

# The **TORCH** May 2015

Vol. 53 No. 8

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

### **May Meeting**

Date: Sat., May 16, 2015

Board Meeting: 11:15 AM

Gathering: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

### **Luncheon Menu**

#### **Choice 1**

Turkey Club Wrap/Chips

#### **Choice 2**

Fried Goat Cheese 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, May 11. Cancellations  
must be made no later than Tues,  
May 12, 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.

### **AAUW Mission**

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

### **AAUW Value Promise**

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

### **May Speaker**

Nola Theiss, the founder of Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc. (HTAP), is its Executive Director. She is the founding Chair of what is now known as the SWFL Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking.



Nola has won numerous awards for her work in promoting human trafficking awareness. She has addressed audiences ranging from middle school students to Members of the Canadian Parliament, from the U.N. to college campuses to churches and outdoor festivals to missing children groups to addiction service conferences. Nola has spoken about human trafficking to over 24,000 people in six countries and has been quoted in numerous newspaper and television and radio shows including BBC's "World Have Your Say". She has also led numerous community organization trainings through the FL Regional Community Policing Institute and has spoken to many professional conferences for paralegals, probation officers, social workers, forensic investigators, etc. She works with faith-based organizations which are building anti-trafficking projects within their churches and denominations, as well as women's organizations such as Soroptimist International, Zonta International, DAR, and AMERICAN Association of University Women and many professional organizations.

Human trafficking can best be combated through public awareness and action. As Nola says, victims come first, but first you have to find the victims. Public awareness and outreach find victims. As Doug Molloy, assistant US Attorney in Fort Myers has said, "One reason we have seen more arrests here in Lee County than in some states is because the community is aware of the problem". The anti-trafficking campaign in SW Florida has been "outstanding", according to Molloy. Her work has been featured in three docudramas, Hallmark's "Lives for Sale," Compassion Film's "Cargo: Innocence Lost," and the HHS "Look Beneath the Surface" video.

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### **President's Message**

Two years ago, I reluctantly agreed to be nominated for a two year term as President of our branch. My hesitation was due to my desire to finish my second year as co-Treasurer and not because I didn't want to take my turn serving as your President. Quoting Ibsen, our branch "is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."



I thought I was sufficiently prepared to take on this responsibility but at last May's meeting, I admitted to not knowing "everything." I have heavily relied on the experience and counsel of past presidents, the dedication and leadership of the elected and appointed officers, the hard work of all the chairs, group coordinators and very responsive and willing membership.

Hoping to relieve some anxiety about taking on the Presidency, our branch amended its Bylaws and instituted the position of President-Elect. This was done to provide the next President with a year of close observation as to our branch business and to assure succession. Thank you Suzan Harden for setting the tone for this position as our very first President-Elect. I am very confident that before the end of this year there will be a nomination brought to the membership for next year's President-Elect, or perhaps, co-President-Elect.

Our branch has a long, proven history of success which does include our last two years. At this point it is important to ask why we have succeeded while other branches have closed. I believe our success came from years of having both leaders and workers.

Please know that there is no one more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another, be they worker, leader or both.

I thank all of you for lightening the responsibilities of the past two years.

*Marie Glasgow*

President  
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

# Plans are set for AAUW 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fashion Show



Suzan Harden, newly elected President of our AAUW branch is pleased to announce that Peggy Drennan-Cihi and Kathy Jones will co-chair our 22nd Annual Fashion Show.

According to Peggy and Kathy plans are well under way. "Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fashion Show, *Tune Up For Giving* will be held **December 5, 2015** at Grandezza Country Club in Estero. Mark your calendars for our largest fund-raiser of the year". Please consider volunteering on one of our committees to *Strike The Right Notes for Scholarships*. Help us orchestrate our committees: Donations/Solicitations, Reservation and Ticket Sales, Programs/Tickets/Inserts, Greeters and Ushers, Raffle Ticket Sales, Models, Table Decorations/Set Up, Raffle/Silent Auctions Set-Up, Silent Auction Announcer, Runners, Money Hatters, Publicity."

Contact one of us by e-mail as to which committee you select.

Thank you!!!!

Program Chairs,

*Peggy Drennan-Cihi*

*Kathy Jones*

Peggy, jpdrennan@embarqmail.com

Kathy, kathyj1972@hotmail.com



A good time was had by all

Guests were greeted by members; Ann Compton, Shelley Siriano, and Bobbie Balmer, Bob Cihl at the piano, Money Hat ladies Marilyn Edwards & Nancy Kuyoth and our ever present Men in Black Ron Glasgow & Norton Sims

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fashion Show . . . remember the fun



Shannon Pool, scholarship recipient



New members modeled



. . . We have a lot to look forward to on December 5<sup>th</sup>

## May Speaker

Continued from page 1.

