

The **TORCH** January 2014

Vol. 52 No. 4

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch Inc.

January Meeting

Date: Sat. Jan 11, 2014
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
Board Meeting: 10:00 AM
The Landings Yacht,
Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Cold Choice

Baby Spinach Salad

Fresh strawberries, mandarin oranges, gorgonzola cheese and candied pecans topped with grilled chicken breast and served with zinfandel vinaigrette.

Hot Choice

Yankee Pot Roast

Served with root vegetables and whipped potatoes.

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 Monday, Jan. 6th Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues, Jan. 7th
otherwise payment is expected.

Luncheon Selections

If you have specific dietary needs and our menu for the month does not meet them, don't let that stop 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.

Fashion Show . . .

**Proceeds Hit
All Time High !!!**

We Stepped Up

\$10,744 Potential net income pending receipt of all funds and expenses.

And We Are Giving Back

On Dec 12th, the Board approved the Scholarship Committee's recommendation to increase the 2014 scholarship award at Edison and FGCU to \$1,500 each. Also approved were distributions as follows:

\$2,000 Edison College
\$3,000 Florida Gulf Coast Univ
\$ 200 Sue Gottcent Fund SWFLCF
\$1,000 High School Scholarship
\$ 500 AAUW Women in STEM
\$1,000 FL Tech Trek

Distribution to AAUW Funds and other awards will be determined at a later date.

January Speaker-Lt. Burch

Assist. Educational Services Commander
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Corrections

Three jail facilities in Fort Myers average a daily population of 1750 inmates. Lt. Burch is in charge of Inmate Programs for the jails. She ensures that local and federal laws, agency rules, and program policies are followed by certified corrections staff, volunteers, and contracted employees/agencies. Life Skills, Drug Treatment, GED, ESE, Self Help, Faith Based, and Cell Dogs are programs under her command.

Lt. Burch has 25 yrs experience as a Corrections Officer with dual certification by Florida as a Corrections and a Law Enforcement Officer. She has a MBA, is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute 118th Admin Officers Course Univ of Louisville, and she is a Certified Jail Mgr through the American Jail Association.

President's Message

As children we were taught to share. As teens we were taught to provide service. As successful adults, we are giving back. Our AAUW mission is to "advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Historically our Branch has worked with Lee County on child care and water management issues. A delegation went to Tallahassee to support ERA ratification and members stepped in to keep a local food program from closing after all the seasonal volunteers left. We have also presented programs on equity issues.

Now that we have proven ourselves with respect to philanthropy, let's also define our Branch in the many other ways we can make a difference in women's lives. Let's begin by supporting the March 1st celebration of Women's History Month by attending The Beginning of the Second Wave of the Women's Movement and Where We Are Now—a program jointly sponsored by AAUW and LWV of Fort Myers/Lee County.

Remember, how we choose to make a difference can be defined in many ways. We can collaborate with area organizations and schools to educate the public on women's issues. We can provide opportunities for high school students to earn service hours. We can offer unpaid internships for college students in their field of study. By working with young women and by example, we can help train tomorrow's leaders.

**How shall our Branch
define making a difference?**

Marie Glasgow,

President

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Garage Sale Alert

The date has been moved up to **Sat, Feb 22nd**. Chairs Carolyn Nance and Mary Bonnette will be asking for volunteers. Meanwhile, all items are accepted and can be dropped at Judy Sims' or brought to a meeting for transfer.

Member Input Requested

The Bylaws of our branch are being reviewed for needed revisions due to our new 501.c.3 status and required National and Florida AAUW changes. It is also a good time for our branch to consider any changes in our local governance/operations that would enhance our mission related work.

At the November Board meeting I proposed to the Board that our branch add President Elect to our list of elected positions. Now I am taking the opportunity to present you with the same information. Please review the draft of the functions and responsibilities of the President Elect and the primary reasons for adding this position as follows:

President Elect:

The office of President Elect is the first year of a two-year term of office. The elected officer serves as President Elect the first year and as President the second year.

Primary Functions:

1. The President Elect is charged with learning about all operations of the branch in preparation for serving as President.
2. The President Elect serves as the Parliamentarian – assuring that proper motions and votes are taken and recorded at all Branch meetings.

Responsibilities:

1. Assists President/Executive Board to maintain operations consistent with the Branch bylaws.
2. Attends and participates in all Executive, Board and General Meetings.
3. Provides input to the preparation of the meeting agenda.
4. Supports the President and Board by actively participating in all decision-making issues concerning the Branch.
5. Serves on Finance committee for the preparation of the next fiscal year budget.
6. Provides direction to Nominating Committee (job descriptions, qualifications needed)
7. Serves on Membership and Ways & Means committees.
8. Attends to physical arrangements/needs for the monthly membership meetings.

