

The **TORCH** April 2015

Vol. 53 No. 7

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch Inc.

Annual Meeting

Date: Sat., April 18, 2015
Board Meeting: 10:15 AM
Gathering: 11:30 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM

The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Deli Style Pastrami on Rye/Chips

Choice 2

Pear Delight Salad with 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, April 13. Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues,
April 14, 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.

Financial Statement

Cash on hand, Mar 23, 2015	\$9,080
Payables, 2015-16 memberships, restricted donations, etc	\$4,157
Cash	\$4,923

April Speaker

Patti Wiegman

NFMAA – Odyssey of the Mind

Our April meeting will feature North
Fort Myers Academy of the Arts
Elementary Odyssey of the Mind
team along with Patti Wiegman, who
coordinates the entire program. Patti
will describe the program and introduce
the team; they will show us and tell us
what they did for this year's competition.

According to their Program Guide,
Odyssey of the Mind is a creative
problem-solving competition for
students of all ages. Teams of students
select a problem, create a solution,
and then present their solution in a
competition against other teams with the
same problem in their division.

The competition has two parts, the
“long-term problem” described above,
and a “spontaneous problem”. The
spontaneous problem is unknown to the
team before entering the competition
room. This problem requires them to
think and work spontaneously.

For additional information about the
program, there is a 15-minute video on
the Odyssey of the Mind website, [www.
odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).

Patti Wiegman has taught at NFMAA
for eleven years and is currently teaching
7th grade Language Arts. In addition to
Odyssey of the Mind, Patti works with
costuming. Her most recent costuming
projects are Beauty and the Beast and
the Nutcracker. Many of us attended the
Nutcracker performance last December.

Best Wishes to those with April Birthdays

Pat Bucci, Marilynn Edwards
Marian Engstrom, Liz Foster
Dottie Houck, Bev Londono
Alice Mellen, Joan Pankavich
Gail Visgilio, Marilyn Workman

President's Message

Teamwork: coming together is a
beginning, keeping together is progress,
working together is success. Henry Ford

In 1961, twenty-six like-minded
women came together to establish
our AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co
Branch and laid quite a foundation
of community activism. This was our
beginning.

The membership kept together all
these 53 years, added new members,
continued work in the community and
in 2000, they raised \$5,000 to establish
our first endowed scholarship at
FGCU. In 2005, a similar endowed
scholarship was established at Edison
State College, now FSW. In 2006, with
a bequest from long-time member
Sue Gottcent, an endowed scholarship
was established with the SWFL
Community Foundation. Now that is
what I call **progress.**

Since establishment of these three
endowed scholarships, our branch
members have worked together raising
funds which enable us to award an
annual HS Scholarship and confer
other monetary awards towards STEM
education and generously support
AAUW Funds. **This is success.**

Now don't get me wrong! I don't equate
our success to the amount of money we
raised, although I'm still overwhelmed.
I equate our success to the fact that
we worked together so well and we
had so much fun doing it. Every event
brought on an adrenalin rush that
comes from so many women of various
backgrounds and experiences working
together because they share a vision,
they support the same mission.

So volunteer to take appointed and
elected officer positions, volunteer
to work at events, volunteer to be a
presence and voice in our community.
I guarantee you will experience a
joyful high from working together.

Marie Glasgow

President
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Election of 2015-16 Officers at April Luncheon

Thank you to Myrna Frantz, Carolyn Nance, and Cathy Tucker for serving on the Nominating Committee.

The slate is as follows:

President-Elect -- Open
Vice President - Programs -- Sharron Thompson
Secretary -- Bonnie Ryan and Nancy Karchunas

Thank you to these members for agreeing to serve AAUW!

We are still looking for someone to fill the President-Elect position. I know President-Elect is daunting because it is a three-year commitment. The Board is very open to having two people share this position. If you would like to serve but summer somewhere else, we can work to find a full-time resident to share with you.

Please don't assume that if you haven't been contacted, the Nominating Committee does not want you to serve. We're not always aware of everyone's interests! If you have already been contacted, we would be happy to have you reconsider.

Please contact me if you are interested. And please say, "Yes!" If we contact you!

I'm delighted to announce that Kathy Jones and Peggy Drennan will be the 2015-16 Fashion Show co-chairs so mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. And, once again it will be held at the very elegant Grandeeza Country Club.

