

The **TORCH** February 2016

Vol. 54 No. 5

AAUW

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

February Meeting

Date: Sat., February 13, 2016

Board Meeting: 10:00

Gathering: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM

The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

Luncheon Menu

Choice 1

Turkey Cranberry on Focaccia & Chips

Choice 2

Quiche Lorraine & Fresh Fruit

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., Feb., 8, Cancellations
must be made no later than Tues.,
Feb., 9, otherwise payment is expected.
Price of the luncheon is \$20.00

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, philan-
thropy, and research.

AAUW Value Promise

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

February Speaker

Lois Healy

Lois Healy is a Financial Coach, Army
Veteran, HUD approved Housing
Counselor, who enjoys helping veterans,
disabled seniors and low-to-moderate
income individuals and families under-
stand how to navigate the waters of their
financial life and make their income
work for them. Lois combines a mix of
professional leadership development and
business strategy to help clients own their
own life and their own future.

She is the CEO of Affordable Home-
ownership Foundation Inc. whose
mission is to help the economically
vulnerable veterans and consumers of
our region achieve financial literacy,
attain homeownership, participate in the
American dream, and contribute to more
stable, vital neighborhoods. To create this
transition they offer advocacy, education,
counseling and grant assistance, and they
work to increase the availability of safe,
decent, affordable housing opportunities.

Lois is originally from the Adirondack
Mountains in upstate NY and has two
children, Nicole and Shaun.

Four Members Recognized with Eleanor Roosevelt Award

Every year since 1985 the Fort Myers/Lee
County Branch has recognized with the El-
eleanor Roosevelt Award members who have
served the branch in extraordinary ways.
AAUW guidelines are that we can recog-
nize one member for every \$250 our branch
donates to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

The first of this year's recipients is Marie Glasgow. She has been a member since 2006
and has served as Fashion Show Chair, Co-Treasurer, and President. She is active with
the League of Women Voters and is a Guardian Ad Litem.

Sandy Johnston has been a member since 2011. She is our Torch editor and produces a
beautiful publication every month and somehow puts up with all of us. She runs her own
business and is very involved with the Lakes Park Foundation, serving as the chair of their
gala this year.

Jayne Schwarz has been a member since 2008. She has served as Treasurer and was
very helpful as we went through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3).

Janet Schwenn observed her 50th anniversary of AAUW membership last July. She was
president of the Fort Myers/Lee County branch from 1985 – 1987. We thank Janet for
a lifetime of dedication to the AAUW mission.

Congratulations to all!

President's Message

As you have been hearing for the last few
meetings, February 1 and 2 are AAUW
Lobby Days in Tallahassee. Barb Carter,
one of our newest members who has been
heavily involved in the advocacy process in
AAUW at both the state and national level,
will be attending and will report back to us.

I joined AAUW partially because I was
looking for a way to make my limited
time and monetary resources effective in
advocating for the issues that are dearest to
my heart. Equal pay, reproductive rights,
family leave, human trafficking, fighting
bullying and harassment, and concealed
carry on campuses are all issues I care
about. However, I have never been more
motivated to action than I have been since
I have had to witness the continuing chip-
ping away of our public school systems.

You may believe these fights are for
younger people. However, the "wisdom
of elders" is never insignificant! It is easier
to advocate today than ever before. If you
have email and 15 minutes, you can let
your elected representatives know your
opinion on issues important to you. It is
especially powerful if you are speaking
from your own experience. You can find
contact information for our legislators in
the AAUW websites at the state and na-
tional level. Details of pending legislation
are available in the Florida State Legis-
lature website and in the U.S. Congress
website. Let the advocate in you roar!

Suzan Harden,

President
Fort Myers Chapter AAUW

13 Local Students Nominated for Tech Trek!

Tech Trek is a one week STEM camp sponsored by AAUW, FL for rising 8th grade girls. In last month's Torch Colleen Wheeler wrote of her experiences as a Tech Trek dorm monitor/mother. Our branch has never had a girl attend from our area. Thanks to the efforts of Janet George and Colleen who got the word out to teachers, that may change. Thirteen eighth grade girls in Fort Myers/Lee Co have been nominated by their Science or Math teachers to apply for AAUW Florida Tech Trek STEM camp. This year it will be held on the campus of Palm Beach State College, Boca Raton, from June 12 - 18. The nominees are from the following schools: Caloosa Middle, Mariner Middle, Varsity Lakes Middle, Cyprus Lakes Middle and Challenger Middle School.

Parents will complete and return applications to state by February 1st. State will send us applications and ranking criteria. Our committee will interview each applicant and send in results by March 1st. and finalists will be selected by State and announced April 1st.

The camp costs \$1000 per student. Half of the funding is provided by National and the other half by State which is seeking corporate sponsors. Our Branch has donated \$1000 per year since Tech Trek began and we're hopeful a girl or girls from our area will be attending at last! Thanks Janet and Colleen.



