



## *the* **TORCH**

### **March 18 Vol. 56, No. 3 March Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday March 18, 2017  
**Gathering:** 11:30 AM  
**Lunch:** 12:00 PM  
**Place:** The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club

#### **Luncheon Menu:**

*Choice 1:* Chicken Crepe with Chef's Vegetables-  
Crepes Stuffed with Chicken, Shiitake Mushrooms  
Spinach and Artichoke Hearts Topped with Béchamel  
Sauced

Or

*Choice 2:* Caprese Salad – Vine Ripe Tomatoes, Sliced  
Fresh Mozzarella, Basil, Bermuda Onion Served Over  
Baby Spinach and Romaine Mix Drizzled with  
Balsamic Reduction

*With:* Warm Rolls & Butter

*Dessert:* Chef's Choice

Beverages from the bar are available.  
Wait staff will accept charge cards.

#### **Reservations:**

**Tina Hoegler will be taking reservations. Please contact her at 941-505-8483 or [c\\_hoegler@msn.com](mailto:c_hoegler@msn.com) no later than Mon., March 13. Cancellations must be made no later than Tues., March 14, otherwise payment is expected. Members are reminded that they are responsible for payment of unattended reservation for either them and/or their guests. Price of the luncheon is \$20.00 CHECKS are preferred for payment.**

#### **President Shelley Siriano**

Welcome to March and looking forward to another interesting and informational program. Thanks to Phyllis Wayco for an outstanding year of stimulating messages.

Although it seems like over repetitive and beating the proverbial "horse" our need for board members is necessary and vital. The following positions are available and our need for your experience, time and invigorating new ideas is critical to our continued success: President-elect, communications (an appointed board member) and potentially co-secretary when Cathy Chapman is not here. Don't be shy and feel free to call me as well as Judith Sims and Suzan Harden.

I'm looking forward to the Florida state convention being held in Sarasota. The theme is "The Power of Pink" around which pertinent workshops will be held. We hope to bring back some new and refreshing ideas to our branch.

Don't forget to contact Tina and we will see you March 18, 2017.

*Shelley*

**Our Speaker: Nannette Cotto**  
(Chico's Senior /director of  
concept and Trend Research and  
Development)

**“From Bolt to Boutique”**

## Public Policy

TALLAHASSEE — State Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando), House Democratic Leader Janet Cruz (D-Tampa) and Representative Lori Berman (D-Lantana) filed [Senate Bill 410](#) and [House Bill 319](#), jointly named the Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Act, aimed at closing the gender pay gap in Florida. The bills seek to close the pervasive gender pay gap by updating and clarifying Florida’s current law to ban employers from paying workers differently based on sex or gender identity. On average, women in Florida take home only 87 cents for every dollar earned by men. Additionally, SB 410 and HB 319 delineate which reasons employers can use to pay employees differently – things like education, skill-set, and experience. By clarifying these reasons, employers can avoid costly litigation and be clear about which attributes are valued. Moreover, the bills would prohibit “mommy tracking,” ensuring that women (and men) are not forced into lower tracks of employment based on assumptions. It would bar employers from inquiring about or screening employees based on their prior salary history – a practice we know can introduce unintended discrimination into the hiring process. It would also increase civil penalties for a violation, thus motivating employers to do the right thing.

At this time, both bills have been sent to various committees for study.

Public Policy – Marilynn Edwards

## *Financial Report*

Cash on Hand January 31, 2017	\$17,000
Restricted Donations: Starbright	(836)
Available Cash	\$16,164

Mary Kellner, Treasurer

## Name Tags

Are you interested in a name tag? Please contact Marlene Palmer. Cost: \$8.22  
Make check payable to Marlene Palmer, 9149 Shadow Glen Way, Fort Myers, FL 33913 (239-768-9824)  
Be sure to include your complete name.

**Remember our branch email:**  
[aauwleecounty@gmail.com](mailto:aauwleecounty@gmail.com)

**Our branch postal address:**  
AAUW  
PO Box 2115  
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Our April meeting has been **changed to Saturday, April 22, 2017**. The previously published date falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

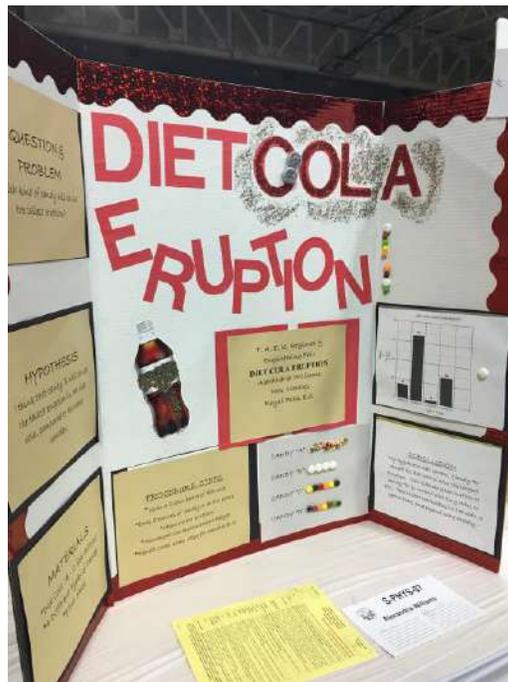
## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas Alva Edison Science & Engineering Fair

This year's fair reached over 30,000 K-12 Lee County and Charlotte county students. Almost 400 students with over 300 projects made it to the floor of the Dunk City Arena at Florida Gulf Coast University.

AAUW has been a part of the Special Awards Category for the past five years. Our award, "Women in STEM" is one of the largest awards given in this category. The awards are given to two 9-12 female Lee County Students. The first award, one-hundred dollars, is presented to a young lady who has never previously competed in the regional fair. The project also needs to show an interest in one or more of the STEM fields. The second award is for five hundred dollars and is given to a young lady whose project shows the potential to benefit our community and/or our environment. The selected project also must be independent research of the student and not under the direct supervision of a higher learning or research center.

Alexandria Williams is this year's recipient of the one-hundred-dollar prize. Not only is this Alexandria's first Science and Engineering Fair, but it is also the first time her school, Royal Palm Exceptional Academy, has participated in this type of event. Alexandria's project "Diet Coke Eruption" shows that Science, Math and Engineering are all around us. The five-hundred-dollar amount was presented to Shreeya Desari for her work, "Fuel for Thought: The Use of Amylase to Increase Production of Ethanol from Food Waste." Shreeya is a dedicated student of STEM and has worked diligently on her project overcoming various obstacles with a creative flair. Shreeya is a senior at Cape Coral High School.

We want to extend our thanks to our two newest judges, Antoinette Debose and Alex Mavrelis (Kathy Jones' son and travel here from the east coast). As always, we extend a thank you to Laurie Folgate-Carey and all the members that make our efforts possible.



Shreeya Desari



**AAUW**  
**Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch**  
**PO Box 2115 Fort Myers, FL**  
**33902-2155**

Equal Pay and Lobby Days 2017.

Join us for AAUW of Florida Lobby Days in Tallahassee on March 14-15.

The highlight of our time at the Capitol will be the Rally for Equal Pay organized by State Rep. Lori Berman, Florida House Democratic Leader Janet Cruz and State Sen. Linda Stewart. For more information contact [aauwdlidewitt@gmail.com](mailto:aauwdlidewitt@gmail.com).