

AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co.
Branch Inc.

January Meeting

Date: Sat., January 16, 2016
Board Meeting: 10:00
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM

The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Southern Fried Chicken Salad

Choice 2

Italian Hoagie with Fresh Fruit

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., Jan., 11, Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues.,
Jan., 12, otherwise payment is expected.
Price of the luncheon is \$20.00

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.

AAUW Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

January Speaker

Brandy Bezuyen

The Miracle of STEM Researcher
and LAM Disease

Our guest speaker is Branda (Brandy) Bezuyen, a young wife, mother of a seven year old daughter, a career in the food industry, and a diagnosed victim of a very rare lung disease (lumphangioliomyomatosis – LAM).

Brandy will relate the struggle she's incurred during the last two years since her diagnosis and what is being done to help her live a better life.

By having more knowledge you can encourage young women who may exhibit the same symptoms to receive help. STEM-trained women researchers have made enormous contributions in this and many other areas.

Our AAUW mission is to encourage and assist young women to choose careers in "STEM-trained" areas. We hope this will spur our Branch to new activities which support this vital area of education for women.

Be prepared to learn and to leave encouraged. See you soon!

Sharron Thompson

VP - Programs

Financial Report

Cash position	
Cash on hand 12/18/15	\$14,614
Payables & restricted	1,733
Available cash	\$12,881

Where your \$70 annual dues are Distributed: \$49 to National AAUW (\$46 tax deductible), \$12 to AAUW Florida (\$0) \$9 retained for branch operations (\$9 tax deductible).

Did you know....it costs our Branch 97 cents to print and send each copy of the Torch to members via USPS mail? Have you considered having the Torch sent to your email address?

President's Message

Happy New Year! No matter how old I grow, I still get that feeling of having a clean slate at the beginning of a new calendar year. I love the idea of a chance to "start over," make fewer mistakes, meet new people who will become friends, help people in creative and different ways, learn something new, make up for an unintentional slight from the previous year, treat my friends and family better, and be more forgiving. I hope you also have that "It's a great world!" feeling at the beginning of January and throughout this new year.

Congratulations to Peggy Drennan and Kathy Jones and their committee on pulling off a fabulous fashion show! If there were any glitches, they were well covered. I heard nothing but good things from my guests. Best of all, we netted approximately \$9,100, about \$1,100 more than we had budgeted. We will be meeting in January to discuss the allocation of the additional dollars.

Thank you to all who attended, bought raffle tickets, and bid on the auction items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Further acknowledgments and thank yous are elsewhere in this edition of the Torch. If you would like to be involved in the 2016 fashion show, there will be a job for you to do! We welcome new ideas and faces.

As you are filling in your calendar for 2016, be sure to note that the February, March, and April meetings will be held on the second Saturday of the month. This change was made for March so that we could accommodate those of you who love the March reading festival!

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting!

Suzan Harden,

President
Fort Myers Chapter AAUW

Tech Trek 2015

Eckerd College, St Petersburg, FL, Sunrise, July 2, 6:40 AM

Forty-four sleepy campers, four student counselors, four dorm monitor/mothers, three teachers and two camp directors gathered on the soccer fields for the launch of ten colorful hot-air balloons. The balloons had been constructed by the campers (girls going into eighth grade) in four classroom sessions that included the science and history of these graceful flying machines.

Other activities at the week long AAUW sponsored camp included:

- Coding of apps for smart phones and devices
- Robot building, programming and racing
- Barbie Bungee Jumping
- Hurricane simulation
- Forensics - finger prints, blood type, solved a crime
- Food Chemistry - gummy worms
- Geology - identification of rocks



My dorm monitor/mother duties ran from 7:00 am to 10:30 pm, including long treks to four two-hour classes each day, all meals and evening activities. I came home on July 3 feeling exhausted, but also exhilarated by my week with caring, educated women and curious, energetic girls. My thanks to our branch for ongoing support of Tech Trek!

Colleen Wheeler

A Chance to be Heard

Lobby Days 2016 will address current Women's issues.

This is your opportunity to observe legislative sessions and committee meetings to learn what's happening in the Legislature regarding such topics as:

- ERA
- Fair Pay
- Sick Leave
- Anti-Discrimination
- Anti-Bullying
- Anti-Human Trafficking
- Reproductive Rights

To discuss this and other women's issues and how you might get involved contact our Branch member Barb Carter.

