

The **TORCH** Summer 2014

Vol. 52 No. 9

AAUW **Fort Myers/Lee Co.** **Branch Inc.**

September Meeting

Date: Sat, Sept 20, 2014
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
Board Meeting: 10:00 AM
The Landings Yacht,
Golf & Tennis Club

2014-15 Meeting Information

Mark your calendars for our monthly AAUW meetings on the third (3rd) Saturday of the month. We will continue meeting at The Landings in the Helm Club as another search of area venues and requests for prices proved that location to be our best bet. The monthly selections will again include a hot or cold plate, dessert, and tea or coffee for \$18.00. Plus the staff has been very good at meeting our special dietary requests.

Arrangements are still being made for our monthly programs. This information will be provided to the membership in September. Please look for your Torch during the first week of each month beginning September. The following are our meeting dates with notations as to special recognition or business that will be conducted during the branch meeting. Doors to the dining room open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon, and programs begin at 12:30 followed by a brief business meeting of the membership.

- Sept. 20** – Acceptance of proposed 2014-15 Budget
- Oct. 18** – Fashion Show tickets go on sale
- Nov. 15** – Recognition of AAUW Fund Honorees
- Dec. 12** – Social event in lieu of regular meeting to accommodate holiday plans
- Jan. 17** – Nomination Committee Appointed
- Feb. 7** – Fashion Show fundraiser at Grandezza
- Mar. 21** – Nominated Slate of Officers for 2015-16 FY announced
- Apr. 18** – Election of 2015-16 Officers
- May 16** – Installation of 2015-16 Officers

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. **sets record fundraising** **in 2013-14 !!!**

We started FY 2013-14 with a modest budget, hoping to raise \$12,000 from the Fashion Show, Garage Sale, Book Sale and Directory Ads to cover operations and awards. However, all of these scheduled events brought in much more than budgeted. Additionally, we realized income from Chico's Shopping, Derby Day and an election.

The exact income for the year is unavailable as the accounts are just being closed. We estimate that we'll be close to double the amount budgeted. As a result our Branch was able to further education for young women through five \$1,000 scholarships; add generously to our endowments at FGCU and Florida SouthWestern State College (Edison); add to the Star-Bright Memorial Fund to award a \$1,000 scholarship at Lee County Technical Institute; award \$2,500 to STEM initiatives; award \$3,000 to a team of students from NFM Academy of the Arts to participate in the World Wide Competition of Odyssey of the Mind; add \$2,750 to AAUW Funds; and add \$500 to the V. Gildersleeve Fund.

We do not expect to duplicate this income level next year and we will not be able to be as generous. But in the meantime, let's applaud the results of all opportunities taken during 2013-14!

What our Members are Reading

The following books are recommended by members of Book Club IV. This group will resume monthly meetings on the 24th of September.

- Invention of Wings*
by Sue Monk Kidd
- Killing Jesus:*
A History by Bill O'Reilly
- The Signature of All Things*
by Elizabeth Gilbert
- Upstairs at the White House*
by J.B. West
- Who Stole the American Dream*
by Hedrick Smith
- Wild*
by Cheryl Strayed

President's Message

A nap, an adult time out was Juliana's reply to Freud's question "What does a woman want?" And after a very busy AAUW year, I wanted that time out. So Ron and I packed two small bags and set out on a 10,000 mile road trip. On the way to CA we took in five presidential libraries, the UFO museum, and the San Diego Zoo. Then winding our way to WI, our stops included Zion Natl. Park, Bryce Canyon and Salt Lake City. In WI it was all family as we celebrated our grandson's 18th birthday and HS graduation. Needless to say as wonderful as these experiences were, the last 1,500 miles to FL resembled a zip line because I needed another time out—from travel.

Now it's back to AAUW. In between summer travel plans and maybe some naps, your elected officers are putting together a budget, updating membership, reminding members to renew, lining up programs for our monthly meetings, putting together a directory, and asking members to fill vacancies so that our many hands will make our work light and fun.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in September and even more of you in October and November. There will be so many stories to share. Just remember to mark your calendars for the third (3rd) Saturday of the month and call in your reservations.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Exciting Lineup of Programs **for Coming Season**

Our AAUW branch meeting programs for 2014-15 are still tentative, but include presentations relating to AAUW State Tech Trek, Women's Health Risks, Women's History Month, Black History Month, Odyssey of the Mind and a special invitation to attend The Nutcracker ballet at Barbara B. Mann on December 12. Watch your Torch for more details.

