

The **TORCH** September 2014

Vol. 53 No. 1

AAUW

Fort Myers/Lee Co.
Branch Inc.

September Meeting

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

Special Meeting

2014-15 Board/Planning Meeting
Monday, September 8, 4:00 pm
Stonewood Grill
All interested members welcome.

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Seafood Salad Croissant w/Chips

Choice 2

Pear Delight Salad w/Grilled Chicken

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, Sept 15, Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues,
Sept 16, 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.

September Speaker

Shirley Reid Tech Trek Camp Director

Tech Trek Florida was held July 13-19 at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Following interviews and essays, forty eighth grade girls from various areas of the state were selected to attend the camp. Our branch donated \$1,000 in support of this STEM activity.

Shirley Reid, Camp Director for 2014 is our speaker at the September 20 meeting. Shirley will tell us about that wondrous week of discovery and will share some of the plans for 2015.



President-Elect's Message

Welcome back for the FY 14-15 program year! It is an honor to serve as the Fort Myers/Lee County Branch's first President-Elect. I look forward to working with the Board and with all of you to achieve the goals we have set for this year.

At the national level, AAUW continues to draw attention to the issue of sexual assault on college campuses around the nation, work for passage of the Equal Pay Act, advocate for opportunities for women in the STEM careers and develop strategies for empowering women to run for office at all levels of government.

In addition to the AAUW OUTLOOK magazine you receive at home, our wonderful monthly TORCH is a great way to stay informed about AAUW activities. AAUW is also available in several electronic formats. However we stay informed, together we will have a great year! See you soon!

Suzan Harden

President-Elect
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

President's Message

We're Back! Welcome!

Last year was extremely successful in terms of funds raised and funds awarded. It was a year that offered many opportunities and we made the most of them. Our summer issue of the Torch chronicled this amazing year of over the top fundraisers - Fashion Show, Garage Sale, Derby Day, unexpected income of \$4,000 from Adopt-A-Precinct - and all the awards we were able to make.

This FY 14-15 will again provide excellent opportunities and we need to take advantage of them. Primarily, I urge our members to support Adopt-A-Precinct. With the help of husbands, Carolyn Nance was just barely able to staff the June and August elections, but it was too close for comfort. We do need volunteers for the November election. This one day of effort from 12 members will add another \$2,000+ to our funds. Because of Adopt-A-Precinct donations we do not plan to hold any fundraisers other than our February Fashion Show.

You may be asking why this is so important.

Here are a few reasons:

- ◆ There will be no elections income in FY 15-16. Voters are switching to mail ballots and early voting and the future of Adopt-A-Precinct is unknown.
- ◆ Being a poll volunteer requires much less time from each volunteer than any other fundraiser.
- ◆ It is an opportunity to get personally acquainted with the other 11 members.
- ◆ Your donation of election wages to AAUW is tax deductible.
- ◆ Most importantly we have a goal of funding our FGCU and FSWSC (Edison) endowments to an amount which will yield annually a \$1,000 to \$1,500 scholarship each. Why? Because our mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, and we want to ensure our scholarship awards will continue regardless of unforeseen circumstances.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Member Contributions

A Few Good Women Needed at AAUW-FL

The AAUW-Florida Nominating Committee knows that all our branches have talented and enthusiastic members. We trust that some of them will be interested in running for the state officer positions to be elected in April 2015.

We value your suggestions to insure that we have good candidates, and encourage you to inspire and promote members to become candidates for the following state office positions whose terms begin July 1, 2015: President-Elect, Director for Finance, Director for Program, and Director for Public Policy.

The position descriptions for the above positions and the Candidate Vita form may be downloaded from the AAUW Florida Website: aauw-fl.aauw.net. Click Member Center; enter the password, Florida1929, as requested; click Forms; scroll down to locate desired form and click on the form.

These offices are essential to "Making It Happen in AAUW-Florida." Note that the candidate vita form must be received by the Nominating Committee Chair no later than November 15, 2014.

