

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

### May Meeting

### Salad Days at Judy Sims'



Sat, May 21, 2016 ♦ 11:00 AM

Enjoy a soft breeze and a spectacular view of the Caloosahatchee whether dining indoors or out at Judy Sims home, 3432 W. Riverside Dr.

We've worked hard this year! Our last meeting will be fun-focused. We always have plenty at take-in luncheons, so pair up with another member to bring a salad or a dessert. Beverages will be provided. Rusty Brown, a long-time friend of AAUW and a former VP of Program for this Branch, will present "Finding Liberty At The Golden Door," the story of Emma Lazarus, whose iconic words "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." are inscribed on the Statue of Liberty.

After lunch outgoing and incoming board members will lead small group discussions to get feedback on our branch's activities, programs, etc. We hope you will come with ideas! We expect the luncheon to end about 2:00.

RSVP & Directions Judy Sims 334-2037

### 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.

## AAUW 2016

### Florida State Convention

The weekend of April 15 – 17, Barb Carter, Suzan Harden, Bonnie Lincoln, and Judy Sims attended the biennial AAUW FL State Convention, held this year at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. The theme of this year's convention was Shaping the Future: Fair Pay, Fair Play. Approximately 120 people attended.

**Karen Coolman Amlong, JD**, was the keynote speaker at the opening session. After being passed over for a promotion in her first job out of college because it was assumed she would get married, get pregnant, and quit, Karen began to understand the nature of workplace discrimination. She did not know what to do about it, but when she stumbled into a NOW meeting, she found her focus. She organized NOW chapters across the state of Florida. At 27 she was the first woman elected to the Florida House of Representatives from Broward County. After her first term of office, she went to law school. She won Florida's first major sexual harassment lawsuit, *Stockett v. Tolin*, in 1992. She has been a tireless advocate for ending discrimination since that time. One of the great things about her story is that her husband Bill has been her partner all along the way, including attending our convention.

**Lily Ledbetter**, author of *GRACE AND GRIT: MY FIGHT FOR EQUAL PAY AT GOODYEAR AND BEYOND*, was the featured speaker at Saturday's luncheon meeting. Lily's lawsuit for fair pay resulted (after a 10-year battle) in the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, the first law President Obama signed into effect. Following Lily's presentation was a panel discussion featuring Lois Frankel, US House of Representatives, Palm Beach; Lori Berman, Florida House of Representatives, Palm Beach; and Shirlyon McWhorter, Director of Equal Opportunity Programs and Diversity (including Title IX) at Florida International University. Lisa Maatz, Vice President for Government Relations at AAUW, moderated the panel discussion.

**Sue Barley**, national AAUW board member who is from the Greater Naples branch, brought greetings from national and made a presentation about various programs at the national level.

**Lisa Maatz**, outlined AAUW's legislative priorities. Lisa's career in lobbying began when, as a 3rd grader, she realized the boys' bathroom had doors but the girls' did not. She got students to sign a petition and presented it to the principal. Two weeks later the girls' bathroom had doors. She is AAUW's top lobbyist and is a sought-after speaker, political strategist and activist.



Our branch received a certificate for increasing our membership. Two of our members, Naomi Bloom and Marie Shively, received ribbons as a "Friend of AAUW" for their contributions to the AAUW Fund.

As usual, the basket raffle was a highlight of the convention. Our thanks go to Janet George and Bonnie Ryan for putting together our branch's contribution, called Salute To Earthly Magic (STEM). It was a beautiful basket anchored with a garden stool and including garden tools and books. Thank you so much!

**The next state convention will be in 2018. Let's take a strong delegation!**

## President's Message

Considering that our program year is "officially" over, a lot has been happening in AAUW! A high school student has been chosen for our high school scholarship, all our Tech Trek invitees have paid the registration fee for the camp, four members went to AAUW FL State Convention, Peggy Cihl and Kathy Jones stepped up to be Fashion Show chairs again, Phyllis Wayco volunteered to serve in 16/17 as VP – Programs, the 16/17 board has been making plans for next year, and we have been planning the May meeting. All in all, a very productive few weeks! You will find articles about all these events elsewhere in this edition of the Torch. Happy reading