Odyssey of the Mind and GEMS

In May our Branch Officers were presented with two requests to fund opportunities for local middle school students. We were asked to help send a team of seven girls and one boy from NFM Academy of the Arts to the Odyssey of the Mind 2014 World finals at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. They needed to raise \$10,000; we became one of their major contributors with a donation of \$3,000. We received a proud report that the NFM team placed 10th in competition with 836 teams from all around the world. To view a video of the donation go to <http://nfa.leeschools.net/>. In return for our generosity, NFM Academy of the Arts will place an AAUW Fort Myers/Lee



County "ad" in all their programs during the coming school year.

The second request was for a donation of \$1,000 for the FGCU Whitaker Center GEMS program. "Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) is a hands-on program dedicated to science education

for regional middle school girls by enthusiastic professionals and undergraduates as facilitators and role models in a girls-only environment. GEMS provides a launching pad to develop an early interest in engineering, math, and science as an impetus to higher education and highly-skilled careers. Previous activities have included bioengineering, chemistry, biological science, biotechnology, forensics, astronomy, math, civil engineering and environmental science. Our donation will help purchase supplies needed for this fall when 100 girls from Lee/Collier County will make wonderful discoveries. For more information on this program go to www.fgcu.edu/WhitakerCenter/gems.html

AAUW Holds Unique Fundraiser

Derby Day



Before the five-hour May 3rd Derby Day at the Glen event, some ticket holders worried "What would keep them occupied that long?" They got their answer as soon as the track windows opened and the first of seven cinema races ran on the big screen. With each race the excitement grew; betting doubled and tripled; the ladies and gents in derby hats paraded and solicited votes; volunteers couldn't keep up with the demand for Chinese Auction tickets; and regular trips were made to check on silent auction bids. As promised, there was a lot of shopping going on and all of this was done with wonderful live Dixieland music in the background. The 250 participants had difficulty finding enough time to partake in Bourgeois Stew, Bourbon Chocolate Bread Pudding and mint juleps, all signature Kentucky fare.

Marie and Ron Glasgow chaired this event with proceeds going to AAUW and ALS Florida. Branch members Jayne Schwarz, Sharron Thompson and Shannon Wright staffed the betting and cashier booths. Member Candace Huetteman won the top Derby Hat prize. Everyone had a great time.



"Hand & Foot" New Card Club

The Hand and Foot group was launched in April as a new AAUW group. Hand and Foot is a North American game related to Canasta, in which each player is dealt two sets of cards: the hand which is played first, and the foot, which is played when the hand has been used up. There are numerous variations of this game. The most usual version is for four players in partnership; these rules were contributed by Marilyn Edwards as "The Indiana Rules." It can also be played by six in two teams of three, or by any number of people playing as individuals.

This group will play this coming year on The first and fourth Mondays of each month from 1 PM to 4 PM. Members will volunteer and sign up to host the group at their house during the season. The dates are set and you can call or email Nancy Kuyoth (239-471-7806 nkuyoth@aol.com) to be added to the group and to sign up for hosting.

Marilynn Edwards is the founder and can be reached at edwardsmailynn@gmail.com. (Remember two n's) She is north right now and will be back in the fall.

We have 7 members now but need a few more to make up at least two tables and to act as substitutes.

Hand and Foot is easy and we would love to help you learn; in just one hand you will have enough knowledge to enjoy the game. If you have any questions email either Marilyn or Nancy.

AAUW Poll Workers Raise Scholarship Funds

Our AAUW branch members have worked the last 12 Fort Myers elections and have raised over \$20,000 for our scholarship funds. There will be a Primary Election on August 26, 2014 and a General Election on November 4, 2014.

Being a poll worker requires a 3-hour training session prior to the election. The election day will require a 14-15 hour commitment. You must also be a registered voter in Lee County. We especially need someone who is fluent in Spanish and we particularly need four new volunteers for the August primary.

It's a long day, but we're all fun to work with. If you think this is a fundraiser you would like to be a part of, please contact Carolyn Nance at 257-1727.

Our Year in Review



The Landings, new location for luncheons.



AAUW Ft Myers members turn a Garage Sale into an event.

Chico's Sale



Jemetta Hunt, Pat Allen and Phyllis Wayco finish 1/2 marathon in Sarasota.



