

The American Association of University Women
The **TORCH**

December, 2020

Vol.58, No. 4

Peggy Cihni, Editor

Pe

Adopt-A-Precinct

We have completed all elections for 2020 now and are awaiting funds for our scholarships.

The election day went well, with everyone doing a fabulous job for Precinct #90 at St. Ceceilia's in Ft. Myers. We worked safely and assisted the many voters coming to the precinct to vote.

Thankfully, Judy Sims had volunteered as a sub for our precinct. The day before I received a message from honorary member, Ron Glasgow, that he would be unable to work. Judy gladly took his place to give us a complete roster of workers from AAUW.

As we close up elections, I want to thank those participating the long day and gladly donating their earnings to AAUW for scholarships. Present were Janet George, Jemetta Hunt, Kathy Jones, Mary Kellner, Marilyn Myli, Carolyn Nance, Faye and Sam O'Briant, Judy Sims, Pat Tillis, and Colleen Wheeler. Calendar year earnings are \$4625.

We will have a break before the next election. Please consider adding your name to the volunteer list for the future. Ask any of the participants about their experience if you are thinking about joining the committee. I look forward to your participation. Faye O'Briant



AAUW MEETING

December 19, 2020

- ON-LINE MEETING VIA ZOOM
- BOARD MEETING -
11:00 AM – 12 NOON
- HALF HOUR LUNCH BREAK
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND
HOLIDAY SOCIAL
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

In these interminable days of Covid -19, even the most outgoing of us are beginning to long for simple companionship, a party where we can meet new people, maybe some small talk with new faces. If that's how you feel, our December program is just what you need. Dig out some sparkly festive wear, grab a sandwich and get ready for our holiday **Getting-To-Know-You** program.

We will divide up into groups, chat with folks we know and don't know that well, and later reconvene as a group. To get us started, here are four questions for you to ponder in advance, (before you bring out the wine.) Feel free to share as much information as you are comfortable revealing to people you may be speaking with for the first time. The purpose is just to get to know one another.

The best holiday gift I every received was ...; My best holiday memory was ...; The one thing I am most grateful for is ...; The nicest act of kindness someone extended to me was....

Zoom Meeting Link will be emailed to all members one week in advance. See Zoom instructions later in this TORCH.

In The Spotlight....

This month we wish to give a big thank you to our members who worked the polls, bringing in an estimated amount of \$ 2,300 this year. Many of them worked in excess of 12 hours straight, making sure every vote was counted. Kudos to all! They are pictured on the front page.

Thank you all so much!

President's Message

Greetings Members,

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. "When there is a will, there is always a way."- Favorite dishes, beverages and memories were shared via Zoom by millions of Americans this year. Travel plans were rescheduled. Messages of love and air hugs were exchanged by text, emails and face time. In person gatherings were much smaller and even held outdoors when possible. One of our most traditional holidays was celebrated in a variety of new creative ways. As we look forward to the Holiday Season and the 2021 New Year, may we continue to count our blessings and pray for the families who have lost loved ones in 2020.

Our AAUW December 19th program will be a virtual Holiday Social. This will be a time to meet, greet and share ideas. Plan to bring your lunch and eat while you socialize. Festive attire is welcome. Note the time change!!! The Board Meeting will begin at 11 AM. The General Meeting and Holiday Social will begin at 12:30 PM. Jill Jennings has prepared a few open-ended questions to spark the conversation. They are listed in the program section. Please give them some thought and prepare your answers. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The Zoom link will be sent out prior to December 19. Let's come together, share holiday memories and have fun.

If you missed any of the presentations from the fall monthly meetings, you could still view them. The titles, descriptions and vimeo links can be found on our branch website, fmlc-fl.aauw.net; the FL website, aauw-fl.aauw.net; and the National website, aauw.org. The research for these programs was funded by AAUW Grants. Thank you, Jill Jennings for the excellent relevant programs.

- ***Three Lessons Learned and Lots of Stories from the History of Women Getting the Vote- One Hundred Years of Voting*** by Kim Medley, AAUW Vero Beach Branch
- ***Inclusion, Diversity, and Hidden Bias***, presented by Dr. Taharee Jackson, AAUW Member
- ***Working Black Women in Florida and Economic Insecurity: A Story of Gender and Racial Inequality*** by Mary Gatta, Ph.D, AAUW Member

Our AAUW Branch Directory is finally off the press. You should have received your copy the first week of December. Thank you for your patience. There is no printing or postage expense due to the generosity of donors. Thank you, Lisa Crotty for all of your hard work.

-Jemetta Hunt

Scholarship Committee:



Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf, Marcia Howard

WOW, what a time this has been for all of us!! And now we need your help. Unfortunately, one of the consequences of COVID-19 is that our major, in-person, fund-raising event, the Fashion Show, has been cancelled. Despite this, we remain committed to our primary focus “empowering women and girls” through our scholarships. We are hopeful that, with your help, we will be able to award all of our scholarships.

