

The American Association of University Women
The TORCH

November, 2020

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Peggy Cihi, Editor

AAUW

Adopt-A-Precinct

November is here! All AAUW members working the Precinct #90 at St. Cecelia's Parish had been trained and reviewed the instructions before Election Day. Thank you to Janet George, Ron Glasgow, Jemetta Hunt, Kathy Jones, Mary Kellner, Marilyn Myli, Carolyn Nance, Sam O'Briant, Judy Sims, Pat Tillis, and Colleen Wheeler for assisting me at this election. Judy Sims volunteered to sub as needed for anyone in our precinct who needed a replacement on Election Day. Therefore, the entire precinct was covered by AAUW members/friends.

The Election Office made sure we were prepared and safe during these pandemic times. They provided us with masks, shields, gloves, disinfectant wipes and sprays, paper sleeves for ballots rather than the plastic ones. They also gave us official polo shirts and lunch boxes for the days' food brought from home. We had planned to have sandwiches and pizza brought in; however, while attending my training I found out that we are not to share food. During this election we had to follow their guidelines to ensure that all participants were safe. Thank you to Kath Haibach and Norton Sims for volunteering to provide the lunch and dinner for us; however, we needed to adhere to the protocol provided.



Again, we anticipated the long day while we provided service to the precinct. We enjoyed working together as a team and earning monies for our scholarships. We anticipate \$2,300 for the work on November 3rd.

Thank you again for your support in making this continued effort for AAUW possible.

Faye O'Briant

AAUW MEETING:

SATURDAY, November 21, 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 the meeting.

Economic Insecurity in Florida

How much money do you think it costs for a Florida citizen, single, with no children, to survive from month to month? Exclude vacations, restaurant meals, entertainment, any extras. The figures alone may surprise you, but what is more unexpected is that there are two other determinants: race and gender.



One way to answer this question is by viewing our video this month, entitled **Working Black Women In Florida and Economic Insecurity: A Story of Gender and Racial Inequality**, which we will air in our November 21 meeting. The documentary is produced and narrated by Florida snowbird, Mary Gatta, Ph.D, who spends part of the year in New York teaching sociology at City University of New York, and the other enjoying the Sunshine State.

This issue is especially relevant in these days of Covid -19 because, as the vimeo outlines, nearly all occupations held by women are essential! Often the ladies (and gentlemen) who truck in our necessities and ring them up are taking chances with their health, only to still come up short at the end of the month when they sit down to pay the bills.

What can we at AAUW, once we are aware of the issues, do to ameliorate these situations? Dr. Gatta has some suggestions for us to consider. Even if you are retired and no longer in the workforce, you need to know the world in which many Florida women live and work. This is one meeting I would try not to miss. As usual, we will convene via Zoom and then break off into separate groups for discussion. (See Zoom instructions on a later page in the TORCH.)

In The Spotlight....

Faye O'Briant. Faye has lived in Cape Coral for 38 years and has been a member of AAUW for the past 12 years. She has participated in our Adopt-A-Precinct program for six elections prior to the upcoming one. To date, because of our Branch's efforts, AAUW has made \$39,820. Our success is due in part to Faye's leadership in this important mission.

Thank you so much, Faye!

Faye O'Briant I



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*

Past 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,*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members,

It is hard to believe it is November. The last nine months have been very challenging to say the least. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. On behalf of our AAUW Branch, I want to extend our prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones during this pandemic. They will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved them. I, also, want to extend condolences to the families of our dear branch members who passed away this year. We celebrate their lives.

I have been in deep thought about what to write in this month's Torch. The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed our health care system, impacted our economy, and changed the way we live our lives. The 2020 Presidential Election has polarized and increased the division in our country. The Black Lives Matter protests started a global movement demanding social and racial justice. These events have exposed the increasing inequities in health care, education and economic security. With so much uncertainty, you may be feeling a little overwhelmed by these events.

AAUW is one of the most powerful women's organizations in our country. Our AAUW membership connects us with a network of over 170,000 women and men who are working toward a fairer future. Our membership matters. We are making a difference.

Visit our AAUW National website. <https://aauw.org> Learn about the History of AAUW; review AAUW's Strategic Plan adopted in 2018, advancing gender equality through research, education and advocacy; explore the fellowships and grants available for research and post graduate work; and learn about AAUW's 2020 Gender Policy Agenda. I hope you find it to be as inspiring and empowering as I did. Of course, our branch website, <https://fmlc-flaauw.net> is a resource for any information and/or announcements that you may have missed.

Stay safe and be well. Thank You for your continued support.

Jemetta Hunt, President

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@yahoo.com

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Public Policy

On October 22 I attended a virtual meeting of the AAUW Florida Public Policy Liaisons from around the state. Our discussion centered primarily on final Get Out the Vote activities, with representatives from various branches discussing what they had done to encourage members to vote and to provide information to members about voting options (day of, vote by mail, early voting, etc.). Several branch liaisons asked if AAUW Florida had prepared a statement regarding the crash of the voter registration system on the day of the registration deadline. That was not done, primarily because of the short time between the crash and the resolution approved by the judge. As a result of that meeting, I will now be serving on the AAUW Florida Public Policy Committee.

Great Decisions

The final discussion of the 2020 Great Decisions year will be on Friday, November 6. Our topic is "Artificial Intelligence and Data." Pat Crowe will lead the discussion. Thank you to everyone in the Great Decisions discussion group for their enthusiastic participation this year. Eighteen members have indicated they are interested in the 2021 discussions. I ordered 20 books at the discounted price. If you did not let me know by the deadline but want to participate, let me know.

The Foreign Policy Association released its tentative topics for the 2021 discussion year.

- 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

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>
December 19, 2020	November 28, 2020	December 9, 2020
January 16, 2021	December 28, 2020	January 6, 2021
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



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.

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)

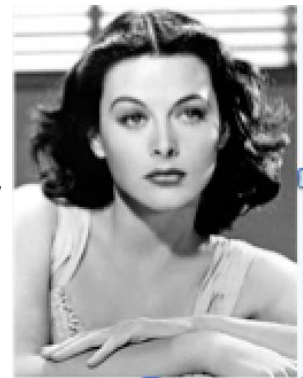
Meeting ID: 850 7704 4359

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keG0bLvIDB>

Woman of Interest

Hedy Lamarr, born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, was an Austrian-American actress, inventor, and film producer. She was part of 30 films in an acting career spanning 28 years



The famous music composer George Antheil was her neighbor in California. Antheil and Lamarr developed the idea of using "frequency hopping" to avoid broadcasting interference in torpedoes. This Hedy Lamarr

invention is the secret communication system, which was eventually used in military communications on U.S. ships sent to blockade Cuba.



AAUW

Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch

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