- **Legislative priorities: ERA, Fair Pay, Sick Leave, Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, Anti-Human Trafficking, Reproductive Rights**
- **Visit key legislators and your own legislators**
- **Observe legislative sessions, committee meetings**
- **Optional Old Capitol tours, dinner Monday night**
- **Partial subsidy will be available**



For further information contact Patricia DeWitt at aaufldewitt@gmail.com or 706-766-5068

Come to Tallahassee and speak out at

AAUW Florida Lobby Days 2016

February 1-2 with briefing on the evening of January 31 at the hotel

Best Wishes to Dec & Jan Birthdays

December

Caroly Nance	Marlene Palmer
Joan Wendell	Nancy Karchunas
Rebecca Totaro	Ruth Montgomery
Mimi Manpel	

January

Judith Arbuckle	Colleen Wheeler
Nancy Terrell	Susan Rolfe
Shelley Siriano	Faye O'Briant

November Guest Becomes New Member

Both Cindy Johnson (left), guest of Alfie Sheft and Dorothy Horstkottes (right), guest of Bobbie Balmer joined us for lunch at the November meeting.

We're delighted that Dorothy chose to join our AAUW Branch at the fashion show. Please take a minute to introduce yourself to her at the next luncheon.

Dorothy is a snow bird from New York and will spend winters here in FL.



For those of you wanting membership forms, they are always available on our Website. Please go to fmlc-fl.aaauw.net.

March 12, 2016 Picnic in the Park And New Member Drive



If you haven't already done so now's the time to mark your calendars. We've planned a fun-filled day so dress comfortably, come early, bring friends and your Irish singing voice. And, riding the little train is sure to bring back fond memories.

The fun begins with golf cart tours of Lakes Park, followed by build-your-own omelet prepared by special omelet chefs. The menu will include fresh fruit, Danish rolls, coffee, tea and juice. Please let Sharron Thompson know if you need a special menu.

Our speaker will be Barb Manzo, former County employee and now Vice-President of the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation.

We have use of the lodge for the whole day so you're welcome to bring your bridge partner or favorite game and spend the afternoon. You can also try the paddle boats, canoes and bicycle surreys.

This & That

AAUW 2015/16 Season Luncheon Dates and Programs

Programs – We’ve Got Programs - Mark Your Calendars

Circle these dates on your calendar. You will want to be at each meeting to hear these dynamic, informative speakers and their exciting topics:

- January 16 **Branda Bezuyen** – “STEM and LAM” – surprising stuff!
February 13 **Phil Memoli** – VP of University Advancement
Hodges University
“New Programs to Increase Retention of Women Students”
March 12 **Barbara Manzo** “Picnic and Fun Tour at Lakes Park”
April 9 **Dr. Carol Commodore** – Consultant for Leadership,
Learning and Assessment, LLC. “Innovatively Integrating
Testing in the Classroom”

See you soon,

Sharron Thompson
VP-Programs

Interest Groups

Bridge

Contact Marilyn Myli 239-482-0272 or
marilynmy7@hotmail.com for information

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

Volunteer Drivers

If you would offer a ride to our members or guests who don't have transportation contact Nancy: nkuyoth@aol.com or 239-471-7806. Some of our members have had recent surgeries or just old knees and hips and need a ride. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for the next month.

Ladies Needing a Ride to AAUW Monthly Meeting

If you are finding it hard to get to the monthly meeting and all you need is a ride, contact Nancy: nkuyoth@aol.com or 239-471-7806. She will try to match you up with a member going your way to the meeting. No promises but she sure will try.

Branch Notes

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

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

Book Club IV 2015 – 2016 4th Wed of the month at 3:15 PM

- Jan 27 - The Slave Across the Street
by Theresa Flores
& Peggy Sue Wells
Feb 24 - A Spool of Blue Thread
by Anne Tyler
Mar 23 - Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy
by Karen Abbott
Apr 27 - All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr
May 25 - Look in My Eyes
by John Elder Robison
June 22 - TBD

Contact Cathy Chapman for specific
times and meeting places.

Attention Photographers!