Awareness is an important part of the fight against trafficking, but once people are made aware, they also need to take action. Nola ends many presentations by telling people not to ask themselves, "What Can I Do?" but instead to ask "What Will I Do"? Prevention programs are also essential which is why HTAP has developed its ARTREACH program which reaches young people who could become victims of trafficking.

Theiss is the former mayor of Sanibel, FL and holds a Masters in Public Administration as well as degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Illinois. For 10 years, she has dedicated herself to the issue of human trafficking – fighting it through public awareness and using the skills she has developed through her work as an educator, writer, administrator, public official and scholar. She has received numerous awards including national recognition as a Purpose Prize Fellow and Public Citizen Award from the National Association of Social Workers, Florida Chapter. Recently, she was awarded a Silver Good Citizenship Award from the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for her human trafficking work.

## Suzan Harden President Elect

As I prepare to assume the office of President of our branch, I would like to take a moment to thank Marie Glasgow for her outstanding work as President of our organization. During the past year our branch has been very successful under her leadership.

### We have:

- ◆ Maintained our membership despite the distraction of our beautiful climate and the many other opportunities to which residents/guests can devote their time.
- ◆ Conducted successful fundraising activities which allowed us to add to the corpus of our FGCU, FSW, and SWFL Community Foundation scholarships, to raise our award amounts, and to make some outside donations as well.
- ◆ Presented a series of informative and interesting programs allowing all of us to know and appreciate our community better.
- ◆ Donated to AAUW at the national level to further our mission.

Congratulations, Marie! We are appreciative of your time and dedication! I wish everyone a happy and relaxing summer.

*Suzan Harden*

## High School Scholarship Recipient

This year our revolving Lee County High School Scholarship goes to Riverdale High graduating senior, Destiny Marin. Accepted at both Florida State and the University of Central Florida, Destiny, is an IB student interested in Math, Psychology and sports.



She works at Sports Authority and has been active in Track & Field, Lacrosse and volunteer work. She describes her family as "all full or half-Mexican. . .and goofy. . .we mess with each other. . .and go out to eat." Destiny wants to help people and she wants to have fun. Being a physical therapist and trainer she should be able to do both.

## Free Memberships for Recent Grads

AAUW members can give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them. Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.



# This & That

## AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Personal Member Profile

Ladies,

In the April Torch, we introduced a new initiative: Personal Member Profile. We are asking each member to submit a brief bio by September 1, 2015. This Personal Member Profile should not exceed one page /approximately 500 words. These profiles will be posted on a secure, member only, page accessible via a password on our branch website. We do hope that you choose to participate. Let's get to know each other!

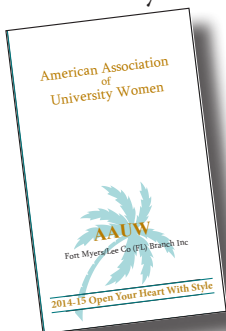
What do you want us to know about you? You may want to include: where you were born and raised; colleges/universities attended and degrees earned; career highlights, titles and accomplishments; hobbies, interests and passion; travel and volunteer experiences; dual AAUW membership and interests groups; professional organizations; family and friends; and what AAUW means to you.

Please mail completed Personal Member Profiles to: AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch, Inc. P.O. Box 2115, Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115 or if you prefer, email, [aauwleecounty@gmail.com](mailto:aauwleecounty@gmail.com) and attach document.

*Jemetta Hunt, Judy Sims, &  
Marie Glasgow*

## Membership and our Directory

In the past we've have a phrase on the front of our directory connected to the Fashion Show, our major annual fund raiser. This year we'd like to have a phrase connected to membership: what membership means to us, or what good the organization does. We're asking you to submit your ideas.



1. Slogan: less than nine words.
2. Deadline: July 5th
3. Submit to email : [nkuyoth@aol.com](mailto:nkuyoth@aol.com) or 471-7806
4. Judges: Harden, Thompson, Kuyoth
5. \$50 Gift Card

## Annual Report

Over the past two years, AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County has experienced an unprecedented amount of income from fundraising efforts. As a result we were able to significantly increase the base of our endowed funds at FGCU and FSW. This has ensured that we will be able to continue providing annual scholarships even in the leanest of economic years. We will be able to continue providing the gift that keeps giving.

By creating and funding these endowed scholarships, we pass on a lasting legacy – the chance for others to live up to their promise and to influence the community around them. The annual scholarships open doors for lives of limitless possibility and shows students who receive them that others out there have confidence in their abilities and what they'll be able to accomplish upon completing their education.