Suzan Harden,
President-Elect

Women's History Month Proclamation

On March 17th representative members of AAUW, LWV and NOW gathered at the Old Lee County Courthouse, to witness the signing of a proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month in Lee County.



The first item on the Lee County Board of Commissioners agenda was the awarding of the Paulette Burton Citizen of the Year Award for 2014. The award is granted to the citizen who has provided outstanding civic contributions to Lee County government. This award was created in 1991 in honor of Mrs. Burton, who died in an accident. Mrs. Burton was a government watchdog, spent many years as a voice of the people to the Lee

County Board of Commissioners, as well as being active in Sanibel politics.

It is so fitting that the Women's History Month proclamation was signed at the very same meeting that the Paulette Burton Citizen of the Year Award was conferred. Ellen

Derby Day . . . Co-Fundraising Event

"Derby Day at the Glen" is an opportunity to have fun, get caught up in the excitement of horse racing, taste Bourgeois Stew and Bourbon Chocolate Bread Pudding, wear an outrageous "Derby Hat" and raise money for AAUW scholarships and ALS-FL.

This exciting event is a cooperative effort between AAUW and Herons Glen residents. Net proceeds from the event will be shared by AAUW and ALS-FL. There will also be a display table with information about AAUW and ALS-FL with the opportunity for attendees to make direct donations to both organizations. Marie and Ron Glasgow are co-chairing this event. Just ask Mary Jane, Nancy and Jemetta if they had a good time.



Continued on page 4

"GEMS" Girls in Engineering, Math and Science

It was my pleasure to attend the February 28, 2015 GEMS program at FGCU as an observer and representative of AAUW. The GEMS program is a half-day event for middle school girls which provides them the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities related to the STEM fields. GEMS is provided through the Whitaker Center and offers 4 GEMS programs through the school year.

Our AAUW branch donated \$1,000 to support this program. It was used to purchase calculators for the girls to take home from one of the events.



The program I observed engaged the girls in an engineering activity called the "Marshmallow Challenge". They were to create the tallest structure (from 20 pieces of spaghetti and tape) that could hold a single marshmallow on top. The girls also participated in 2 workshops: one in chemistry called "Kool Demo for Acid-Base Reactions" and another in mathematics called "Fibonacci Numbers and the Golden Ratio".

It was exciting and rewarding to observe the girls' creativity and ingenuity sparked throughout these experiences.

Laurie Folgate Carey

This & That

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Personal Member Profile

Ladies,

We are launching a brand new initiative this month: **Personal Member Profile**. This project gives us an opportunity to share interests and personal information. Our lives are rich, filled with unique experiences through family, friends, education, work, travel, volunteering, hobbies etc. Let's get to know each other!

For this project to be a success, your help is essential. We are asking each member to submit a brief bio by September 1, 2015. Include: colleges, universities, degrees, careers, professional organizations, hobbies, interests, travel, titles, awards, AAUW membership, positions held etc. Any family information you wish to share is welcome. This brief bio should not exceed one page / approximately 500 words. For uniformity, committee editors may reformat, **Personal Member Profiles**, when needed. All edited bios will be approved by each member prior to posting.

We hope you choose to participate. If you prefer, we will send you an information form. Upon its return, a committee editor will call you to complete the bio for your approval. **Personal Member Profiles** will be posted on a secure member only page accessible only via password on our branch website. Specific guidelines and instruction will be forth coming.

Thank you for your continued support! Jemetta Hunt, Marie Glasgow and Judy Sims, **Profile Committee**.

Personal Member Profile

We appreciate your feedback. Check as appropriate.

- ☐ I like the project and will submit my bio.
- ☐ I want to participate. Please send me a form.
- ☐ I would like to work on this committee.
- ☐ I do not wish to participate.

Comments _____

Name _____

How do you prefer to be contacted?

Email _____

Phone _____

Mark Your Calendars

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.

Upcoming Programs

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

Membership Renewals

As of March 25, we have received a total of 50 Membership Renewals and NEW Membership dues and forms.

Thank you so very much for being prompt. This is a HUGE help to the Board in their end of the year work, filing with AAUW and FL-AAUW, and preparing the 2015-16 Directory.

Membership Forms are available on our website and to make it even easier; the form is included with your Torch mailing. There are two incentives for you to get your renewal or new membership dues in promptly. Members who paid dues by the start of our April 18 meeting are all eligible for the drawing of a free lunch next fiscal year. Also, if you want your contact information in the 2015-16 Membership Directory, your dues must be paid and the form received no later than July 1.

