



the **TORCH**

October 2016 Vol. 54, No. 10 October Meeting

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2016
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
Place: The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu:

Choice 1:

Pear Delight Salad with Grilled Chicken—Caramelized Pear Slices, Feta Cheese and Almonds Atop Mixed Greens with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Choice 2:

Quiche Lorraine, served with Fresh Fruit

*Dessert: Chef's Choice or Fruit Cup
(which must be ordered when placing reservation.)*

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

Reservations:

Tina Hoegler will be taking reservations. Please contact her at 941-505-8443 or t_hoegler@msn.com no later than Mon., Oct.10, Cancellations must be made no later than Tues., Oct. 11, otherwise payment is expected. Price of the luncheon is \$20.00.

2016 TECH TREK PARTICIPANTS



Our Speaker:

Janet George, Scholarship Chair, and the 2016 Tech Trek participants share their experiences.

Fort Myers/Lee Co. Tech Trek Girls 20

Four girls were selected from our area to attend AAUW FL Tech Trek camp held at Palm Beach State College and Florida Atlantic University June 12-18. The girls came from four different Lee County Middle schools and will be in the eighth grade this year. Here is information on all four girls taken from their camp application process which included an essay and feedback after attending camp. You will meet them and hear more at our October Luncheon.



Melanie Pena Bambino is at Challenger Middle school. Melanie says, "Tech Trek interests are all of my favorite things in one and I have big goals like going to Harvard and changing the world." Melanie is a diabetic and in her essay she describes a plan to use science to develop medical cures, develop healthy foods without chemicals and end third world hunger. Her teacher described her as an "A" student who demonstrates leadership skills and would benefit from STEM activities that cannot be accomplished in the school curriculum. Melanie belonged to seven school clubs last year.

Sarah Lin-Si Laboda is at Cypress Lake Middle school. Sarah's teacher noted that she is a straight "A" eager, enthusiastic, mature student and exactly perfect for Tech Trek. Sarah said that what she was excited about "was to be able to do experiments for an entire week." She was looking forward to meeting other girls with science and math interests like hers. Sarah was the National Geography Bee (GeoBee) school champion the past two years, loves to read, plays the French horn for her school Wind Ensemble, and is a runner, dancer, former figure skater. On return from camp Sarah wrote, "it was fun, helpful, and the science activities have reinforced my love of science."

Brooke Turner is at Varsity Lakes Middle school where her Gifted Science teacher was effusive in describing her natural talents in math and science and her voracity to learn. Brooke described how a teacher determines her favorite class because such teachers are passionate about

their subjects as demonstrated by the math and science teachers she has had in the past two years. Brooke would like to change the world as a teacher or doctor by generating passion for math or science in students or patients and their families. On return from camp she says she learned, “computers can be exciting and there are many successful women in the STEM field. Tech Trek has put me back on the STEM field with new ambitions.”

Morgan Russell from Caloosa Middle school has taken engineering classes and been on the science Olympiad team for the past two years and is described by her 7th grade science teacher as having a zealous attitude for learning as well as being a great speaker, good writer and an avid reader. Morgan explained that her parents taught her that the most important thing is getting an education and without science and math one could not advance or succeed. She describes her love of science by saying, “It has taught me how to explore in a logical and beneficial way. Mathematics gives me the correct ways to express my logic I’ve learned to others.” Morgan has been involved in sports, art, choir and book clubs at school this past year. She envisions being a future scientist but does not know what type and can’t wait to find out!



New Members at the September Meeting



We welcome to our AAUW membership: (from left) Geri McArdle, Jan McPeak, Wendy Wassman and (not pictured) Nancy McDole and Ann Spielmaker. These ladies bring varied backgrounds and talents to enhance our club. All are current or retired educators.

Geri is from Springfield, Massachusetts, and most recently was working in Saudi Arabia. Currently she is employed as an adjunct professor at Harvard University. Jan is from St. Charles, Illinois, and her hobbies are knitting and reading. She taught physical education. Wendy Wassman hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is retired as a reading specialist at The Sanibel School. Nancy McDole is from Long Island, New York and is retired as assistant principal at The Sanibel School. Ann Spielmaker is from Detroit, Michigan. She is interested in the criminal justice reform. She attended Eastern Michigan University and Florida Gulf Coast University. The east and the mid-west are well represented. We are happy to have them join us!