*Suzan Harden*,

President  
Fort Myers Chapter AAUW

# AAUW Ft Myers/Lee Co Branch Scholarship Committee Report – April 2016

*It's been a busy year for the Scholarship. We made changes to our criteria for our endowed scholarships and we set 5 year goals for the endowments.*

**Sue Gottcent Scholarship:** We had 4 reviewers for our applications for a scholarship recipient for the Sue Gottcent award, Janet, Bonnie, Ellen and Marie. Melanie Halloway, SWFL Community Foundation liaison says that there are several other people reviewing our applicants and their ratings will be combined with ours to make a recommendation to the board. The IRS rules for foundations require that the donors cannot be the only voice in making a recommendation. The board will make the decision in May. Melanie states that her voice is important as well. She agreed with our position that although 3 of the 5 applicants were impressive, one appeared to have little need; one had extremely broad goals but a lower grade point. The applicant that 5 of us hope will be selected finally is a single mother, has already earned a BS degree in nursing and is working to become a Nurse Anesthetist. She has experienced family illness and tragedy and been able to help her family while keeping her grades up. One reader wrote "Outstanding candidate with proven record of succeeding in spite of hardships." The Foundation requests that we not reveal her name until they do so.

**Star Bright Scholarship:** During a busy Christmas season, we reviewed applications for the Star Bright Scholarship and awarded a \$1,000 grant to Kelly P. Gequelin, an Architectural Drafting student at FMTC, Fort Myers Technical College. The receipts for the Star Bright donations are up to date with \$405 for the memorial award.

**Tech Trek:** Janet and Colleen beat the bushes for recommendations for Tech Trek and we had 14 rising eighth grade girls nominated by their teachers. Eight applied. We reviewed the recommendations and interviewed the girls and a parent of each. Four of the applicants were selected by Tech Trek State committee. They are: Melanie Pena, Challenger, Sarah Laboda, Cypress Lakes, Brooke Turner, Varsity Lakes, and Morgan Russell, Caloosa. Attached to this report is a list of suggestions that will be submitted to the Tech Trek State committee. It has been our recommendation that we not go forward with the High School Scholarship this year but instead consider using those moneys to fund the Tech Trek students. The board wanted to wait upon that decision until we knew how many girls from Lee County would be attending. We will need to decide soon whether we will conduct a campaign to solicit funds for Tech Trek 17 from Corporate Donors in our area.

**FSW Scholarship:** Ellen and Judy attended the President's Luncheon at FSW where they met our recipient for next year, lovely, Ashley Shilling a Video Production student who will be entering the Film Festival at the Sidney and Berne Davis Center. We look forward to knowing more about Ashley.

**FGCU Scholarship:** Suzan, Marie and Judy attended the FGCU Foundations Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency where they met our scholarship recipient, Andrea Bruno, a lovely, confident young woman, a single mother graduating in June.

We've done a lot and we've done well! Thank you all for your enthusiasm and efforts.  
Sincerely,

*Judith Sims and Janet George*

## Suggestions for Tech Trek

Direct Branches to select a Tech Trek Coordinator by June and communicate about the finances and need to raise monies for the next year so Branches can include it in their budgeting.

Shirley Reid's letter explaining how students are selected should be sent also. It was excellent.

Copy all branch Tech Trek Coordinators and Presidents on the booklet produced following Tech Trek 2016 by September. Information should include # of Branches participated and # of students attended camp, dollars each donated and contributed from fundraiser.

Direct all Tech Trek Coordinators to view all information on the Web regarding Tech Trek.

Copy each Branch on the current year and past year finances, donations and expenses.

Host a teleconference with all Coordinators in early October.

In order to not duplicate an appeal to a corporation, a method of reporting which corporations have donated and which branch solicited the donation should be implemented. We are imagining both our Branch and the Naples Branch approaching Hertz. We don't want to lose the goodwill of corporate donors by having multiple solicitations.

*Suggestions for Tech Trek continued.*

We need to clarify whether corporate donors can be assured that they are sending local girls to the state Tech Trek camp.

The managing of fund raising for Tech Trek FL needs to be transparent. Branches that are 501(c)(3) cannot submit funds to Tech Trek Florida or AAUW Florida as they are not listed on the FL database as authorized to solicit donations. Corporate donors would want to know to what 501(c)(3) they are donating. Request each Branch submit a plan for raising Tech Trek Funds.