Star Bright Memorial Scholarship

The \$1000 Star-Bright Scholarship for 2015/2016 was awarded in December to Kelly Gequelin who is in pursuit of a degree in Architectural Drafting at Fort Myers Technical College. The AAUW Star-Bright Scholarship was established in 2005 by AAUW Book Club II in memory of members who are missed. It is awarded to women pursuing college or vocational education.



League of Women Voters Open Government Forum

SAVE THIS DATE!

**The League of Women Voters of Lee County
and The News-Press Media Group Present:**

OPEN GOVERNMENT & YOU: A PUBLIC FORUM

Saturday, March 12th, 2016, 1-5 PM

Registration Begins at 12:30 PM

**2442 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers
News-Press Bldg.**

Program is free and open to the public.

For additional information: <http://www.lwvlee.org/opengov.html>

OUR PARTNERS

- The First Amendment Foundation
- Office of the Lee County Clerk of Court
- Lee County Chamber of Commerce
- League of Women Voters, City of Sanibel
- Florida SouthWestern State College
- FGCU Office of Community Outreach
- WatchdogCity.com
- Barry University
- Lee County NAACP
- Ft. Myers/Naples NOW
- ACLU of Florida (Lee and Collier Counties)
- Sanibel/Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce
- League of Women Voters of Collier County

AAUW Fort Myers Branch Partners with League of Women Voters

Our branch is partnering with the League of Women Voters of Lee County and The News-Press Media Group to present OPEN GOVERNMENT & YOU: A PUBLIC FORUM to be held on Saturday, March 12. It will be held at the News-Press Building from 1-5 p.m. Registration will begin at 12:30. As you know, that is the date of our March meeting. However, the schedule for that meeting will be different, and it may be possible for you to attend both events. Go to <http://www.lwvlee.org/opengov.html> for more information. Please share this information with your friends and family.

New Member

Dorothy Reynolds Horstkotte graduated as an RN from Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, N.Y. She later graduated from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Dorothy pursued yet another degree at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY graduating with a Masters Degree in Education.



Her nursing career involved teaching nursing for several years as a Clinical Instructor as well as being an Educational Coordinator for a Nursing Home facility. Dorothy also taught Health and Science in middle school and high school.

In 1965, the travel bug hit Dorothy when she won an all-expense paid trip to Japan for twelve weeks. This started a desire to see and visit as many countries as possible and with her husband, Ed, she has been fortunate to have traveled to many parts of the world.

She is currently retired but keeps busy with volunteer activities and fundraising. They are snowbirds dividing their time between Fort Myers, FL and Schenectady, NY.

A year ago Dorothy and her husband rescued a three year old Golden Retriever named Molly. She and Dorothy graduated from a Pet Therapy International training program and while in Florida they work in a reading program at a local elementary school. They visit eight classrooms weekly and the children read to Molly. This brings joy to the children and a great deal of love to the dog. When in Schenectady we visit patients in one of the local assisted living facilities.

She and her husband have become involved with the City Mission of Schenectady and with their nine year old granddaughter serve at their community dinners on a weekly basis when they are in town.

Her hobbies include tennis, golf, travel and reading.

January Meeting Guests



Lois Dion guest of Mary Schonheider right and Annie Spielmaker on the left guest of Cathy Tucker.

Best Wishes to February Birthdays

Mary Kellner
Noni McCollm
Anne Allan
Janet George

Karen Serret
Laurie Folgate-Carey
Lucy Rathgens

This & That

AAUW 2015/16 Season

Mark Your Calendars

Circle these dates on your calendar. You will want to be at each meeting to hear these dynamic, informative speakers and their exciting topics:

March 12 **Barbara Manzo** "Picnic and Fun Tour at Lakes Park"
This is a brunch. Omelette Chefs will begin cooking at 11:00 AM. See page 4 for time change and picnic details.

April 9 **Dr. Carol Commodore** – Consultant for Leadership, Learning and Assessment, LLC. "Innovatively Integrating Testing in the Classroom"

Interest Groups

Bridge

Contact Marilyn Myli 239-482-0272 or marilynmy7@hotmail.com for information

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

Volunteer Drivers

If you would offer a ride to our members or guests who don't have transportation contact Nancy: nkuyoth@aol.com or 239-471-7806. Some of our members have had recent surgeries or just old knees and hips and need a ride. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the meeting for the next month.

Financial Report

Cash on hand, 1/18/16	\$8,510
Approved FY2016 budget, 9/9/15:	
Planned awards/scholarships and planned expenditures before end of fiscal year	-5,200

Branch Notes

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

The Torch is produced by
Sandra Johnston Graphics, LLC
and printed by
Magic Print Copy Center

Volunteers Needed

Nominating Committee Needed

If you would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please let Suzan Harden know. We will be seeking nominees for President, President-Elect, VP – Membership, and Treasurer.

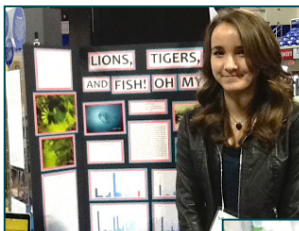
Scholarship Readers Wanted!

