

The *TORCH* December 2014

Vol. 53 No. 4

AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee Co.
Branch Inc.



OPEN YOUR HEART WITH STYLE

Colleagues and fellow AAUW Members: Our 21st Annual Fashion Show is fast approaching. Be sure to mark your calendar for Sat., Feb. 7, 2015. This year's event will be held at Grandezza Country Club located in Estero, FL. As you know, the success of our largest fund raiser depends upon the contributions of all of our members. First we want to thank all members who have already signed up for various committees. We greatly appreciate all that you continue to do for AAUW and this upcoming event.

Modeling fashions by Razzle Dazzle will be eight of our new members. Glamorization will be provided by Peggy Thomas, a Mary Kay representative. Table decorations by Marilyn Myli and committee. Raffle tickets will be sold again this year by our special -Men In Black - supportive husbands of our AAUW members. Sharron Thompson will be our Auctioneer. Special thanks to Sandra Johnston for the fabulous ticket design.

Tickets are available for \$40 until December 31, by contacting Faye O'Briant or Carolyn Nance. As of November 22, one hundred fifteen tickets were sold plus 2 tables of ten each reserved. The price will increase to \$45 after January 1, 2015. Don't delay! We are expecting to sell out!

💖 *How do we reach our net goal of \$8,000 for awards and scholarships?*

- 💖 Sell 180 tickets one by one.
- 💖 Buy a raffle ticket to win a \$100 bill for the Money Hat.
- 💖 Be a Patron by writing a check to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County.
- 💖 Sponsor a table for 10 and enjoy the day with family and friends.
- 💖 Buy an extra ticket and give it to a friend or family member.
- 💖 Solicit and/or donate items for the raffle and silent/live auctions.

Ideas include: gift certificates to restaurants, area merchants, golf courses, tickets to movie and live theaters, hand crafted items, gift baskets, art work, jewelry, wine, etc.

Marilyn Marr & Gail Visgillo
Select outfits and accessories for the February Fashion Show



President's Message

Just as November is the month of reflecting and giving thanks, December is the month of giving gifts. Our desks hold lists of presents to buy family, friends, children and grandchildren. Our calendars are filled with holiday events, parties to attend and parties to host. Our mailboxes are filled with donation requests from charities, foundations and our Alma Maters. In January our mailboxes will be filled with cards of thanks for gifts and acknowledgments of donations made.

Lest my thanks to you gets lost in all the bustle, I am taking this opportunity to express my gratitude for your support of our AAUW mission "to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research". As a member of our Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch you generously donate your time, work and materials towards the success of our events; you support our scholarships/awards through patron donations; and most importantly, I appreciate your gift of "just being there".

My sincerest wishes go out to you for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season and a bright and promising new year.

P.S. Don't forget to take advantage of the generosity that abounds in December and while shopping and dining request a donation of product, gift card, or certificate for our February Fashion Show: *Open Your Heart With Style*. This event is our major source of funds for the scholarships we award each year. Remember that one degree provides 360 degrees of opportunity.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Financial Statement

Cash in Bank, 11/19/2014	\$ 6,576
Payables & Star Bright:	\$ 303
Carry-over from prior fiscal year	\$ 6,711
Paid out: FGCU endowment	\$5,000
STEM - Tech Trek	\$1,000
Income: Adopt-A-Precinct	\$4,190

Auction & Raffle Items

We greatly appreciate all members who solicit raffle and silent/live auction items. It is important that each donor receive a copy of our official solicitation letter which includes the date of our fund raiser and Branch registration number. To obtain official solicitation letters to present to potential merchants and contributors contact Marie Glasgow mariemglasgow@gmail.com, they are not available on our website.

Jemetta Hunt and Phyllis Wayco will be collecting all donated items for the live and silent auctions and the raffle. All items will be recorded with name of donor, dollar amount and name of member who solicited donation. Marie Glasgow will keep a master list of all information collected. Raffle items will be displayed at the fashion show by Ellen Schneider and Sandy Johnston.

Open Your Heart with Style

Join us for fun, glamour, great entertainment and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many deserving women. Again, we appreciate the hard work and effort by all of our members who make this event possible.

Fashion Show Co-Chairs



Phyllis Wayco & Jemetta Hunt
219-765-6376 203-249-6545

The Men In Black



... And YES, the Men In Black will be toiling diligently selling raffle and silent auction tickets, so let's keep the items rolling in.