Ask each Branch Tech Trek Coordinator to share the manner they were able to successfully get Tech Trek information to 7th grade Math and Science teachers.

The rating scale for judging the nomination, essay and application should be refined so that diversity and no previous opportunities adds points as well as the ability of the student to articulate STEM interest during the interview.

A 3 point rating scale is not discriminating enough. A 5 point scale would be better or even a 10.

Each Branch Coordinator should call the parent/parents following the student's nomination. (Many parents had no idea what AAUW was and had many questions about the process and the camp. The Coordinator should give them their telephone number so parents can call if more questions arise.)

Branch Coordinators should contact each selected student/parent following notification to offer congratulations and suggest a meeting so girls/parents can get acquainted.

If possible, teachers of selected nominees should be contacted by email and congratulated and thanked for their support of Tech Trek. This might stimulate classroom discussion of the camp and create future student interest.

Principals and the teachers that have had students attend Tech Trek should be recognized by AAUW following the camp. This would help keep them more informed about the camp and cultivate their continued support and promotion of Tech Trek. Maybe send them a camp booklet?

## Team Nance Recruiting Volunteers

Our branch will again be staffing precinct 90 (at Saint Cecilia's) for the primary on August 30, 2016. If you are a registered Lee County voter and would like to be part of our team please contact Carolyn Nance at [cnance5240@gmail.com](mailto:cnance5240@gmail.com) or 239-257-1727 or Judith Sims at [judithssims@gmail.com](mailto:judithssims@gmail.com) or 239-334-2037. This is a major fundraiser to support our missions.

# This & That

## What's New

### Important!

Before You Go Into Summer Mode! DATE to remember: July 31, 2016! It's AAUW Directory prep time again, and that's the date that all member information needs to be in to our treasurer and membership officers. We all know how important this little booklet is to keeping us up-to-date about our meetings and sister members. Be sure to renew your dues and provide your current contact information by July 31!

### Patrons Wanted

Producing our annual Directory is one of the major operating costs for our organization, but it is an indispensable tool for our activities. To underwrite its expense, each year a dozen or more members contribute to its costs, becoming Directory "Patrons" who are listed prominently in the booklet. Patron contributions can be in any amount, and may be sent to our mail box (AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County, Directory, PO Box 2115, Ft. Myers, FL 33902-2115) by the July 31 deadline. We also solicit advertisements from businesses that have an interest in reaching our members. Rates for advertising are modest, and past advertisers are being contacted. However, if you know of a particular business (salon, spa, doctor, etc.) that may be interested, please contact Directory Editor, Ellen Schneider at ellenschneider@earthlink.net ellenschneider@earthlink.net, or 239-839-6664

### Best Wishes to our Summer Birthdays

#### May

Nancy Kuyoth	Lois Eason
Olivia Schuster	Becky Marks
Patricia Crowe	Peggy Thomas
Ann Tikka	Ann Hines Greene
Donna Uhlenhop	Barbara Carter

#### June

Judith Clare	Phyllis Wayco
Carol Fuechsel	Suzan Harden
Carolyn Kokalis	Janet Sigman

#### July

Cathy Chapman	Ellen Schneider
Mary Lou White	Mary Bonnette

#### August

Cathy Tucker	Trish Gillen
Joyce Gardner	Mary Schoenheider
Marilyn Myli	Carol Edmier
Sharron Thompson	Sandra Lignell
Jetetta Hunt	

### Suggested Reading

The books listed below were written by speakers from our AAUW FL State Convention.

**Grace and Grit:** My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond, Lilly Ledbetter.

**Secrets of Powerful Women** (Lisa Maatz is a contributor).

**It's Not Rocket Science:** Game-Changing Traits for Uncommon Success, Mary Spio

**Love Her, Love Her Not:** The Hillary Paradox, Joanne Cronrath Bamberger (Lisa Maatz is a contributor).

### New AAUW Florida Award

AAUW Florida has initiated a new award called the ELLIE. Named in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt, it was created to recognize those who embrace the advocacy of Eleanor Roosevelt and who use their position in society to improve the lives of women and girls. The first three ELLIE Awards were presented at this year's convention to Karen Coolman Amlong, Lisa Maatz, and Mary Spio. Mary was scheduled to attend but was unavailable at the last minute. Mary is known for creating and holding patents on the technology used to digitally release feature films over satellite and for demographically-targeted distribution of cinema content. Her companies have worked with such corporate mega stars as Coca Cola, XBOX, Microsoft, and Lincoln Ford.

