

*American Association of University Women*  
**AAUW**

*the TORCH* **February, 2018**

**Vol. 55, No.13**

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Date: Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018**

**Gathering: 11:30 A.M.**

**Location: The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club, 5200 S Landings Dr.**

***Luncheon Menu:***

**Choice 1: Homemade Spinach and Grilled Vegetable Lasagna**, accompanied by Small Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette.

**Choice 2: Southwest Taco Salad**, served in a flour tortilla bowl, topped with seasoned ground beef, salsa, sour cream, cheddar jack cheese, tomatoes and black olives.

**Dessert: Chef's Choice or Fruit Cup**

Beverages from the bar are available.

Wait staff will accept charge cards.

**For reservations**, contact Tina Hoegler

(941) 505-8483 or [c\\_hoegler@msn.com](mailto:c_hoegler@msn.com) Please contact her no later than Monday, February 12. Cancellations must be made no later than Tuesday, February 13; otherwise payment is expected. Price of the luncheon is \$20.00; checks are preferred.

***February Speaker:***

Our speaker in February is Sarah Mitchell. She was our guest speaker last year, and we really enjoyed the information she had to offer.



Sarah is the Health & Wellness Coordinator for Lee Health Wellness Center. She enjoys

navigating members, and employees, as well as the community, to the best possible resources for the

individual's health and well-being. She is certified through Wellcoaches School of Coaching as a Health and Wellness Coach. In this role, her goal is to empower, motivate and guide clients to healthy behaviors to achieve optimal wellness.

Sarah is the facilitator for Lee Health Brain Booster Workshops and Lee Health Weight Management Exercise Program.

***How a Bill Becomes A Law***

The Florida session of the State Legislature began January 8 and ends March 7. Fifty bills had been introduced and assigned to committee at the close of 2017. Either house may originate legislation. There are 40 Senators and 120 Representative. Each house member gets six bill slots; there is no limit for Senators.

Each committee studies the bill and decides if it should pass, fail, or be amended.

Once a bill has passed through committee, it will go to the full chamber to accept the bill as is, change it, or reject it. Once passed, the bill goes to the other chamber for review.

When both chambers pass a bill, it is sent to the governor. He can sign the bill into law, allow it to pass into law without his signature or reject it.

The only requirement of the session is to pass a budget. This is an election year and legislators are focused on that.

## **We are proud of our Scholarship Recipients**

Joanna Rivero-East Lee County High School-\$1000  
Alyssa Crowbridge- FGCU \$1500  
Michele Gendron- FGCU-SUE GOTCENT \$2000  
Jessica Pittroff- FSW - \$1000  
Claribel Acevedo-STAR BRIGHT Cape Coral Technical  
College-\$1000



### **What is G E M S?????**

#### ***Girls in Engineering, Math and Science***

The Whitaker Center at FGCU offers four half-day events a year for middle school girls to engage in hands-on activities related to engineering, math and science. Our member, Dr. Laura Frost, is the Director of the Center and invites us (AAUW members) to attend an event as an observer. This is an opportunity to see for yourself how young girls get excited about these areas of learning. Remember that it is our own AAUW National research that identified that in the seventh and eighth grades of middle school, girls lose interest in science, technology, math and engineering. This program aims to address that and also reaches out to middle school girls who have not had much exposure both in school and in life to such topic areas.

The next scheduled events are February 10 and April 21. Please call or email Bonnie Ryan, [bonniemarieryan@aol.com](mailto:bonniemarieryan@aol.com) or (716) 860-7361, if you would like to attend and she will give additional information.

### ***President's Message***

At our January meeting, we enjoyed the presentation by Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall, authors of Female Pioneers of Fort Myers. Many women, such as Tootie McGregor Terry, Ella Mae Piper, Olive Stout and Sarah Williams

are some of the woman who were instrumental in the development of the city of Fort Myers and have not been given the credit they deserve. It was a very interesting and informative program.

At our meeting were our scholarship recipients. It was great to meet them, and we all felt that their future looks good. We are happy we are able to contribute to their education.

It is February, and we have some major work to accomplish. We need your help in nominating the slate of officers for 2018-2019, "STEP UP-BE COUNTED." We need volunteers to fill officer positions, committee chairpersons and coordinators. Your contribution is vital for AAUW's future.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact by phone or e-mail the members of the nominating committee, Kathy Jones, Judith Sims, or Bobby Balmer.

*Marilyn R. Myli*

## ***AAUW Activities for You***

### ***Book Groups***

Janice McPeak, Coordinator (630) 584-3431

I. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

II. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 1:00 p.m.

III. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1:30 p.m.