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation is looking for scholarship readers to review the applicants for our Sue Gottcent Scholarship Award. If you are interested in being a reader, please let Suzan Harden or Judy Sims know immediately. If you have been a reader before and have already been contacted, you can reply directly to the Foundation.

Fashion Show Co-Chairs Needed

We are looking for one or more people to chair the 2016 Fashion Show. Kathy and Peggy left a notebook with step-by-step instructions and time lines to help the next chair(s) make it happen. If you are interested, please contact Suzan Harden.

Congratulations to Science Fair Winners



\$500 Award went to Abby McKay



\$100 First Time Presenter Award went to Elizabeth Beltran

Our Branch awards two prizes to top female entrants in the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Judges Cathy Tucker, Charlie Allen and Laurie Folgate-Carey were at FGCU's gym early Sat., Jan., 23rd to review the studies and talk to the girls. Former President, Ellen Schneider attended the Science Fair Awards night to present the girls with their awards and to represent AAUW. The \$500 award went to Abby McKay for her project "Lions, Tigers, and Fish," a study of the Lion Fish done off the coast of Sanibel Is. There is some concern that this very dangerous exotic species is decimating native fish.

The \$100, First Time Presenter Award went to Elizabeth Beltran for her project entitled "Organic Brand VS Leading Brand Detergents" which was designed to determine the effects of waste water on plant growth. We hope the girls will attend a meeting and tell us more about their projects.

Film Fare

You'll be hearing a lot about The Revenant as it has been nominated for 10 Oscar awards. Will DeCaprio finally win after 5 other nominations? If director Alejandro G. Inarritu (Birdman) wins, it will be his second in a row, which has only occurred twice in Oscar history, John Ford (The Grapes of Wrath [1940] and How Green is My Valley[1941]) and Joseph L. Mankiewicz (A Letter to Three Wives[1949] and All About Eve [1950]).

Revenant means re-born, or one who has come back. There is so much that is sensational about this film. The scenery is as starkly beautiful as it is inhospitable. I, a Southerner can't imagine surviving even a day or two in that cold. They shot without artificial light in Canada's winter which meant many short shooting sessions taking almost 6 months.

First I thought it's about surviving the brutality of nature and the brutality of man, coming back from certain death, and the strength and philosophical tidbits necessary to do that.

There's a contrast between the more common brutal pragmatism of frontiersmen necessary for survival and the faint but persistent ribbon of idealism, honor or nobility seen in a precious few white men and Indians. Maybe the rebirth was more a "born again" experience when a man became better than he knew he could be but he had to survive first!

Judy Sims

Book Club IV 2015 – 2016

4th Wed of the month at 3:15 PM

Mar 23 - Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy
by Karen Abbott
Apr 27 - All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr
May 25 - Look in My Eyes
by John Elder Robison
June 22 - TBD
Contact Cathy Chapman for details.

Enjoy A Walk Down Memory Lane



Be a Kid Again !!!

On March 12, 2016 at our AAUW luncheon you'll have a chance to do just that. Remember when you loved a picnic in the park, riding that little train, and swinging so high you thought you'd touch the sky? Well we have a special day planned beginning with:

- 20 minute golf cart tours of the park
- Chef prepared omelettes
- Barb Manzo, Vice-President of the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation Board will be our speaker
- Please bring prospective members and share with them the benefits of being part of AAUW
- Following the meeting you can take the 1&1/4 mile train ride tour, ride the paddle boats and bicycle surreys or enjoy a game of bridge in the lodge with friends. We've rented the lodge for the whole day.

Build Your Own Omelette Brunch

Chefs will begin cooking at 11:00 and finish at 12:00

Chef Prepared with your choice of:

Julienned Ham
Mozzarella Cheese
Cheddar Cheese
Spanish Sauce
Mushrooms
Onions
Green & Red Bell Pepper
Spinach
Broccoli

For those who are not able to eat eggs we'll have fresh fruit, a cheese tray, Danish, croissants and butter.

Beverages

Regular Coffee, Sweeteners Half & Half
Orange Juice and Cranberry Juice

The cost of brunch/luncheon is \$18/pp. Parking at Lakes Park is \$1.00/hr. or \$5.00/day. Parking ticket machines are located in the parking lot. We will have members there to help you with the machines and direct you to the lodge.



Park Tour Sign-up

One of the park volunteers will be on hand to give 20 minute riding tours. The Foundation golf cart can take only 5 members at a time so if you'd like a tour please sign up now for you and your friends.

Tour departure times are: 9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 10:30, 10:50, and 11:10. This schedule allows for 30 people. Times will be first come first served. Email Sandy Johnston with your preferred time. smrflw7@centurylink.net.

This is a tour reservation only. You will still need to make a luncheon reservation with Tina.

Should you choose to ride the little train the hours of operation are 9:45 AM to 4:00 PM and tickets are \$5.00.

Directions

The park entrance is off of Gladiolus

- Enter through the park gates
- Turn right at the first stop sign
- Follow the road to the far end of the parking lot. A member will be on hand to provide directions.