

American Association of University Women
AAUW

the TORCH **March, 2018**

Vol. 55, No.14

March MEETING

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018

Gathering: 11:30 A.M.

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

Luncheon Menu:

Choice 1: Teriyaki Chicken Salad:

Boneless Chicken Breast Served Over Mixed Greens with Mandarin Oranges, Chow Mein Noodles, Cherry Tomatoes and Green Onions. Drizzled with Asian Vinaigrette.

Choice 2: Chicken Crepes:

Stuffed with Chicken, Shiitake Mushrooms, Spinach and Artichoke Hearts then Topped with Béchamel Sauce. Served with Fresh Vegetables.

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 Please contact her no later than Monday, March 12. Cancellations must be made no later than Tuesday, March 13; otherwise payment is expected. Price of the luncheon is \$20.00; checks are preferred.

March Speaker:

"Into the Jordan Ministries"

Human Trafficking in Lee County

Our speakers on March 17 will be Sharon Aldrich and Melinda Starrett. Melinda is the co director of "Into The Jordan Ministries" Their program is about Human Trafficking in Lee County. Melinda is a survivor of trafficking and will speak about the

trauma involved in being trafficked and how it impacts the lives of women. Sharon will speak about the services that their organization offers the women seeking to get out of trafficking. They work in downtown Fort Myers with women ages 18 and over. At any time, they have 20-40 women involved with their different services.

Our Branch Needs You!

There are vacancies on the board for next year, and we would like you to consider stepping up and helping out. No experience needed except for enthusiasm. The board members have all the experience you need and are there to help you.

The positions that are needed are for:

Elected Officers: Executive Board

Vice President Elect

Appointed Board Members

Ways and Means (In charge of overseeing our fundraising)

Committees:

Fashion Show Chair/co-chair

Book Group Coordinator

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Jones, VP Pres. Elect. Email: kathyj1972@hotmail.com or cell 239 634 1972. Thank you membership.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AAUW MEMBERS



Lynn Felice



Ivanna Kucero

Ronda Bressler, Jill Jennings and Marilyn Johnson

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

For your information:

The [Florida](#) Legislature is considering a proposal for a state-funded private school voucher averaging \$6,800 a year expressly for children who say they have been bullied, regardless of income.

The "Hope Scholarships" would be the nation's first such program. The grants would be funded by car buyers who voluntarily redirect \$105 from their registration fee to the program, under a bill passed by the Florida House. Religious and secular private schools would be eligible.

Under the proposal, students would be eligible if their parents told administrators they had been bullied, battered, harassed, hazed, sexually assaulted or harassed, robbed, kidnapped, threatened or intimidated at school. The allegation wouldn't have to be proved, under the House bill. The companion Senate bill would require the principal's substantiation.

The vouchers would cover all or most of the tuition at many religious elementary schools, but many secular private schools and religious high schools charge \$12,000 a year or more.

The 2016 Center for Education Statistics national study found one in five students ages 12 to 18 were bullied the previous year.

Florida Education Association President Joanne McCall said if legislators want to stop bullying they should fully fund existing programs such as peer-to-peer intervention, where students are taught to speak up when witnessing abuse.

You may reach your Lee County legislator through these emails:

[To the Honorable:](#)

Matt Caldwell, District 29

<Matt.Caldwell@myfloridahouse.gov>

Heather Fitzenhagen, District 78

<Heather.Fitzenhagen@myfloridahouse.gov>

Ray Rodrigues, District 76

<Ray.Rodrigues@myfloridahouse.gov>

Dane Eagle, District 77

<Dane.Eagle@myfloridahouse.gov>

Lizbeth Benacquisto, District 30

<Benacquisto.Lizbeth@flsenate.gov>

Kathleen Passidomo, District 28

<Passidomo.Kathleen@flsenate.gov>

Denise Grimsley, District 26

<Grimsley.Denise@flsenate.gov>

This article is for information only. AAUW has **not** taken a position.

...submitted by Marilyn Edwards

Florida State AAUW Convention

"Stepping Forward Together"

April 22- 24

Hyatt Regency Hotel Sarasota

100 Boulevard of the Arts

Sarasota, FL 34236

Membership Dues Update

The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49 to \$59.

Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW's annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW's [salary negotiation workshops](#), ground-breaking [research](#), [advocacy](#) efforts, [campus leadership programs](#), and so much more.

We believe we can do great things together and thank you for your continued support.



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 event is April 21.

Please call or email Bonnie Ryan, bonniemarieryan@aol.com or (716) 860-7361, for additional information.

President's Message

At the February meeting we had the vivacious Sarah Mitchell from the Lee Health Wellness Centers. Her presentation was "Brain Fit: What we do from the neck up and the brain's ability to change and adapt." Our members participated in various exercises for a healthy brain, word games, puzzles and mental exercises.

It was revealing, interesting and fun. The quote for the day was, "**If it doesn't challenge you; it doesn't change you,**" Fred Devito. If you would like further information, Please contact Sarah Mitchell

Sarah.mitchell@leehealth.org

We continue to search for members to fill positions on the Board of Directors. AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch has a history of excellent leadership, and we want to continue this tradition. We are working for a cause in which we strongly believe. STEP- UP

We are looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting. Our program will be "Into the Jordon Ministries" presented by Sharon Aldrich.

Submitted by Marilyn R. Myli

AAUW Activities for You

Bridge Groups

Donna Randolph, Coordinator
(239) 693-2556

A. Meets 2nd Monday, 10:30 a.m.

B. Meets 3rd Monday, 12:30 p.m.

Book Groups

Janice McPeak, Coordinator (630) 584-3431

I. Meets 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

II. Meets 2nd Wednesday 1:00 p.m.

III. Meets 3rd Wednesday 1:30 p.m.

IV. *New Book Group Book,*

The new Thursday book club which meets the third Thursday at 12-1:30 pm would welcome a few new members. The venue has changed to Seven Lakes clubhouse for the next several months.

Contact Lois Benedetto at 249-466-2094 or benedetl@georgetown.edu

Hand and Foot Group

Nancy Kuyoth, Coordinator
(239) 471-7806

Mahjongg

Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator
(239) 277-5174

Meets 1st and 3rd 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

Alice Louise Waters is an American chef, restaurateur, activist and author. She is aidowner of Chez Panisse, a Berkeley, California restaurant famous for its organic, locally grown ingredients and for pioneering California cuisine, which she opened in 1971.



Alice Waters is the first woman to win the James Beard Award for Outstanding Chef.

When she was invited to New York to receive an award, out of 25 chefs, she was the only woman. Each presented a dish. All the men had fancy French dishes. She had brought a salad. They said she was self-conscious and said, "I borrowed the bowl from James Beard, I made the vinaigrette." When they reviewed the dishes, all they talked about was the salad."

Remember our branch email:

aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Our branch postal address:

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AAUW

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