Growing in Style

**Scholarship
Tech Trek
Youth
Leadership
Education**



**Our 23rd annual Fashion Show is
on Saturday, December 3, 2016.**

AAUW: Supporting the Advancement of Women

From October to December AAUW is busy with the preparations for our gala fashion show being held again in the beautiful Grandezza Country Club's banquet room and foyer. Be sure to mark your calendar with the date, Dec. 3. It will be a special day for all.

Our major fundraiser for the year depends on your help and all of us making contributions of our time and talents. Our models will be our new members, who will model clothing from Chico's at the Bell Tower Mall. We love our faithful members who have volunteered to help with the myriad details and activities.

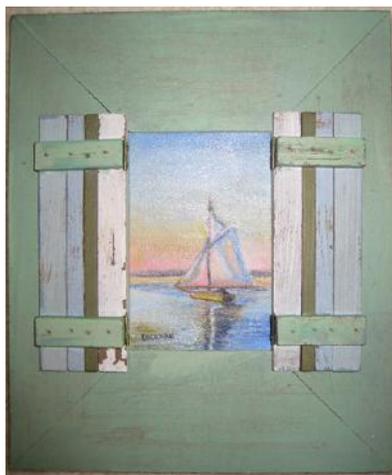
Our major need right now is items for raffle and silent and live auction such as this lovely bracelet.



Please think of your every-day activities and consider if a solicitation for donation would be in order. Almost any item is a wonderful addition. *We need so many more.* The more we have, the more we can offer. We need: gift certificates to merchants, golf courses, hand crafted items (from you, you crafty ladies), art work, jewelry, wine, hotel/resort packages, glamour certificates and so many more! We have to have them by the November 19 meeting, so there is not much time left. Hurry, hurry!

We have a special letter to send or present to the donors for their use as they would be able use the items they donate as tax-deductible items. (This letter is available by e-mail from our co-chairs or at our next two meetings.) We appreciate all those who provide items for our raffles and auctions. Please make sure the donors receive a copy of this official solicitation letter. To obtain copies of these letters, contact Peggy Drennan-Cihi or Kathy Jones. We will also have copies available at the meetings. Kathy Jones will be collecting all donations and has a form to be filled in for each item, so we can keep track of it all. We ask you to record the name of the donor, dollar amount and the name of each member who sponsored the donation. We have begun with just five items as of this writing and are awaiting the amazing variety you all provide each year. Questions about donations contact Kathy (kathyj1972@hotmail.com)

THANK YOU to all the wonderful volunteers we have so far. We are so happy to be able to depend on you. We have heard from only a few of our "snow birds." Send us e-mail and let us know how you want to participate!



Reserve a place for yourself or a table for a group. Ask your friends and get the tickets for \$40 by Oct. 31, before the increase in price.

Tickets can be reserved with Peggy Drennan-Cihi (jpdrennan@embarqmail.com)

To get the \$40-dollar tickets, payment must be made at a meeting or mailed to Peggy at 4605 S. Landings Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919 by the end of October! After that tickets go up to \$45.00.

We do have a change this year. We will NOT be able to process credit cards. Cash or checks will be accepted for any items you choose to bid on, like this charming original oil painting we have donated for the auction.

**AAUW FORT MYERS LEE CO BR
FY2016-2017 BUDGET**

Available Funds

1. Carry-over : Included in the \$4,973 carry-over is \$275 Star Bright restricted funds	\$	4,698
2. Income during year		
Membership Directory	\$	440
Membership Dues	\$	1,200
Fashion show (net)	\$	8,500
Adopt-a-Precinct -	\$	4,000
Star Bright Memorial - \$275 carry-over	\$	-
AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS AND AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS	\$	18,838

2. Program operations for year		
Membership Directory & Postage	\$	300
Torch Print & Postage	\$	260
Business Registrations and Licenses	\$	140
Convention & New Member discount	\$	660
Website, PO Box, Supplies	\$	800
Award expenses	\$	150
Programs and luncheons	\$	800
OPERATIONS EXPENSES	\$	3,110

AAUW educational opportunities	\$	500
AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	\$	500
AAUW Legal Advocacy	\$	250

Virginia Gildersleve Int'l fund - same as prior years	\$	250
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FGCU endowed scholarship fund	\$	3,300
FSW State endowed scholarship fund	\$	1,500
SWFLA Community -S. Gottcent Endowment	\$	1,600
Lee County HS grad scholarship	\$	1,000

Awards for STEM (science fair activities)	\$	600
Tech Trek - FL AAUW STEM Camp	\$	1,000
FGCU Whitaker GEMS program	\$	1,000

Memorial/ StarBright Award (carry-over \$275). No payout unless donations received	\$	-
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<u>AWARDS</u>	\$	11,500
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Carry - over to next fiscal year EXCLUDES Star bright	\$	4,000
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What Is Equity?