Support for President Elect Position:

- Greater continuity and a smoother transition between presidencies/boards lessens the burden of the President.
- Change from two year presidency to one year as President Elect and second year as President may result in members willing to accept the nomination.

The Board and I would greatly appreciate your input. Do you agree that our branch would gain from adding this position; or do you think this additional Board position is unnecessary? Besides a yes/no response, your comments and observations would be greatly appreciated. Responses can be made by email to mariemglasgow@gmail.com or to aauwleecounty@gmail.com or by calling me at 239-691-1666.

Members present at the January 11 general meeting of our branch will be asked to indicate their support for adding the President Elect position. Timely response of members not attending the meeting will be counted and much appreciated.

Scholarships and Awards: STEM Award

Why do we work so hard at our fundraising? Are we so focused on money? No. We're focused on our scholarships and awards and see them as an important part of our mission. We have accomplished so much in the last 13 years that we have a complicated system of endowments and board approved annual awards. It's difficult for even long-time members to understand. At the January meeting our scholarship brochure will be available to explain each scholarship and award, its history and how it works.

Several of AAUW's founding members held degrees in the sciences. AAUW helped Madam Curie fund her radium research in 1920. In 1938, AAUW stepped up when Albert Einstein appealed for assistance for a woman scientist fleeing Nazi Germany and by 1941 AAUW formalized its War Relief Committee which aided more than 100 women scientists to escape, resettle and find jobs. AAUW has always been supportive of women in science. Today we continue that tradition, in a small way, with our STEM Award (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to encourage and support girls' interests in these areas. Saturday, January 25th the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held at the Harborside Convention Center. Our board has approved an award of \$500 to a top female entrant. An additional \$100 "First Timer" award will be given by AAUW members.

Continued on page 4

Welcome New Members

Karen Aarons is a dual member with the Atlantic County, NJ Branch. She has been a member of that Branch since 1976 and served as President and chair of numerous committees. Karen is a graduate of Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, BA and Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, MA. She taught in public school BK (before kids) and subsequently worked for the Miss America Org. and the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Authority where she served as the Director of Tourism Marketing before retiring in 2006. Karen and husband, Bill, have three daughters and three grandchildren. Karen enjoys traveling, especially north to visit the grandchildren, reading, swimming, biking and birding. Their next trip will be to India and Nepal to visit the major cities and wildlife preserves.



Janet George is a new resident of Fort Myers and loving it! She is a retired nurse who spent most of her career monitoring, teaching and directing Quality Improvement in Long Term Care. Janet hails from New Brunswick, Canada. She graduated as an RN from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, Montreal and holds a BSN from George Mason University and an MA in HR Training from Marymount University. Since retirement Janet has volunteered at Hospice of the Chesapeake and at Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side, MD serving on the Board and as the museum's Librarian. Janet spent many years sailing with two ventures down the waterway and up the East Coast as far as Gloucester, MA. Janet's current interests include family, church, traveling, birding, live theater and music.



Best Wishes to Our Dec and Jan Birthdays

December Birthdays

Nancy Karchunas	Sondra Marshall
Ruth Montgomery	Jackie Albaum
Marlene Palmer	

January Birthdays

Leona Fliss	Colleen Wheeler
Judith Arbuckle	Susan Rolfe
Shelley Siriano	Faye O'Briant

This & That

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 1, 2014 . . . 9:00 AM

In Celebration of
Women's History Month
AAUW and LWV

invite you to attend a joint meeting with
guest speaker **Sonia Pressman Fuentes**
Co-founder of NOW,
National Organization for Women.

Sonia will address

**The Beginning of the Second Wave
of the Women's Movement
and
Where We Are Today**



AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co.
Branch Inc.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) was formed in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt as an outgrowth of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Like AAUW it has fought for women's empowerment. It is political without being partisan.

LOCATION: The Landings-Helm Dining Room

RESERVATIONS: Call 239-278-1032 or e-mail lwvlee@yahoo.com by Tuesday, February 28th.

COST: \$15 for breakfast. Checks preferred payable to LWV of Lee County FL.

Ginger Lew will Speak at Naples AAUW

Greater Naples AAUW invites us to hear Ginger Lew, former Assistant Deputy Counsel to Hillary Clinton, speak on the topic Leaning In – Can Women Have It All.

The program will be at Hodges Univ, Naples, on Sat. Feb 1st, at 9:30 am. Continental breakfast \$5. No reservations are necessary.

2655 Northbrooke Drive, Naples
175 South to Exit 111, East on
Immokalee to Northbrooke

Book Sale – Book Club I

Please bring to our January meeting all books you want to share. The proceeds of this sale fund our operating expenses. Come prepared to take home a year's worth of reading at bargain prices. Audio books and piano/organ music are also available.