### \$50.00

### Who Will be the Lucky Winner?

At the May meeting there will be a drawing for a \$50 gift card for the new French restaurant Azure . . . BUT . . . in order to be eligible to put your name in the hat for the drawing you must have your 2016-2017 dues paid and be at the meeting.

If you have a card table and chairs please give Judy a call a day or two before the meeting she might need a few extras.

### Branch Notes

Postal Address: P.O. Box 2115  
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

The Torch is produced by  
**Sandra Johnston Graphics, LLC**  
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## High School Scholarship

Alexxis (with 2 x's) Mendoza is our Lee County High School Scholarship recipient for 2015-16. Alexxis has a 3.79 GPA



and her favorite subject in school is math. She is a fine athlete, having participated in track and field, basketball and soccer. She will be attending FSW, studying for a neonatal nursing certificate with the goal to become a pediatric physician's assistant. Assistant Principal Washington's letter of recommendation was glowing. He was even more proud of her volunteering at Lee Memorial than of her accomplishments on the basketball court where he was her coach.

He concluded "...she will not disappoint you." We know she won't.



Scholarship co-chair Judith Sims and Past President Ellen Schneider were pleased to meet our Florida Southwestern State College Endowed Scholarship recipient for the coming year at a recent FSW Foundation luncheon. Ashley Shilling is a lovely young woman from Cape Coral who will begin her sophomore year in the fall. She aspires to work behind the scenes in the film industry doing camera work editing and other production tasks. She has an excellent portfolio in that field already, having her own YouTube channel, called "curlyshilling," featuring hair and makeup how-to videos she produces. In high school (North Fort Myers) she hosted and interviewed guests on the Lee County School District's student-produced news show, which won the 2013 Best Student-Produced News Show at the Student Emmys. She also won First Place in Instructional Video at the 2014 Lee County Student Film Festival. She is currently Chair of Communications for the Lee Campus Student Government Association, and will move to another elected office next school year. Ashley is an outstanding representative of our several awardees this year, and we look forward to meeting them all at a future AAUW meeting.

## It' A Wrap! Another Successful AAUW Season Comes To An End



*Chapter Members Attend State Convention.*  
(L to R) Suzan Harden, Judy Sims, Bonnie Lincoln, Barbara Carter.



*Incoming 2016-17 Board*  
(L to R) Cathy Chapman, co-Secretary; Marilyn Myli, President-elect; Kathy Jones, VP - Membership (Kathy later resigned to be co-fashion show chair again); Shelley Siriano, President; Bonnie Ryan, co-Secretary.

*Just as an artist knows when a painting is finished a volunteer knows when it's time to move on.*

For the past three years it's been my pleasure to publish the Torch for our AAUW Branch. Fortunately every editor has the latitude to create a publication in her own style so I thank you for the opportunity to develop my skills and value your kind words of appreciation.



The 2016-17 season holds many new challenges for this organization. One of them is breaking in a new Torch editor. With so many talented, accomplished women in one place it will be hard to decide who gets the honor. No matter who it is I'm looking forward to seeing what kind of new life and ideas you bring to the table.

Let me give you a heads up about the toughest part of the job. Beginning at the first Board meeting you MUST plant the idea in each contributor's head that the typing rules have changed and there is only ONE space at the end of a typed sentence. I've given up.

A sincere thank you to Suzan Harden for taking on the leadership roles of President-Elect and Branch President for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons. Your positive contributions and hard work will long be remembered.



*Fort Myers AAUW Members*



*Out Going Board* (L to R) Suzan Harden, Nancy Kuyoth, Bonnie Ryan, Judith Sims, Janet George, Barbara Carter, Sharron Thompson, Jayne Schwarz, Marie Glasgow.



*2016 State Convention Speakers*  
(L to R) Lisa Maatz, Lilly Ledbetter, Lois Frankel, Lori Berman, Shirlyon McWhorter.