Thank you for your prompt response and an even HUGER thank you to the members who filled in all the information asked for on the form. We are scanning the forms for our permanent records.

The drawing for the free lunch will take place at the April meeting. The winner will be notified if not present.

Film Fare

"CHAPPIE" is satisfying on many levels. Why identify with Chappie? He seems familiar. Is it his similarity to C-3PO of Star Wars? Is it the rather jaunty, mismatched red ear (oops antennae) used when he's injured (damaged)? Is it his child-like quality which is so endearing? There are issues of corporate greed, ambition, parenting, socio-political inequalities, artificial intelligence, death and life after death, and the ultimate question: "what makes us human?" Enough cognitive richness for anyone, but it's fun too.

Extremely well done, the actors include Dev Patel (Newsroom, Slumdog..., Best Marigold...), Sigourney Weaver, and Hugh Jackman. Ninja and Yolandi of the South African zef rap-rave group Die Antwoord play themselves and demonstrate that as different as we may seem, ultimately, we are more alike than not. This, I think, is the best film I've seen this year.

Judy Sims

Additions/Corrections to Directory

Marian Engstrom
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239-561-0290 mengstrom64@gmail.com

Ann Hines Greene
1454 Myerlee Country Club Blvd
Fort Myers 33919
757-408-1123 odgreene301@gmail.com

Ann Tikka
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239-822-1118 annmt@leeschools.net

Joan Wendel
2218 SE 10th Terr, Cape Coral 33990
239-458-2408 joanwendel@earthlink.net

Peggy Thomas
4322 NW 32nd Terr, Cape Coral, FL 33993
239-229-7550 Peggyethomas1@gmail.com

Sandy Johnston
1427 Pine Valley Dr. #305
Ft Myers, FL 33907
239-482-4740, smrlw7@centurylink.net

Branch Notes

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March Meeting In Review

Our meeting in March, Women's History Month, was focused on women from start to finish. Ginger Lew, our speaker, has very powerful credentials in the areas of finance, energy, business, regulatory oversight and law. She is also a member of AAUW Naples. Her message was straight forward. After showing economic statistics, including women's wages as compared to men, she challenged us to strongly advocate for women. Ms. Lew told us her story as the child of Chinese immigrants whose daily focus was to provide shelter and food on the table. Even though her parents did not attend school beyond the 3rd grade, they made it known to their children that education was a must.



Science Fair award winners and their mothers attended luncheon.

Susan Barley, member of AAUW Naples, spoke of her candidacy for a Director position on the AAUW Board. Her goal is to connect individual members, branches, and states, with national, to achieve mission integrity. She also provided directions for voting on line or by paper ballot in the AAUW National Election, April 15 – June 15.

Our own Bobbie Balmer, participated in the Midtown Manhattan March on International Women's Day and shared a bit of her wondrous experience. Jemetta Hunt and Phyllis Wayco were applauded for their super leadership of our annual fundraiser; Jemetta asked for member participation in our Branch Member Profile project; and Suzan Harden, President Elect, urged members to step up and accept nominations for the 2015-16 elected officer positions of President Elect and Secretary. All Board positions can easily be shared by two members. Sharing a position provides a wonderful opportunity for seasonal members to hold office with a year round resident.

Amy Raddatz of the Fort Myers Film Festival Advisory Board informed us of the many films offered this year which feature strong women. Schedules listing films and venues were provided.



Derby Day cont'd

Derby Day will take place May 2nd from 2 to 7pm in the Herons Glen Ballroom, N. Ft. Myers. Tickets are \$25 and provide you with \$25 of "Fun Money" for betting on eight cinema horse races. You will also have an opportunity to buy Raffle and 50/50 tickets and bid on silent auction items which will include original art. Tickets can be purchased from Marie Glasgow.

Several members have already volunteered to work the betting booths or sell raffle tickets. We could use some more, so do call Marie. Many of the Herons Glen residents have already volunteered to work the event, but if you would like to man the AAUW donation table, that would be great. Also GREAT would be help in soliciting gift certificates from area businesses. Contact Marie for more information.

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### Great Job Girls !!!



Phyllis Wayco, Pat Allen and Jemetta Hunt complete 1/2 marathon in Sarasota on Mar. 15.