

The **TORCH** January 2015

Vol. 53 No. 5

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



January Meeting

Date: Sat, January 17, 2015
New Member Orientation 10:30 AM
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Roasted Vegetable Wrap

Choice 2

Southwest Taco Salad

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, Jan 12. Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues,
Jan 13, 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.

January Speaker

Celeste Fournier

For the Love of Honeybees: Apis Mellifera & Florida Beekeeping covers the history of the honeybee and beekeeping, the science of the honeybee and the hive, the products of the honeybee and the art of beekeeping. Celeste will touch on the requirements for keeping bees in Florida, and the current issues facing beekeepers.

She will also explore the benefits of the honeybee beyond pollination and honey production--from health and beauty products to medical treatments.

Celeste Fournier is the current Vice President of the Beekeepers Association of Southwest Florida. She has been a beekeeper for over two years, and is an Apprentice Master Beekeeper, working toward becoming an Advance Master Beekeeper through the University of Florida's Master Beekeeper Program. She and her family maintain 10-15 hives and sell the honey under the Bee Run Farms label. She has found bees to be unendingly fascinating and therapeutic.

When Celeste is not working her hives or doing honeybee outreach, she is a Planning Coordinator for Lee County Emergency Management, a position she has held since January 2007. Celeste holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Quincy University.



Fashion Show story on page 2.

Financial Statement

Cash in Bank Dec 12, 2014	\$10,581
Payable & Starbright	\$ 368
Carry over from prior FY	\$6,711
Income: Adopt A Precinct	\$5,730

President's Message

It's January and we have all had a chance to take lots of long breaths after all the holiday celebrations and now, we just want to relax. However, our Branch still has some major work facing us. So to get you in the mindset for volunteering here are some wonderful quotes:

- Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer.
- Volunteers are paid in six figures. . . S-M-I-L-E-S.
- Volunteers don't get paid because they're priceless.
- Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.
- Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Yes, everyone can do something. Our continued success in providing scholarships and STEM awards depends on your support:

- We need your help with soliciting prizes for our Fashion Show "Open Your Heart With Style". If that's not your thing, perhaps you can be a patron or help as needed the day of the event. Please contact Phyllis Wayco or Jemetta Hunt to volunteer.
- We need a chair or co-chairs for the 2015-16 Fashion Show. Please contact Marie Glasgow or Suzan Harden.
- We need your help in nominating the slate of elected officers for 2015-16. Please contact Suzan Harden to serve on the nominating committee.
- We need members to "step up" and volunteer to accept officer positions within our branch. Our future depends on continued service in these positions.
- We all feel very comfortable as volunteers doing more than we have to because we are working for a cause in which we strongly believe. Many of us do not relish the role of leader. We want to avoid being "the boss". We just want to be part of the community working for the greater good. But to quote Henrik Ibsen, poet and playwright, "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

Marie Glasgow

President

Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

It's Almost Here!!! The 2015 AAUW Fashion Show With Heart



Our 21st Annual Fashion Show is only a few weeks away. This year's event will be held once again at Grandezza Country Club on Saturday, February 7, 2015. Contact Carolyn Nance at 239-257-1727 or cnance5240@gmail.com if you have not purchased your ticket/tickets. Tickets reserved prior to December 31, are \$40. After January 1, they will be \$45.

As you know, the success of our largest fund raiser depends upon the contributions of all of our members. It takes a "Village" to reach our goal of \$8,000. We are extremely appreciative of the following members who have been helping on various committees: Jane Schwarz, Marie Glasgow, Suzan Harden, Mary Kellner, Sharron Thompson, Marilyn Myli, Nancy Karchunas, Cathy Chapman, Faye O'Briant, Carolyn Nance, Sandy Johnston, Joan Pankavich, Ellen Schneider, Shelly Siriano, Ann Compton, Bobbi Balmer, Melanie Jackman, Judy Sims, Pat Allen, Sue Tracy, Carol Edmier, Marilynn Edwards and Nancy Kuyoth.

We are pleased that eight of our newest members will be modeling fashions from Razzle Dazzle: Gail Visgillio, Marilyn Marr, Bev Londono, Susie Draper, Virginia Barnard, Linda Madl, Joan Pankavich and Liz Foster. Jean Kohart and Dotti Houck will assist our models with their changes. Glamorization will be provided by Peggy Thomas, a Mary Kay representative.

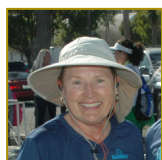
Norton Sims, Ron Glasgow and Bob Kuyoth will once again help us with raffle sales and the live auction. Unfortunately, the Thomas Alva Edison Regional Science and Engineering Fair is also being held on Saturday, February 7th. Some of our colleagues and spouses will be judging at this important event. We will miss their energy, contributions and presence.

SOLICITATIONS FOR RAFFLE, SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS

We have received a number of raffle, silent and live auction items. Thank you so much! However, we still need your help! !!! Marie Glasgow sent emails to all members who solicited items last year. It would be greatly appreciated if you would contact these establishments once again. Marie is keeping a master list of all solicitations. Please contact her with any questions. Call Jemetta Hunt and/or Phyllis Wayco to drop off your items.

If you plan to help with solicitations, please have copies of the "Official Solicitation Letter" to leave with the business owners. Also, record the name and address of the business as well as the name of the manager/owner. We will need this information to send thank you notes to all. Write your name and phone number on the bottom of the letter. This is helpful if you have to return to pick up the gift certificate. Wearing your name tag adds a professional touch.