Ellen Schneider announces new 501 C 3 non-profit status for AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch. Members gather to celebrate.



Ann Douglas and Sonia Pressman Fuentes were among interesting guest speakers.

Election Day - Poll Workers Fundraiser



2013 Fashion Show Proceeds hit all time high.



Scholarship Recipients Linda Lober & Shannon Pool



Many members receive awards



Bob-bie Balmer



Sharron Thomson, Marie Glasgow and Suzan Harden attend FL, AAUW Convention.



Members Judge Science Fair



Derby Day Fundraiser



"It was a very good year"

Film Fare

If you like time plots you may enjoy *"Edge of Tomorrow"* with Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt, a military-*"Groundhog Day."* Tom Cruise again plays a superficial, charming (or cheesy) type who mans up (morally) when necessary. Sound familiar? It is worth seeing just for the beautiful Cobra Emily Blunt performs over and over and over again. Lately when I recommend a movie, friends say, "but did Norton like it?" He gave it 4/5 Norton-Stars.

Fearing *"Belle"* was "just a chick flick" Norton was reluctant but then gave her 4 stars too! This is a British drama based upon historical characters. A companion book was published at the time of the film's release. One reviewer wrote of its "subtle social consciousness" which I thought not so subtle at all but well done. Also well done is the psychology of the aristocratic British dealing with issues which still face us today.

A treat for the eyes and the ears, *"Belle"* can be a complex feast for the mind or, just a great chick flick!

Judy Sims

Coming Soon - Travel Group

Have you ever wanted to take a vacation but didn't know where to go? Or maybe you knew but didn't know what you should see or what tour company would meet your needs?

This fall I'm starting a new AAUW travel group. I would guess that you have taken trips that were your favorites you would like to share with others. Here's your chance to do just that.

This travel group will meet monthly at a member's homes. Each month, one member will share a favorite trip, showing photos and mementos, answering questions and leading a discussion about the locale. People would be able to ask questions or add to the discussion. Afterwards light snacks could be provided to help members socialize.

Interested? Questions? Volunteers to present? Please email me at peri.pantazes@gmail.com . Peri Pantazes

Summer Birthdays

July

Mary Bonnette Cathy Chapman
Ellen Schneider

August

Carol Edmier Aubrey Harwood
Jemetta Hunt Sandra Lignell
Marilyn Myli Peri Pantazes
Mary Schoenheider Alfie Sheft
Sharron Thompson Cathy Tucker

May Meeting in Review

What a turnout! Thirty plus members welcomed two guests: Christine Needham a friend of Carol Ann Benning, and Nancy Terrell who found us on the internet. Nancy just moved to Fort Myers from Hawaii and before the meeting was over, she became our newest member. Nancy's introduction to the membership will appear in the September Torch.

Dr. Barron, Hospital Director at the Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), provided us with insights unto the care given to injured wildlife brought to the center. Based on an earlier Board decision, our branch donated \$50 to CROW in lieu of the customary gift card given to past program presenters.

During the Business Meeting, the usual quick acceptance of the minutes and YTD financial report was voiced by the membership, but our Branch accomplishments and philanthropy were just too phenomenal to let it go at that. So we took the time to acknowledge the work and results. (See Record fundraising in 1013-14, Page 1)

We tried once more to thank our outgoing VP of Membership, Shelley Siriano, for her gracious and welcoming words to all new members and guests during the past two years. Alas, she was not able to attend the meeting. We'll keep on trying.



Bonnie Lincoln, past president 1993-95, inducted the officers elected to serve during the 2014-15 FY. Taking the oath of office were Marie Glasgow, President (2nd year of term); Suzan Harden, President Elect (1st year, President the 2nd year); Colleen Wheeler, VP Programs (1st year); Nancy Kuyoth, VP Membership (1st year); Nancy Karchunas, Secretary (2nd year). Jayne Schwarz, Treasurer (3rd year) was not able to attend and will sign a written oath of office.



Marie thanked all members present for the many ways in which they participated in the social, educational and fundraising activities this past year.



NOTE:

2014-15 schedules for all groups will be in the September issue of the Torch.

Directory Additions/Changes New Members

Nancy Terrell
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808-368-4620
swansongbvi@yahoo.com

Maisy Page
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239-898-6597
maisypage@gmail.com

Address Changes Mimi Manpel

10100 Cypress Cove Dr, #414
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Phone & email no change

Muriel Freedman
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