- We need members to volunteer to take pictures at each of our meetings and events. Please contact Ellen Schneider, Communications Chair, or Suzan Harden to let us know you are interested. We hope several people will volunteer to share the responsibilities.
- Please note the Branch Member Information Privacy Policy on pages 12 and 13 of your directory. If you prefer your picture not be published in any of our materials, please let the photographer know prior to the picture being taken.

Film Fare

We feared the lines would be impossibly long, so we were early (really). Strangely enough, there were no lines! Everyone was already in the theater for Star Wars, this year's version, the Force Awakens! Two of my three sons with me in 1977 at the first one, were there for the new one with five other family members! We sat where we could and watched an hour of trailers before THE EVENT.

For those who don't have sons wild for Star Wars, Star Trek and all things “space,” a little background: THE Star Wars starred Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher. The first film to have those incredible special effect flights/fights that are now common place but so exciting in video games and films it set records. With the story line drawn from the Bible and Greek literature, it was the classic hero story, a battle between good and evil with a young hero (Mark Hamill) searching for his father, wisdom and his destiny hoping to find love along the way. The innocent hero had a “bad-boy” sidekick. There was humor, excitement, crazy looking beings who acted like humans! It was fantastic! Still one of, maybe THE best movie I've ever seen. My boys were electrified, even the three year old! It won seven Oscars with three other nominations. George Lucas became a household name. Even Joseph Campbell, the philosopher who helped with the script, experienced a career bump. It was renamed Star Wars: A New Hope to reflect its place as no. four in a series. Lucas made a trilogy of prequels and in subsequent films the Empire, established at the end of vol. four, falls. The Empire may have risen and fallen several times (I didn't see all of them).

Now 30 years later Princess Leia is a general in the resistance. JJ Abrams has done a wonderful job with the script. Leia, Luke and Han are older but still attractive. CP30, R2D2 and Chewbacca look the same! And there are some exciting firsts!

We found seats but not together. I sat by a seven year old who knew all the names and was as thrilled as I to see C3PO. I eavesdropped unabashedly and loved his comments. It was wonderful. Would it be as wonderful without the nostalgia? I don't know. I was on cloud nine fighting the First Order.

Should you see it? The first film was a cultural phenomenon. If you saw it, you should go for the feel good reminders. If not give yourself the opportunity to experience it. But be rested and try to sit by a seven year old. As for me, I'll research the ones I haven't seen, and watch them in order. Maybe next time we'll dress for it!

Judy Sims

December 2015 Fashion Show Wrap-up

We did it again !!!

*Kudos to Peggy Drennan & Kathy Jones
for chairing the incredibly successful
Dec 2015 Fashion Show*

To all our AAUW members:

What a show the 22nd annual AAUW Fashion Show was. Our musical theme, "Tune Up For Giving," was carried through the lovely table decorations and the piano styling of Bob Cihl. And tune up our guests did. We raised an incredible \$9,100 (and still some to be added) for our scholarships.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who attended and helped make this a tremendous success. A special thanks to our members, who worked together selling tickets and setting up auction & raffle areas and to members and patrons who made contributions and donated items.

Grandeza was as beautiful as ever, and we enjoyed the incredible fashion show put on by Chico's from the Shops at Coconut Point. The outfits were gorgeous, and the models made the outfits even more beautiful.

The live/silent auction and raffles were great fun. Sharron Thompson was fantastic as our MC/Auctioneer again this year.

A big thank you to our President, Suzan Harden, for looking over everything. Again, thanks to all of you who did so much to help us with "TUNE UP FOR GIVING". We could not do this type of fundraiser without ALL of your help.

Sincerely,
Peggy Drennan and Kathy Jones



Models in center photo are from L to R beginning in back row: Trish Gillen, Pat Magestro, Barb Carter, Karen Aarons, Jill Pellis, Jill Mawhinney and Linda Carmany. front row: scholarship recipients Barbara Stagliano and Andrea Bruno.

Behind The Scenes. . .



. . . Peggy Thomas helped models with make up while Ursula Sahakian added last minute touch ups to hair.



Ellen Schneider and scholarship recipient Barbara Stagliano set up the raffle tables . . . and then along came Jemetta Hunt with her money hat.



Ron Glasgow our perennial man in black was on hand with one of his hand painted treasures, and, to sell raffle tickets.