Solicitation ideas include: gift certificates to restaurants, area merchants, golf courses, hand crafted items, gift baskets, art work, jewelry, wine, hotel/resort packages, etc. 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.

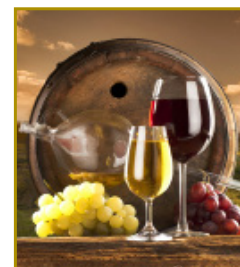


Fashion Show Co-Chairs
Phyllis Wayco and Jemetta Hunt



We're Making Progress . . .

**Many Auction and Raffle
Items Still Needed**



Activities



This & That

Holiday Social



Members, spouses and visiting relatives met on Friday, December 12, at Mimi's Café for some holiday cheer, quick bites of appetizers, and lots of socializing. We had such a good time enjoying the varied conversations that we vowed to allow much more time for the "social hour" for future outings.

A caravan of cars then moved to the Barbara B. Mann Theater for the presentation of The Nutcracker Suite ballet. More than 300 students from grades one through eight performed their roles expertly. The program began with familiar and loved seasonal music by the middle school choir. After a brief break that allowed for late seating, we were transported to the Christmas party of a wealthy family and then into the dreams of Clara, the daughter. All scenes were executed with precision and remarkable ballet and tumbling skills. Of course the gingerbread children, the youngest group to dance, were a favorite.

We left the ballet delighted by the talent we saw on the stage. And speaking of talent, the NFMAA dance teacher who choreographed and prepared all the students for their parts is Lori Madl, daughter of AAUW member Linda Madl.

AAUW

Personalized Business Cards

At the November luncheon Sandy Johnston announced the availability of AAUW business cards with your name and contact information on them.

Consider these cards when looking for a gift for an AAUW friend.



Cards are 40 for \$10.

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

Proceeds will go to our Starbright Fund.

Mark Your Calendars

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will resume Thur, Jan 8, 2015 at Burgers 21 in the Gulf Coast Shopping Center, 9902 Gulf Coast Main St., Ste.150, at 11:30 am. Contact Mary Kellner at 239-599-8458 or kellnAAUW@yahoo.com to make a reservation.

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.

NEW "Travel Club"

"Members, our inaugural meeting of the new AAUW Travel Club will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 1:00 PM. This meeting is at Peri Pantazes' house, 11244 SPARKLEBERRY Drive, Ft. Myers. Come and discuss interesting trips you've taken and learn about new sites to place on your bucket list. Call to RSVP at 239-225-9108. Hope to see you then."

Best Wishes To Our January Birthdays

Judith Arbuckle	Colleen Wheeler
Nancy Terrell	Susan Rolfe
Shelley Siriano	Faye O'Briant

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.

Film Fare

Two great films to encourage the STEM potential in us all, are *Theory of Everything* and *Interstellar*! What great movies!

Last month I wrote about *Theory's* emotional and psychological sides. But I was motivated to read *Hawking's A Brief History of Time* and to see the 1991 film of the same name (which is more autobiographical than scientific but that's OK). It at least began my thinking about black holes and time, while *Interstellar* takes us there, through a black hole, defying time to save our species. One rating (over 350,000 voters) gave it 8.9 on a 10 point scale!

Interstellar, there is something for everybody: science fiction, action, philosophy, psychology, with beautiful special effects, music and great acting: Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Ellen Burstyn, John Lithgow, Michael Caine and Matt Damon! I can't say enough positive things about this film. The characters are likable and sympathetic, the problems interesting, the emotional tension well orchestrated, and the resolution deeply satisfying. Please see it.

Judy Sims

NEW "AAUW Trivia Quiz"

1. What ground breaking research did the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund sponsor and report in *Why So Few*?
2. The US Congress gave \$50,000 to help Madame Curie with her research. How much did individual AAUW members contribute to help that research?
3. What does the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund do?

Trivia answers on page 4

Branch Notes

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November Meeting In Review

A record for the number of guests at a meeting was possibly set. Our 13 guests included the "Men's Auxiliary", possible new members and our speaker. I encourage all of you to invite friends and neighbors as this is the best means of growing our membership.



Our program, The Joy of Mentoring, presented by Gina Frazier of Deva for Good was such a perfect fit with the AAUW mission of empowering women. Her message was very clear. Through mentoring we not only encourage and support girls and women to achieve their goals, we also learn and we are enriched during our engagement.



Continuing the tradition of recognizing persons who have contributed to our mission, our branch donated to AAUW Funds \$2,750 in their honor in FY 2014. The honorees included: Charlie Allen, Ron Glasgow, Steve Nance, Sam O'Briant and Norton Sims,



all part of the Men's Auxiliary; Mary Bonnette and Carolyn Nance, co-chairs of the Garage Sale Extraordinaire and Judith and Norton Sims, the garage sale hosts; Jemetta Hunt and Phyllis Wayco, co-chairs of the Step Up and Give Back Fashion Show and auctioneer Sharron Thompson;

Juliana Nord, author of our monthly Inspirations; and Carolyn Nance who has organized our Adopt A Precinct efforts from its inception.

Because of all our efforts in fundraising, the Board approved at its Nov. meeting a contribution of \$5,000 to our AAUW FGCU Scholarship Fund. Our successes in the past and present year allow us to build up the fund and at this rate, we should realize our goal of a fully funded \$1,500 annual scholarship in the next couple years. Congratulations to all of us.

Upcoming Programs

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

Trivia Answers

1. The loss of girls' interest in STEM areas during middle school years.
2. \$156,413 was given by individual AAUW members to support Madame Curie's research.
3. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supports legal actions for sexual discrimination in academia and the work place.