill — let us put our Nation on the path to success.*

How fitting that our Branch of AAUW begins its project of gathering stories of its members this month. Jemetta Hunt, with other members of our branch who love writing and are inspired by this project, will be contacting you this spring for your biographical information. The initial contact will be by email or letter sent to your home. Please respond. Let's celebrate our rich histories, our accomplishments and our strengths.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Legal Advocacy Fund

Our branch contributes \$750 each year to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) which works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases.

Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms: unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change.

Case Support Program: The Legal Advocacy Fund provides financial and organizational support for a select number of cases in the workplace and in academia that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women. Case support decisions are made by the LAF Committee. The LAF Committee requires cases to meet certain criteria to be eligible for case support. Cases must address sex discrimination and are preferably at the appellate level. The litigants must be willing to engage in branch visits and make appropriate public appearances with AAUW. Litigants must also allow AAUW to publicize support for the case internally and externally, including in the media, on the website, and in electronic and print communications. Funding is offered for court filing fees, plaintiff court travel, preparation of briefs, filings, and other case-based costs.

LAF is presently supporting seven cases. A case against the University of Tennessee concerns a Title IX issue, three against the Feather River Community College in California allege sex discrimination, and a case against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc alleges gender discrimination in pay and promotions. Two cases are against the military, one for sexual assault (filed by 19 plaintiffs in the Army and Air Force in California). The second case was filed in the District of Columbia by eight plaintiffs alleging the military created a culture in which sexual assault and rape are tolerated and those who report face retaliation.

Source: www.AAUW.org/what-we-do/legal-resources

It's Time To Renew Your 2015 - 2016 Membership

AAUW Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

What AAUW Membership Can Do For You: A membership can expose you to strong and interesting women and even provide paths to discover latent strengths within you. AAUW has never been just a club, but a way of enhancing your views.

Benefits Of Membership:

- Stimulating Monthly Speakers, Programs, Projects and Study Groups
- Shared Values and Interests
- Groups and activities to enhance intercommunication: *Book Groups, Craft Projects, Dining Outings, Gardening, Genealogy, Cards: Hand & Foot and Bridge, Ladies Night Out, Lunch Bunch, Mah Jongg, Movies, Dinner Discussions, Photography*
- Informative Local, State, and National Publications
- Expertise and Representation on Education and Equity Issues
- Financial Resources for Education
- Networking
- Leadership Training Opportunities
- Monthly Branch Newsletter "The Torch"
- Special Member benefits
- Member discounts on publications and merchandise
- Members have an array of insurance and financial services

Branch members enjoy networking at the local level, serving in local leadership roles, sponsoring community action projects, and lobbying on AAUW priority issues. If you enjoy this level of activism and engagement, then branch membership is the right choice for you!

As an AAUW member, you'll belong to a strong network of talented people - one that can stimulate a lifetime of personal and professional growth. Renewal member dues are \$70, renewal dues for friends are \$48, and new member first year dues are reduced by half (\$35). Please make your check payable to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. and mail to:

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 2115, Ft Myers, FL33902-2115

Nancy Kuyoth, Membership VP
239-471-7806 email: nkuyoth@aol.com

The membership form is being sent to you with this month's Torch and will also be available at our monthly meetings. To be included in the 2015-16 Member Directory, you must renew your membership no later than June 30, 2015.

New Members

Jill Mawhinney divides her year spending six months in Crystal Lake, Illinois and six months in Cape Coral. She earned her BSW degree from Michigan State University, her MSW from University of Illinois, and a Master's in Gerontology from Roosevelt University. Jill had a career in higher education as professor of adult psychology and as counselor at a community college.



Previously a tennis player at the competitive level, Jill is now limited to casual volleying on the court with her husband because of a shoulder problem. She is now expending her energy and exercising by walking. Retirement has also allowed Jill the time to read and to rekindle her interest in playing bridge. She has already signed up to substitute when needed.

Travel is always an interest. With a son and two grandsons in Durham, NC, that may be a travel destination in the near future.

2015 Science Fair Winners

The 58th Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair was held



on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Alico Arena on the FGCU Campus. There were over 300 Science and Engineering Projects. The AAUW judges, Charlie Allen, Laurie Fol-

gate-Carey and Cathy Tucker, looked at over 30 projects to decide on the winners for our "Women in Stem Awards".

Samantha Cochran with her project, "The Effectiveness of Moringa Seeds" took the first timer's award and a check for \$100.00. Samantha attends South West Christian Academy and was inspired to do her project so that people everywhere could have clean water, no matter where they lived or what socio-economic class they belonged.

Isabella Michalska, is the recipient of the award \$500.00 for her project, "Which Shoreline Erosion Control Method will most Effectively Control Eutrophication of Local Water Ecosystems". Izabella is a student at Estero High School. Both winners have been invited to attend the March 21, 2015 meeting.

This & That

YOU ARE THE BEST!

My personal THANK YOU to all our members who helped make our 2015 Fashion Show such a big success. Everyone pulled together to make the day go smoothly. And a great time was had by all!

Phyllis and Jemetta did a great job and have a wonderful report and file for our next Show Chairs. And now we need YOU. Please volunteer to lead the show for the next time – you will have plenty of help from seasoned veterans and enthusiastic new volunteers. We have “Stepped Up” and “Opened Our Hearts”, and now we want to move forward with new ideas and new leaders.

