

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

October 2020

Vol.58, No. 2

AAUW

Peggy Cihi, Editor



Adopt-A-Precinct

**Whether by mail or in person...VOTE EARLY!
Request a vote-by-mail ballot by October 24.
This can be done online.**

We have received payment for the August 18th Election. We had a total deposit of \$1,300.00. We anticipate making \$2,300.00 for the November 3, 2020 election.

Thank you for Ron Glasgow, Carolyn Nance, Sam and Faye O'Briant, Judy Sims, and Colleen Wheeler for contributing their payments for working the combined Precincts #47 and #90 at the Boy Scout Conference Center.

We are now preparing for the final Election in November at St. Cecelia's Precinct #90. We have a full panel of workers from AAUW. Our thanks go to Janet George, Ron Glasgow, Jemetta Hunt, Kathy Jones, Mary Kellner, Marilyn Myli, Carolyn Nance, Sam and Faye O'Briant, Pat Tillis, Judy Sims, and Colleen Wheeler for contributing their time and expertise to provide this service for our community.

We had volunteers to help deliver food to us for lunch around noon and dinner that day. Thank you to Kath Haibach for pick up and delivery of lunch for us, and Norton Sims for providing pizza for dinner.

Thank you all again for all assistance in working with Adopt-A-Precinct for AAUW.
Faye O'Briant

239-994-9864

Nanagrams6@gmail.com

AAUW MEETING:

SATURDAY, October 17, 2020

ON LINE MEETING VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEETING - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

ONE-HOUR LUNCH BREAK

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AND PROGRAM - 12:30 PM -
2:00 PM**

The Zoom Meeting Link will be emailed to all members one week in advance of meeting.

The Agenda, Minutes and Budget will be e-mailed prior to October 17.

INTEREST GROUPS & COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator
Marillynmy7@hotmail.com

Cover Girls
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 1 PM

Classy Ladies & Literature
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 2 PM

Eat, Share, Read
Meets 3rd Thursday, 11:30 AM

BRIDGE

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator
marillynmy7@hotmail.com

HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
cnance5240@gmail.com

MAHJONGG

Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator
jeanschoenthaler8102@comcast.net
Meets – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1 PM

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden
skh062653@gmail.com

PHOTO WALKS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator
Jemetta@aol.com

DAY TRIPS

Robin Tuthill, Coordinator
rtuthill12@aol.com

WRITING / POETRY

Jill Jennings and Judith Sims,
Magistra_jennings@yahoo.com
judithssims@gmail.com

New Interest Groups are always welcome.
Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator
Jemetta@aol.com

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

Officers 2020-2021

Elected – Executive Board

President – Jemetta Hunt
Vice-President Elect – Kathleen Haibach
Out-Going President – Tina Hoegler
Co-Vice-Presidents Programs – Jill Jennings
Phyllis Wayco
Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty
Co-Secretary – Liz Foster and Pat Crowe
Co-Treasurer – Mary Kellner and
Judith Sims

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Suzan Harden
Co-Chair Scholarship – Cheryl Tromley,
Marcia Howard and Devera Graf
Communications – Open
Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

Website – Lisa Crotty
Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl; Circulation
Historian – Judith Sims
Photographer – Jemetta Hunt
Records Retention – Executive Board
K.T.E.R Science/Engineering Fair –
Cathy Tucker
Adopt-A-Precinct – Faye O'Briant
AAUW Name Tags – Lisa Crotty
Carolyn Nance
Greeters – Board Members
Reservations – Faye O'Briant
Sunshine – Ann Compton
Torch Circulation – Faye O'Briant (US Mail)
Kathy Jones (e-mail)

President's Message

Our September board and general membership meeting was rescheduled to September 26th from the original date. We changed the date from September 19th due to the Jewish Holiday Rosh Hashanah. For the remainder of the calendar year, our monthly meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month.

The program, *Three Lessons Learned and Lots of Stories from the History of Women Getting the Vote – One Hundred Years of Voting*, presented by Kim Medley, AAUW Vero Beach Branch member, was excellent. The video was inspiring and well received by those who attended.

Contact Jill Jennings if you missed the presentation and would like to view the video. Additional information about the video can be found in the September Torch. Thank you, Jill Jennings

We are looking forward to another excellent program for the October meeting titled, *Inclusion, Diversity and Hidden Bias*, presented by Dr. Taharee Jackson, Professional Diversity/Inclusion trainer and AAUW member. After viewing the presentation, we will break into small discussion groups, which will allow for more interaction with one another. You won't want to miss this presentation.