Auction & Raffle Items Still Needed...



Beauty Treatments



Dining Gift Cards



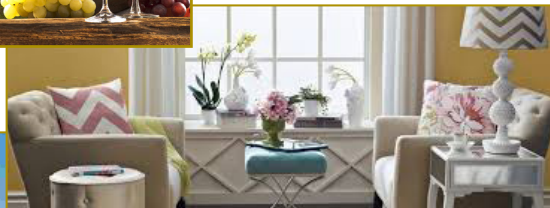
Handmade Treasures



Wine



Jewelry



Home Decor



Weekend Get Aways

... And anything else you can think of

New Members

Trish Gillen, a native of Baltimore MD, was raised on the Magothy River off Chesapeake Bay and enjoyed boating and river activities. She attended Notre Dame of Maryland Preparatory School and graduated from Villa Maria Academy in Santiago, Chile. Trish majored in Psychology and Elementary Ed. and received her BA from Immaculata U., PA. This was followed by a Master's in Education/Guidance and Counseling from Villanova U., PA. After teaching fifth grade for three years, Trish had a 27 year career as a School Counselor.



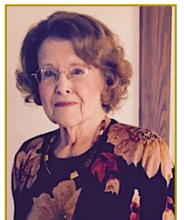
After retiring in 1995, Trish and husband, Joe, had a career in critiquing various cruise lines and hotels before moving to FL in 2003. Trish and Joe have traveled extensively. In October they enjoyed a Panama Canal cruise. This was her fourth time in the Panama Canal.

Trish is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma educational sorority, member and officer in Red Hat Society chapters, is involved with her local community events and, now, AAUW. For relaxation and exercise, Trish enjoys water aerobics and Tai Chi.

Good News

Juliana Nord Returns to AAUW

Our gracious author of inspiring messages and chair of Veritas is well again and looking wonderful. We look forward to having Juliana back at our monthly luncheons. All our best wishes for continued good health.



1st Time Grandmother

Congratulations to new Grandmother, Jemetta Hunt. Giavanna Hunt Forcelli was born 10/14/14 weighing 9 lbs 1 oz. "Everyone is doing well and they look great!"



AAUW Personalized Business Cards

At last months luncheon Sandy Johnston announced the availability of AAUW business cards with your name and contact information on them. Cards are 40 for \$10.



What a great Holiday gift for an AAUW friend.

To order please contact Sandy at smrlw7@centurylink.net.



This & That

December 12 Holiday Event Cocktail Hour and Nutcracker

Our evening will begin at 5:00 pm with Dutch treat, no-host drinks and appetizers in the private room at Mimi's restaurant in Bell Tower. All members and guests are welcome. Then at 6:15 pm some members will carpool to Barbara B Mann for the 7:00 PM performance of *The Nutcracker* presented by North Fort Myers Academy of the Arts.

Nutcracker tickets are available from Barbara B. Mann (\$10, \$20, \$30 + \$5 service fee). If you sent a check for tickets in October, you are already included in the list for Dutch treat drinks and appetizers at Mimi's. If you are not going to the Nutcracker or buying your tickets separately, please contact Tina Hoegler at 941-505-8483 or c_hoegler@msn.com no later than December 5 to reserve a space at Mimi's.

Colleen Wheeler

Woman Lifts 18 Elephants!!

What AAUW member do you know who lifts 17.9 elephants in a month? She's our own Svelte Shelley Siriano.

She met with me to discuss her life style changes and how she feels about it.



Shelley had a serious wake-up call with little warning. "I just felt exhausted all the time. I couldn't do more than one thing a day." With no other symptoms Shelley found herself in a friend's car near Knoxville on the way to a hospital after losing consciousness. A brief stay in the hospital, a temporary pace-maker then "the real deal" and a diagnosis of COPD. Later, Shelley threw out the cigarettes she'd just bought and began to change her life.

"I was a serious smoker, but never more than a pack a day." Shelley thinks she was psychologically addicted rather than physiologically. "I never had real cravings, just an urge when cued, like after dinner, or talking over coffee."