Jacqueline D'Alessio

Chair AAUW Florida
Nominating Committee

Email: jqline@verizon.net; phone:
941-236-3926 or 908-722-5079

Scholarship Report It Was A Very Good Year

2013-14 was a banner year for our fund raising and giving. **Both exceeded \$24,500!** We gave to ALS, Harry Chapin, STEM Activities and the AAUW FL's Tech Trek. Donations to our three endowed scholarships totaled \$7,200 with an additional \$5,000 going to local scholarships and awards.

More information about donations and recipients can be found in the directory and in future editions of our Torch. We want you to know and feel good about our giving!

We did great!

Judy Sims

The Lamentable Acronym (almost a R-A-P)

When you form a group-no mater the size
It pays you to initialize
You plan and work and go, go, go
For now you are an NGO-
Non Governmental that is

Have you ever heard of the BPFA
It was very far away
Beijing that was-'95 the year

The status of women is not that great
The UN wants us to PAR-TIC-I-PATE
You'll hear CSW when you're there
In New York and everywhere

Economic and social and so much more
It's ECOSOC you're looking for
It'll be right there on the door
It could be in the CCUN-sorry
I've done it again
ACRONYM BLUES-EH?

Well I've talked you in and I've talked
you out
You have learned what the UN is all about
More or less, with the talkin' blues

If nothing else be sure you know
That we're in a vibrant NGO-NO blues
there!

We plan-work and so we grow
Advocate, educate, learn-like a pro
CFU-W-THAT'S US-WOMEN'S
SPHERE!

If you want to go to heaven and don't
know where
To go-be sure to join an NGO
You've listened well, with good intent
and all
Joined the ACRONYM LAMENT!

Bobbie Balmer

Fashion Show Update



Ladies, mark your calendars for **February 7, 2015** when this season's fashion show will again be held at Grandezza Country Club. Our theme is **"OPEN YOUR HEART WITH STYLE"**. Sandy Johnston has created a beautiful design for our tickets and program. Tickets will go on sale at the October 18, meeting. The price will be \$40 until January 1, then they will increase to \$45. Jemetta and I won't be back for the October meeting, however you can make reservations with Faye O'Brian and Carolyn Nance. Our committees are lined up and we look forward to another great year and successful fashion show.

Phyllis Wayco

New Members

Although Nancy Terrell once had a beach house in northern Florida, this is her first move to South Florida. She hails from Hawaii, the home of her two sons and grandchildren. Nancy went to the same high school as Carolyn Nance, to DePauw University for her undergraduate work and U of SMN where she earned a MA in Literature.



Children of the 1960s and 70s will remember her as "Miss Nancy" of Romper Room, a children's teaching program on ABC out of NYC. She continued in the field of television, producing 700 videos (on-location documentaries) for General Electric and winning two American Press Awards. When her sons left for college, Nancy continued her life-long passion for sailing by moving to the Caribbean where she lived aboard her CSY 37' sloop.

At this juncture two important changes occurred. She met her life partner, Dave Cooper, and landed a job as an international journalist covering yachting life, regattas and boating activities for national and international yachting magazines. Dave and Nancy lived on a 65' classic trawler, M/Y Swan Song, for 15 years, cruising thousands of miles through the Bahamas, Caribbean, South & Central America and Mexico before heading off to Hawaii in 2009. After moving to Cape Coral in 2014, they will be splitting their year between their new Florida home and Hawaii. Nancy is an artist and is an active member of the Ft. Myers Art League and the Cape Coral Art League. She loves Florida and looks forward to an active retirement here.

Best Wishes to Our September Birthdays

Carol Ann Benning	Barbara Goodwin
Naomi Bloom	Helen McDonald
Susie Draper	Jean Schoenthaler
Myrna Frantz	Judith Sims
Muriel Freedman	

This & That

Just Showing Up

In lieu of resolutions, let's consider a principle that is deceptively simple. It is called "Just Show Up." It involves moving your body toward your dream, or toward where what you want most logically could happen. Just showing up works with nearly every phase of our lives—in learning, in giving our support to a friend or a cause by being there physically. How often do we avoid showing up for what we need to do? It is so easy to find a reason to not go, to not be there—our assorted fears, procrastination, even laziness!