The attendance was low for the September meeting, which raises concerns about our ability to retain the interest of our membership during this pandemic. Gathering for lunch with our colleagues has always been the high light of our monthly meetings. I imagine we all would agree that meeting via Zoom is not the same as enjoying a delicious lunch at The Landings and hearing a presentation in-person. Unfortunately, until our membership feels comfortable and safe to meet in person, we will have to proceed as planned. Your ideas are always welcome. I am available via email jemetta@aol.com or text (203) 249-6545.

The Adopt-A-Precinct Program has been highly successful this election year, thanks to the leadership of Faye O'Briant and all of the AAUW members and friends who volunteered as poll workers. Combined earnings from the three elections, will add approximately \$4,500 to our scholarship fund. FY 2020-2021

Fund raising will be a challenge. Our Annual Fashion Show fund raiser will most likely look very different. Raising the funds to maintain our Scholarships and meet our operational expenses will remain our top priority. To address these concerns and meet our fiscal responsibilities, we are forming a fund raising task force. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know ASAP.

Lisa Crotty has updated our AAUW website. <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net> Please take a moment and log on. You will be impressed. Thank you, Lisa!!

The Branch Directory will be in your hands soon. Thank you for your patience. You will receive a PDF document via your email, which can be downloaded and printed for your files. The printed booklet will be mailed and/or hand delivered by mid-October. I want to thank Judith Sims for researching and writing our branch history, Janet George for updating the scholarships, all of our proofreaders and patrons, and last but not least Lisa Crotty as editor.

Let me know, if you have not received the minutes, agenda and/or financial reports for the August and/or September board meetings. jemetta@aol.com text 203-249-6545

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to AAUW.

--Jemetta Hunt

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Great Decisions discussion group has had a very successful first year, even though we have had to meet on Zoom most of the time. We have had interesting and informative discussions about the topics presented, and I think we have all gained a new perspective on the intricacies of foreign policy development and implementation.

The Foreign Policy Association has released its tentative topics for the 2021 discussion year. They are:

- Topic 1 - The role of international organizations in a global pandemic
- Topic 2 - Global supply chains and national security
- Topic 3 - China and Africa
- Topic 4 - Korean Peninsula
- Topic 5 - Persian Gulf security
- Topic 6 - Brexit and the European Union
- Topic 7 - The fight over the melting Arctic
- Topic 8 - The end of globalization?

I don't have specific information, yet, but last year I had to submit the book orders by October 28 to get the discount rate of \$28 each (versus the regular price of \$32). As soon as I have specific information, I will share it with you. However, I will probably need to know at the end of October if you want the discount rate. If you decide later to participate, you can order a book any time.

Great Decisions is open to all AAUW members. Significant others are also welcome to participate. Only one book will be needed if participants live in the same place.

--Submitted by Suzan Harden

2020-21 Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
November 21, 2020	October 31, 2020	November 11, 2020
December 19, 2020	November 28, 2020	December 9, 2020
January 16, 2021	December 28, 2020	January 6, 2021
Fashion Show-- February 20		
February 20, 2021	February 1, 2021	February 10, 2021
March 20, 2021	March 1, 2021	March 10, 2021
April 17, 2021	March 26, 2021	April 7, 2021
May 15, 2021	April 26, 2021	May 5, 2021

AAUW WEB SITES

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County

<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net>

Our local e-mail address:
aauwleecounty@gmail.com

Our National Organization
<https://www.aauw.org>

In The Spotlight....



The Spotlight shines on new member Lisa Crotty. She has distinguished herself already by giving our chapter a brand new up-to-date website. As VP of Membership, she has also taken over the arduous task of producing the Membership Directory, both for the printer and for a PDF file. Both will be mailed or emailed to you. Lisa is also our official "Zoom Meister," keeping our new Zoom meetings on track. Many thanks, Lisa, and Welcome!

Lisa Crotty

Woman of Interest

**Justice
Ruth Bader Ginsburg**



"Every family in America benefited from her brilliant legacy and courage."

Over the course of her quarter century as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg became an icon, inspiring people around the world with her tenacity, towering intellect and devotion to the American promise of equality and opportunity for all. Her tireless advocacy in the fight for gender equality, whether working at the ACLU, arguing cases before the Supreme Court or authoring thoughtful and historic opinions and dissents as an Associate Justice, leaves an enduring legacy of progress for all women. Her opinions have unequivocally cemented the precedent that all men and women are created equal."