Equity is a Wall Street drama about women who thrive on competition, ambition, deals, and strategy, but who must carefully calibrate every aspect of their lives – professional and private – to stay equal in the game.

Why should you take your AAUW branch to see Equity?

Equity is directed, written, and financed by women! It's a collaboration among women in Hollywood and the real-life women of Wall Street who produced the film because they wanted to see their story told. Best of all, AAUW of New Jersey member Candy Straight is the Executive Producer who helped make this happen.

Equity's story also [aligns closely with AAUW's latest research report](#) on the barriers and bias that women leaders face. Fans of AAUW's advocacy, research, and programs will have plenty to discuss after seeing this film – all making for an engaging AAUW outing!

[Remember your Officers ...](#)



President's Message...

President Shelley Siriano

Hard to believe our September meeting has come and gone. It was good to see everyone who was able to attend and to welcome some new members as well. Our board meeting was productive and informative and we will make the agenda official in October when other board members have arrived back in Southwest Florida.

Our program featuring Mr. Mohammed on behalf of Pennies for Community Progress was both enlightening and highly informative. We were fortunate that he was available to increase our awareness of community needs. I'm sure all are looking forward to October to welcome the "gals of tech trek" and hear about their camp adventures.

October is a time of seasonal change, reflection, and anticipation as we get closer to our annual Fashion Show and various holiday activities.

Once again, I encourage you to not only attend the show, but also donate to the silent auction and raffle table. Your support enables our chapter to continue enriching educational opportunities for young women in our community.

See you October 15, 2016

[Suggested Reads](#)

...from AAUW Book Clubs 1-2-3

[Becoming Nicole](#) by Amy Ellis Nutt

[Skelton Road](#) by Val McDermid

[Anchors and Flares](#) by Kate Braestrup

[Florence Gordon](#) by Brian Morgan

[Sisters in Law](#) by Linda Hirshman

[Neverhome](#) by Linda Hunt

[Not Without My Daughter](#) by Betty Mahmoody

[Go Tell a Watchman](#) by Harper Lee

[One Plus One](#) by Jojo Moyes

[Being Mortal](#) by Atul Gawande

[The Invisible Thread](#) by Laura Schroff
and Alex Tresniowski

[A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the
Aftermath of Tragedy](#) by Sue Klebold

[The Sandcastle Girls](#) by Chris Bohjalian

[The Dream Lover](#) by Elizabeth Burg

[The Boys in the Boat](#) by Daniel Brown

[Ashley's War](#) by Gail Tzemach Kemmon

[Circling the Sun](#) by Paula McCain

[American Character](#) by Colin Woodard

[The Hundred Year Marathon](#) by Michael Pillsbury

[Look me In the Eye and Switched On](#)
both by John Elder Robinson

AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch
N. Fort Myers, FL 3391



Adopt-a-Precinct



Ten members and two husbands (pictured above) staffed Precinct 90 for the August 30, 2016 primary election. Each worker is paid and then donates that money to our branch to help fund our scholarships and other projects to support women and girls. Since we began this "Adopt-a-Precinct" program ten years ago, we have raised over \$30,000 for our missions. We are always in need of more volunteers – either to work election day or support our workers by providing food. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of this endeavor, please contact Carolyn Nance at cnance5240@gmail.com or 239-257-1727

Name Tags (corrected price)

Are you interested in a name tag?

Please contact Marlene Palmer. Cost: \$ 9.25
Make checks payable to Marlene Palmer,
9149 Shadow Glen Way, Fort Myers,
FL 33913 (239-768-9824) Be sure to
include your complete name.

Remember our branch email:
aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Our branch postal address:
PO Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

Remember to Vote in November