PACE Collection

Do you have unopened lotion, shampoo, soaps, etc. Donate them at the Jan meeting to PACE school for girls. The items go into their store and students buy them with credit earned in the classroom.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, January 7, 2014- 12 noon Mimi's Café- 5070 Bell Tower Shops
Thursday, February 6, 2014- 12 noon- Sunshine Grille- 8700 Gladiolus Dr. (location previously Arizona Pizza)

Notify Mary Kellner 239-599-8458 or mkellner45@yahoo.com if you can make it.

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 239-480-0272 or email marilynmy7@hotmail.com

Book Groups

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

Mahjongg

Contact Jean Schoenthaler 239-277-5174.

Veritas

Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 1:30 at Judith Sims.
Continuing The Rightous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion.

Movie & Dinner

Wednesday, Jan 22 at 3:30 at Judith Sims.
Where Do We Go Now? Muslim and Christian women manipulate their men to avoid religious war. Dinner and discussion follow.

Additions to Directory

Karen Aarons
11620 Court of Palms Apt 201
Fort Myers, FL 33908
609-204-6466

Kaarons@comcast.net

Janet George
15029 Sea Crest Blvd
Fort Myers, FL 33919
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Olivia Shuster
21523 Indian Bayou Dr
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
239-463-5613
oliviashuster@aol.com

Film Fare

There's a feast in film this season. Not to be a spoiler, here's a taste of just a few.

In *Philomena*, Judy Dench plays a working class Irish woman seeking a son adopted (or sold?) through the Catholic Church after WW II. The painfully slow process is lightened by the contrast of the laconic, somewhat burned-out sophisticated reporter and the humor and humanity of Dench's character. The end is strong and shocking.

The Book Thief, based upon the best seller, is set in Nazi Germany. A young girl has lost her family and is placed in an unlikely home. She finds love in unexpected and varying places, The power of the written word and connection to other minds is suggested to be essential to one's humanity, even growth in inhumane times..

Twelve Years a Slave is beautifully done and performed. The violence, horror and our emotions are barely balanced by occasional kindnesses or the banality of plantation work or the physical beauty of location. We are reminded again of man's inhumanity to man, the extent to which even good people will go when self-interest dictates, and the importance of connection for our humanity.

This Holiday Season, let's connect with friends and family, and be thankful for our blessings and abundance.

Judy Sims

Financial Statement

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co.		
Cash in Wells Fargo Bank, 12/18/13		\$15,948
Memorial Fund Reserve	\$ 655	
Scholarships Carry-Over	\$ 4,949	
Payables & Harry Chapin	\$ 174	
Fashion Show Fund-raiser (to be distributed)	\$ 7,434	
Reserved	\$13,212	
Available Cash		\$ 2,736

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
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Fashion Show In Review

Ladies:

The GREAT news is that we netted \$10,744 for our 20th annual fashion show. A tremendous thank you to all of you who attended this incredible event at Grandezza, made contributions, donated items, or were a part of our amazing committees that worked so hard. As you know, this is our major fundraiser for the year, and we could not be more proud of everyone who helped make this such a success. Grandezza was magnificent, the food was wonderful, Razzle Dazzle dazzled us with their beautiful outfits. The live/silent auction and raffle were lots of fun and very profitable. All in all, it was more than outstanding. Again, thanks to all of you who did so much to help us "Step Up and Give Back".

Phyllis and Jemetta,

Fashion Show Co-chairs



Mary Bonnette



Peggy Drennan



Sue Tracy



Peri Pantanzes



Sharron Thompson



Linda Lober



Nancy Karchunas



Lori Folgate-Carey



*The setting was
... elegant
decorations divine,
and a good time was
had by all.*



Over 700 Southwest Florida students from public schools, private schools and home-schools will compete in the 55th Science and Engineering Fair for over \$900,000 in scholarships. There will be an estimated 400 Science Fair projects and approximately 300 ingenious Inventions. Judging begins at 9 AM. Cathy Tucker is looking for volunteers to help judge entries and determine our awardees. The Inventors' Fair will be open to the public between 1:30 and 4 PM and the Science Fair from approximately 2 PM to 5 PM.

Winners will compete at the State Science Fair. Five students from Lee and Charlotte Counties will compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May, the premier global science competition for students grades 9-12 with 1500 high school students from 70 countries, regions and territories vying for \$3 million in awards and prizes. Participants are judged on their creative ability and scientific thought as well as the thoroughness, skill and clarity shown in their projects. By our participation in the Science Fair we support our community and future women scientists.

Judy Sims

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