The word "just" in this maxim reminds us that showing up is already enough! Woody Allen has quipped that "showing up is 80% of success." We don't need prerequisites like motivation, undue passion or fuzzy feeling. We only imagine that these are necessary to get going. But does know better. The brilliant father of theatrical direction, Konstantin Stanislavski told his actors, "Do the thing! The feeling follows!" And method acting as a system was born. Remember the phrase, for that is how we can make our days productive. We can find this immeasurably useful in life offstage. Do I need to write? I sit down at my computer and begin writing. Do you want more friends? Go where prospective friends are. Show up where they will be.

Sometimes we conjure a welcome ritual to precede main events in our lives. Twyla Tharp whom we watched for three decades as a prima ballerina and now as a choreographer has written an enlightening book entitled *The Creative Habit*, where she urges us to return to rituals. Though we have come to see them as outside our busy lives, an incremental shift of attitude may prove their worth. Rituals are often a part of one's preparation along with being there.

Pat Ryan Madson writes of the ancient and contemporary importance of ritual in the arts and thinking of modern Japan. She along with hundreds of Americans go each year to study the beautiful rituals in preparation for the tea ceremony, the grinding of the ink before practicing calligraphy, the actors' ceremonial scrubbing of the stage before beginning the Noh drama. These meaningful acts have the effect of creating order and harmony, of providing the calming stability we want and need, not only for the arts but for dealing with life.

So, as with all things, there are many facets to showing up, to being there—there, in the Locus in space that bears your name. And Just Showing Up is where it all will begin.

Juliana Fairchild-Nord

Poll Worker Fundraiser

The August 26, 2014 election was the 13th time that AAUW members (and 3 husbands) have manned precinct 90 to raise funds for our mission of supporting educational goals of girls and women. In the previous 12 elections our volunteers have earned \$21,790. Over the years we've had 38 different volunteers. It is a long day, but invariably a new worker will say it was fun, informative, and a good way to get to know other members.



Workers for this election: Judith Sims, Ellen Schneider, Marie and Ron Glasgow, Nancy Kuyoth, Colleen Wheeler, Tina Hoegler, Mary Bonnette, and Steve and Carolyn Nance.

Our next election will be November 4. It requires a three-hour training (in October) and a 15-hour commitment on election day. This is a way to help our community and also provide funds for our scholarships. For more information or to volunteer, please call me at 257-1727.

Carolyn Nance,
Adopt-A-Precinct Coordinator

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will resume in Nov.

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 Kuyouth 239-471-7806
Meets 1st & 4th Mondays.

Mahjongg

Contact Jean Schoenthaler 239-277-5174
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1:00 PM.

Travel

Contact Peri Pantazes 239-225-9108 or 609-226-9733.

Movie & Dinner - TBA

Veritas - TBA

Film Fare

This summer's "Planet of the Apes," a sequel to the classic with Charlton Heston and Roddey McDowall, was surprisingly thought provoking and entertaining. Scientists experimenting with a virus to treat Alzheimer's found it incredibly effective with apes. It quickly made them become as intelligent as the scientists. However, this miracle virus causes a lethal infection among humans and decimates the global population except for those fortunate enough to be naturally immune. Soon a few humans are struggling as societal structures have collapsed while apes are empowered and forming their own society.

The apes develop a moral code with family values and loyalty to their tribe, i.e. those who look like themselves. Their creed becomes "Apes don't kill apes."

Those apes who were cruelly treated by scientists view all humans as dangerous enemies. Those who experienced human love and compassion know that some humans are capable of negotiation and co-existence.

Too human like, some of the apes become power hungry, breaking their creed and starting civil and global war. We know that the human society as it reforms is an opportunity for those seeking power. Not so different than those hominids occupying Syria, Iraq, and Chechnya.

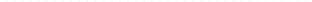
There is a subliminal piece of hope. The opening shot is of an ape's face, so ugly so inhumane. The closing image is the same ape but he seems human. He could be an ally. We are more alike than we are different if only we could see it.

Judy Sims

Branch Notes

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

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Judy Sims