Please let me or Suzan Harden know that you are willing to serve. Looking forward to hearing from you before the March meeting.

Sharron Thompson
Ways and Means Chair
sharronkt@aol.com

Suzan Harden, President Elect
skh062653@gmail.com

Sharron Thompson

Congratulations to Jemetta and Phyllis and their wonderful committee on another classy and successful fashion show! I know it takes a lot of people to make the show happen, and I thank all of you very much.

Marie Glasgow

Once Again Fashion Show Proceeds Exceed Expectations

A tremendous thank you to all who attended our 21st annual Fashion Show at Grandezza on Feb. 7, 2015. Everyone had lots of fun, the food was wonderful, the decorations were beautiful and Grandezza was as magnificent as last year. Our newest members dazzled us as they worked the runway with their beautiful outfits from Razzle Dazzle.

We thank all of you for your donations, and solicitations and to all who did so much to help “Open Your Heart With Style”. Your generosity and hard work was overwhelming. It's a pleasure to be part of such a great organization. We could not do this type of fundraiser without all of your tremendous help and support. We are so proud of all of you who helped make this such a success.

Phyllis Wayco & Jemetta Hunt
2015 Fashion Show Co-Chairs

Mark Your Calendars

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.

Upcoming Programs

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

"AAUW Trivia Quiz"

Q. Which AAUW member was instrumental in establishing home economics as a course of study?

Q: What year was the first year in which our branch had a President-Elect and who?

Answers on page 4

AAUW

Personalized Business Cards

At the November luncheon 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 smrflw7@centurylink.net.
Proceeds will go to our Starbright Fund.

Film Fare

Yes, *The Kingsman* was rated 4 stars. The film's violent humor disturbed me and that it was rated 4 stars disturbed me more. Thirteen year old boys may enjoy that kind of humor ...maybe.

Underlying the noise and chaos was a serious problem. If the earth were a Petri dish the culture would be about to cover it... completely. That's mutual destruction through propagation and overuse of finite resources. The arch-villain's solution was to spray something which made people fight and kill each other. Many world leaders were complicit. The Kingsman tries to save the day, humanity, the world. Scenes of violence and killing might have been the news from Syria or Missouri. Kingsman is a shocking satire.

We ARE over-populating. The value of human life IS shrinking with our resources. People ARE killing each other all over the world ...Insanely. Maybe The Kingsman did deserve 4 stars for thought provoking-ness ...Look how much I thought about it and I didn't even like it!

Judy Sims

Good News

Sophie Bezuyen, age 6, Sharron Thompson's granddaughter, recently received her school's prestigious "Respect Award" for her exemplary school behavior. We are SO Proud!

Best Wishes to those with March Birthdays

Sandy Johnston
Gloria Whitesman
Betty Bechtel
Virginia Barnard
Jayne Schwarz
Bobbie Ostler Balmer
Ann Marie Finch
Audrey Anthony
Peg D'Arpino
Dorothy Bunck
Tina Hoegler
Bonnie Lincoln
Mary Jane McDowell
Susan Moore

Branch Notes

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

The Torch is produced by
Sandra Johnston Graphics, LLC
and printed by
Magic Print Copy Center

2015 Fashion Show In Review

This year's fashion show "Open Your Hearts With Style" had a longer planning and preparation period than in the past. We loved the build-up: the challenge of meeting ticket sales and solicitation goals. Ticket sales had their final spike



in January and thanks to a couple very persistent solicitors and generous members, we had a bonanza of prizes. So many pitched in and the event itself was spectacular.



The selected fashions were expertly modeled by our newest members. There were quite a few "moves" shown on the runway. Then everyone got a chance to shake it up by doing YMCA. Next



came the most delicious chicken luncheon ever experienced. The basil and roasted pepper stuffed chicken breast was wrapped in apple wood bacon and accompanied by creamy spinach potatoes and grilled asparagus bundles. It was hard to think about leaving room for the chocolate dessert.



The entire event was meticulously planned and prepared by our awesome sisters, Jemetta Hunt and Phyllis Wayco, co-chairs



of our annual event for the second time! They assembled a very long list of volunteers



who executed their responsibilities with grace, precision and beauty.

Best of all, the net income exceeded our expectations and as a result we will, again, be able to generously fund our endowments, award the High School Scholarship and make STEM awards.



Trivia Answers

A: Ellen Swallow Richards, MIT graduate in Chemistry and co-founder of Association of Collegiate Alumnae (predecessor to AAUW), In 1899 she organized the first of a series of meetings to begin home economics as an academic discipline. In 1909 the American Home Economics Association was established under her leadership.

She wanted to apply scientific knowledge to domestic work believing that more efficient practices within the home would liberate women from the drudgery of household work freeing their time and energy to focus on other pursuits.

It also created a new pathway for women in higher education and across many careers in public and private education, business, social service, dietetics, journalism and institutional management.

One of the most influential courses Jon Sims (Judy's son) ever took was a Home Ec course in Middle School in which students were assigned finding a job and an apartment in the News Press ads, and preparing a budget. A cup of reality.

A: This year, 2014-15. Suzan Harden was elected our first President-Elect and will serve as President next year, 2015-16.

Judy Sims