Now, two years later she's enthused about her new life. There are 17 pairs of athletic shoes to match her exercise ensembles. That's a serious commitment, as are 55 minutes cardio on the tread mill, 50 minutes strength building and a 50 minute class in stretching and yoga with two five minute breaks, three times

a week. That's nine hours! "And I get cross if I have to miss a day! I'm addicted again but it's a positive addiction!" The Cape Coral Wellness Center is a second home, filled with potential friends. "It's fun! That's where I lifted a total of 143,565 pounds in Oct, the equivalent of 17.9 elephants!"

Mark Your Calendars

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch gatherings will resume in January

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 Kuyoth 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.

FGCU President's Scholarship Luncheon

President, Marie Glasgow and Scholarship Chairman, Judith Sims attended the FGCU President's Scholarship Luncheon on Friday Nov. 21st at the Hyatt, Coconut Point. They enjoyed catching up with Shannon Pool, recipient of our scholarship for three years. Shannon is graduating this May in Hospitality and is currently in an internship at the Edison-Ford Estates where she is assisting with weddings and events.



The AAUW Endowed Scholarship at FGCU was begun in 2000 with \$5000 raised by the membership and a matching grant from the state. The fund was valued at more than \$34,000 in June, 2014.

December Birthdays

Nancy Karchunas	Elena Novak
Mimi Manpel	Marlene Palmer
Ruth Montgomery	Rebecca Totaro
Carolyn Nance	

Film Fare

Two films, *Broken-Circle Breakdown* and *The Theory About Everything*, both excellent, share a common thread.

Breakdown is called an "intoxicating, finely wrought romance" (nominated for the Lux Prize awarded by the European Parliament for films that go to the heart of European debate and for Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards). A child is lost to cancer. Both parents are bone tired and grieving. The only tragedy worse than their loss is the way their reactions tear at their relationship.

In *The Theory of Everything*, there's a mix of romance, tragedy, hard work, love, goodness and humor. Stephen Hawking, perhaps the brightest atheist ever, and the funniest nerd you won't see on The Big Bang Theory, loved a girl of faith who quoted obscure Spanish poetry and the poetry of the King James Version relevant to his work. He respected her and her beliefs and she could articulate his work with irony but respect. Drudgery and sacrifice could have created hostility. It didn't seem to but it ate away at playfulness and humor, and that was as tragic as ALS.

See the films yourself. Beautifully done, taken as a pair, they spell out what, in the face of tragedy, not to do and what to try to do to preserve love and happiness.

Judy Sims

Additions & Corrections to Directory

Bobbie Balmer
15225 Iona Lakes Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-482-4740

Joyce C. Gardner
1500 SW 58th Street
Cape Coral, FL 33914
239-541-9868

Mary Lou White
7406 Lake Breeze Dr. #612
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-590-3920
Len61lou@aol.com

Branch Notes

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

More This & That

Upcoming Programs

December 12, 2014

Drinks and appetizers – Mimi's
NFMAA – The Nutcracker

January 17, 2015 Luncheon

The Not-So-Secret Life of Bees
Celeste Fournier, Bee Run Farms

February 7, 2015 Fashion Show

Open Your Heart With Style

March 21, 2015 Luncheon

Women as Leaders
Ginger Lew, Senior Counsel to White
House National Economic Council

April 18, 2015 Luncheon

Odyssey of the Mind
Patricia Wiegman and students North
Fort Myers Academy for the Arts

May 16, 2015 Luncheon

Human Trafficking Awareness
Nola Theiss, Executive Director, Human
Trafficking Awareness Partnerships

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Tech Trek

Powered by AAUW

Tech Trek is a one week STEM camp on a college campus for rising eighth-grade girls. Immersion in a setting encourages them to think of themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians and computer specialists and increases girls' self-confidence and excitement about STEM fields. Sponsored by AAUW Florida with a grant from AAUW National, Tech Trek is also supported by the Branches.

Our Branch is supporting Tech Trek for the third year with an award of \$1000. Members help with publicity and recruitment.

AAUW Art Contest

The seventh annual AAUW Art Contest begins soon. Members can submit their original art online in January and vote for their favorites in February. The winning entries will be printed in a collection of AAUW note cards mailed to members and supporters this spring. This contest has featured some amazing AAUW artists over the years. This is a lovely way to bring attention to the talent we have within our membership. For more information go to www.aauw.org.

Something To Think About



Happy Holidays