IV. *New Book Group Book,*

*Meeting Time:* Third Thursday of each month, Noon to 1:30 p.m. The first meeting will be February 15.

*Location:* The Sweet Bean Coffee Cafe at 13251 McGregor Blvd.

*Book selection:* Will be done by members at the meeting. Please email or bring to the meeting your suggestion/s for the March 22nd gathering.

*February 15th Book:* A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles (available from Amazon.)

*For more information:*

Nadine Coudret

[ncoudret@gmail.com](mailto:ncoudret@gmail.com)

812-319-5836

or Lois Benedetto

[benedetl@georgetown.edu](mailto:benedetl@georgetown.edu)

239-466-2094

### ***Bridge Groups***

Donna Randolf, Coordinator (239) 693-2556

A. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 10:30 a.m.

B. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 12:30 p.m.

### ***Hand and Foot Group***

Nancy Kuyoth, Coordinator  
(239) 471-7806

## ***Mahjongg***

Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator

(239) 277-5174

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.

## ***Name Tags***

Are you interested in a name tag? Please contact Marlene Palmer. Cost: \$9.25 Make check payable to Marlene Palmer, 9149 Shadow Glen Way, Fort Myers, FL 33913 (239-768-9824) Be sure to include your complete name as you want it to appear. (Please print in capital letters.)

## ***Woman of Interest***

Rita Moreno is the first Latina American to win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony. She is a Puerto Rican actress, dancer and singer.



Rita Moreno's career has spanned over 70 years; among her notable acting work are supporting roles in the musical films *The King and I* and *West Side Story*, as well as a 1971–77 stint on the children's television series *The Electric Company*, and a supporting role on the 1997-2003 TV drama *Oz*.

## ***61<sup>st</sup> Annual Thomas Alva Edison Science and Engineering Fair***

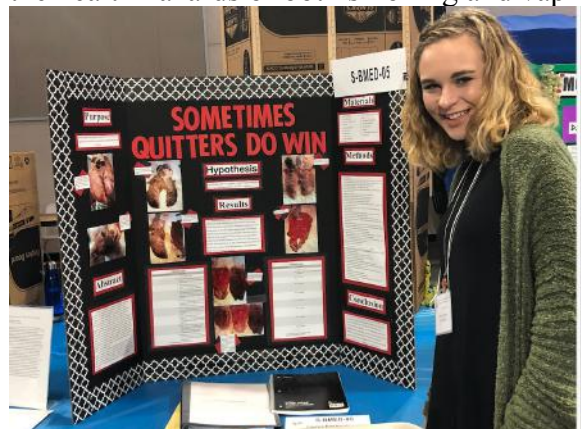
The Thomas Alva Edison Science and Engineering Fair showcases Science and Engineering Projects that are presented by 450 students from Lee and Charlotte Counties.

For the past six years, AAUW has been a part of the Special Awards Category. The Fort Myers/Lee County Branch gives out two “Women in STEM” awards. Each of these awards is one of the largest awards given in this category. The awards are given to two female Lee County high school 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 needed 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 projects also must be independent research done by

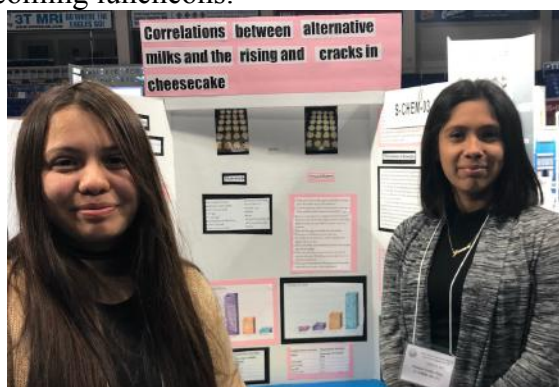
the student and not under the direct supervision of a higher learning or research center.

This year's one-hundred-dollar award has been given to the team of Joanna Prado-Pena and Nayely Botello. The team looked at alternative milks for the making of cheesecakes. They looked at the type of milk and how it affected the rising and cracking of cheesecakes to determine which milk: soy, almond or coconut could be used as a healthy alternative to whole milk. Joanna and Nayela are sophomores at Dunbar High School

Lauren Bierbaum is the recipient of the five – hundred dollar award. She is a freshman at Evangelical Christian School. Lauren's project, “Sometimes Quitters Do Win,” showed the effect of cigarette smoking and vaping on the lungs (pig). She hopes to continue the project to bring to light the health hazards of both smoking and vaping.



All three students, along with their parents and teachers, have been invited to attend one of our upcoming luncheons.



**Remember our branch email:**  
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