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Voting Information for YOU!

Several factors have coalesced to make voting in this presidential election, one of the most crucial in our history as a nation, more difficult than usual.

First, the number of polling stations has been drastically reduced nationwide.

Second, there is a severe shortage of poll workers due to Covid-19 fears.

Third, lines will be longer due to the 6-foot rule.

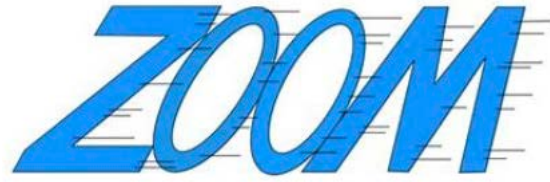
Four, the post office has undergone cuts in staffing and service: boxes and counting machines that were removed will not be replaced.

Five, when a vote-by mail ballot is considered late is no longer the date of the postmark. While a precinct may decide to bend the rules, the actual requirement is that the ballot be received by the end of voting day to be on time and therefore count. Ballots may be dropped off at any early voting location during early voting.

If you need to hand deliver your ballot, you may do so no later than 3 p.m. to a branch location on Election Day. After 3 p.m. up to 7 p.m. vote by mail ballots may be turned in only at the Main Office, which is in the Melvin Morgan Constitutional Complex, located at the corner of Fowler Street and MLK Jr. Blvd in Fort Myers.

If you use a cane or walker, note there is always a handicapped entrance.

REMEMBER your I.D.



Using Zoom

If you are not familiar with Zoom, it is a video conferencing app that will allow us to meet together.

Each video conference meeting has a unique 9, 10, or 11-digit number called a meeting ID that will be required to join a Zoom meeting. (If you are joining via telephone, you will need the teleconferencing number provided below.)

Getting Started

For questions about Zoom and your particular computer set-up, check out the Zoom site (it's impossible to know every combination of computer, hardware, software everyone is running). There are free resources available:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

To learn about joining a meeting and to download the Zoom app:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

If you want to practice with Zoom and verify that your system works:

<https://zoom.us/test>

Prefer to Call In?

If you don't have a computer with video conference capabilities or you prefer to call in, you can use one of the following numbers. Dial by your location

1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 301 715 8592 US

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 850 7704 4359

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keG0bLv1DB>

Power, Privilege and Positionality

Presented by Dr. Taharee Jackson

Dr. Taharee Jackson is our October 17th presenter via *Vimeo*. She will lead a seminar on hidden bias, privilege, diversity, racial justice and inclusion. At the end of the video, we may have a brief question and answer session among ourselves, time permitting.

An AAUW member and native of Roanoke, Virginia, Dr. Jackson came from a family of numerous ethnicities. She is Thai, Caucasian, African-American, Southeast Asian Indian, and Cherokee Indian. Her father, who appeared as a Black man though he was in fact biracial, was ultimately denied an education in the Deep South because of how he looked. Her mother, who appeared completely white, had no such issues with which to contend.

Motivated by her parents' struggles and poverty, Taharee was determined to get an education. She earned two college degrees from Harvard University and a PhD from Emory University in Atlanta. She began as an elementary school teacher and went on to advisory positions such as Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager for the National Institutes of Health. She now works as a private consultant for companies and schools interested in improving their diversity and inclusion.

In this seminar, previously record, Dr. Jackson helps us try to pose and answer some basic questions on the nation's mind: What is racial justice? What is racial equity? What is white privilege and how does it help or hinder us? In a school where the students are primarily minorities and the faculty nearly all white, does this affect the learning outcomes of students? How can businesses assure that the hiring process they use is fair to all? And how does an applicant's first name determine whether he will be interviewed or his application thrown in the slush pile? Finally, how can white folks who sympathize with the current state of racial unrest take a first step to understand and help diffuse the volatile racial state our country finds itself in these days? This is a program from which we can all learn.

—Jill Jennings

In the Spotlight.

If you know of one of our members who has distinguished herself in community service or a personal accomplishment, nominate her for this column. This is a way to recognize our members as they live out AAUW's mission of service to women and girls. Identify the person and give a brief description of her contribution. Include a photo if possible.

Send the information to V.P. Programs Jill Jennings via email at magistra_jennings@yahooo.com



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