## Membership Renewals

*... And The Winner of the free  
lunch next season is ...*

**Karen Aarons**

As of April 30, we have received a total of 73 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. We do want to include your contact information in the 2015-16 Membership Directory. In order for us to do this you must submit your membership form and dues no later than July 1. Please mail both to AAUW-Membership, P.O. Box 2115, Fort Myers, FL 33902.

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 as part of our Records Retention project. Our goal is to have all of our records digital and thus preserved for historical reference.

## Branch Notes

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 2115  
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115  
**Email:** [aauwleecounty@gmail.com](mailto:aauwleecounty@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [fmlc-fl.aauw.net](http://fmlc-fl.aauw.net)

## Film Fare

I have two recommendations for movies well done. Both say something we've heard before but which is well worth repeating.

**Big Eyes** (available through Red Box) opens as Margaret, with her daughter, is running away in the middle of a wet night with two small suitcases... running from a dominating man and then into... you guessed it... a dominating man. She's an artist. Of real interest is their dialogue and psychologizing as to why he would have painted her paintings! How prone we are to repeat our mistakes until we finally get it right. Amy Adams (*American Hustle*) is always good, almost too sweet. Christopher Waltz (*Inglorious...*) is almost too charming, too believable, and ultimately too unhinged. But even Norton was horrified by and enjoyed this chick flick.

**Woman in Gold** is also so well worthwhile. The pain of the Holocaust was sensitively done as was the lurking shadow of prejudice. Helen Mirren was beautifully restrained. Ryan Reynolds is an American man, awakening to his family history and pain. It's interesting, beautiful and (I've always liked Klimt) contributed to my bucket list. I must see that painting!

*Judy Sims*

## One Member, One Vote, Exercise Your Right

As member of AAUW, you received an email with a direct link to vote in the national election. The process is very easy and quick. There is a very important amendment to the AAUW national bylaws that I urge you to support with a YES vote. This amendment opens up AAUW membership at the national level to all persons who share the vision and mission regardless of education and degrees completed. Our branch supports this open membership at our level and we need to support open membership at the national level.

Voting opened April 15 and closes June 19, so make sure your vote gets in. If you do not have email or access to a computer check your Spring/Summer 2015 Outlook magazine for instructions for voting a paper ballot and your voter pin and member ID.

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## April Meeting In Review

What a treat to have a presentation from the North Fort Myers Academy of the Arts on The Odyssey of the Mind program. Patti Wiegman, 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and coordinator of the program at the academy, gave the stage to three of her students, parent coach and last year's Odyssey team member. You will remember that our branch donated a significant sum to help finance the 2014 Team's participation at the World Competition. The students provided several examples of recent creative, out of the box solutions to competition problems. This is certainly a powerful program with which to educate our future leaders. Recognition was also given to two of our members: Sue Tracey who brought Odyssey of the Mind to Lee County Schools and her successor and current driving force, Faye O'Briant.



The Annual Meeting was brief and primarily reported the growth and very positive status of our endowed scholarships at FGCU and FSW. This was made possible by the funds realized from the fashion shows and contributions from our Adopt A Precinct work during the last two years. President Elect Suzan Harden presented the slate of officers for the 2015-16 fiscal year. The election was called. There being no nominations from the floor, the membership elected Suzan Harden, President, Nancy Karchunas and Bonnie Ryan, Co-Secretary. The position of President-Elect was left vacant. The effort to fill this position will continue. Please respond positively when called.



Our Co-Chairs of the next Fashion Show, Peggy Drennan-Cihi and Kathy Jones asked for volunteers. If you missed the sign-up sheet, do contact Peggy or Kathy.

### Call For 2016 Program Suggestions

As your new VP of Programs, I am asking for suggestions on possible speakers or topics for the 2015-2016 year. Please email your suggestions to me so I can get the calendar set up quickly. Remember these are YOUR programs, so I want them to be fun and meaningful to our members. Sharron Thompson – sharronkt@aol.com or phone 239-731-1430.

## AAUW Influence

Sometimes we're influential without even being aware. While we were enjoying the Fashion Show one of our guests was learning about our scholarship programs and how we came to fund them.

Myrna Frantz's guest later contacted me to ask questions about our first endowment and the matching funds of the State which made it possible. A retired teachers group may soon have an endowment of their own! See what can happen when women of like mind get together and have fun?

### Best Wishes to all of our Spring & Summer Birthday Members

#### May

Pat Allen  
Lois Eason  
Ann Hines Greene  
Nancy Kuyoth  
Becky Marks  
Olivia Schuster  
Peggy Thomas  
Ann Tikka  
Donna Uhlenhop

#### July

Mary Bonnette  
Cathy Chapman  
Ellen Schneider

#### August

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

#### June

Judith Clare  
Carol Fuechsel  
Suzan Harden  
Carolyn Kokalis  
Phyllis Wayco