Many of you have attended the luncheons honoring our scholarship recipients and been moved by their stories and the gratitude they feel for our demonstrated confidence in them. Please help us support the development of future women leaders. Three scholarships are particularly in jeopardy this year:

1. **AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship:** Established in 2011 in memory of Jane Wagner, a two-term branch president. It awards one \$1,000 scholarship per year to a graduating female student with financial need and few other scholarships selected by the school counselor. The award is paid to the college of the recipient’s choice.

The other two scholarships in jeopardy are both STEM focused and support women studying science, technology, engineering, and math. As our website describes:

“In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are there so few women scientists and engineers? A 2010 research report by AAUW presents compelling evidence that can help to explain this puzzle. Eight key research findings point to environmental and social barriers — including stereotypes, gender bias, and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities — that continue to block women’s progress in STEM. AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County members believe that the best way to break down environmental and social barriers is to get girls interested and involved in science and engineering early. To accomplish this, we support the following programs for girls at the middle and high school levels.”

2. **AAUW STEM Award:** Established in 2001 to encourage middle and high school girls in STEM fields. It awards one \$500 prize to a top female entrant in the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair. A “First Time” award of \$100 is also given to a female entrant for an outstanding first entry. All Lee County female high school entrants in the Edison Regional Science Fair are eligible.
3. **Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS):** This program is dedicated to middle school girls. The program is offered four times a year at the Whitaker Center for STEM education at FGCU. The female faculty members mentor FGCU female STEM majors who in turn mentor middle school girls through four Saturday events over each year reaching 400 middle-school girls. Our goal is to award \$1000 to this program annually.

What can you do to help? Did you know that our branch receives only \$9 of your annual dues? This means that we need all of our members’ help to continue to offer our scholarships. Please consider making a donation to our scholarship fund. To donate, download the Branch Donation Form from the website (<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/>) print and return with your tax deductible gift. Thank you for your donation!

Please make checks payable to AAUW For Myers / Lee County, Inc. and mail to:

**AAUW – Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115**

AAUW MEETING

The Board has formed a fundraising committee to address our fiscal responsibilities for the 2020-2021 year. The committee members include Peggy Cihi, Jemetta Hunt, Kathleen Haibach, Tina Hoegler, Judith Sims, Mary Kellner, Cheryl Tromley, Marcia Howard, Devera Graf, Janet George, and Bonnie Ryan. The committee will prepare a report to be presented at the December meeting.

Be safe and stay healthy. Thank you for your continued support.

--Jemetta Hunt, President--

What have you been doing while sheltering at home?

Sewing, knitting, baking, crafting, art projects or other creative activities?

If so, we all could work on something to raise funds for our scholarships. We have three ways you can use your time to help out.



1. We will be having a fashion show in the late spring or next fall. Creative crafts can be part of the silent auction at the fashion show, or if we are still unable to get together in large groups, we may have an online auction. Here is an example of a painting one of our members worked on for a future fashion show or online auction. Stores are giving wild discounts to attract customers. Pick up something to save for the auction.
2. Donations can be made of \$50.00 or more in honor of or in memory of someone special. Donations of this size will be commemorated in the TORCH with a note written by the donor of up to 25 words; or a photo can be included with a caption of up to 10 words. We will have a pledge form in our January Issue; meanwhile, be thinking of who you would like to honor.
3. We have been spending time at home and cooking more. AAUW (our chapter) is planning to compile a cookbook. Choose some of your favorite tested recipes and send them to peggycihi@comcast.net. Include your name, title and category of the recipe, ingredients and instructions.

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



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

1 312 626 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/keG0bLvlDB>

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>



Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
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

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Great Decisions

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. You can contact me at skh062653@gmail.com

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

Topic 6 - Brexit and the European Union

Topic 7 - The fight over the melting Arctic

Topic 8 - The end of globalization?

--Submitted by Suzan Harden

Woman of Interest



[Akiko Iwasaki](#) is the Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor in the Department of Immunobiology and a Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University. Until this year, Akiko Iwasaki had never had tubes of human blood delivered to her lab. “We were mostly working with mouse models,” says the immunologist. “We used to look at the data and contemplate it.” Then COVID-19 struck. In a matter of weeks, Iwasaki overhauled her research to launch a slew of studies on how the new virus, SARS-CoV-2, (COVID-19 takes its toll on patients. She and her nearly two dozen lab members know their discoveries could impact people falling sick right now.

“Every minute counts.” In the months since, she has produced a string of high-profile papers in which she has redirected her expertise in the immune system to questions such as why men are more likely than women to fare poorly if infected and how immune responses in hospitalized patients can help predict their prognosis. Now, she is turning her attention to long-haulers, people who suffer a bout with the virus and don’t fully recover.

--from [Sciencemag.org](https://www.sciencemag.org)

INTEREST GROUPS & COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator
Marilynmy7@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
marilynmy7@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

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PHOTO WALKS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator
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DAY TRIPS

Robin Tuthill, Coordinator
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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. 2020-2021 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

President – Jemetta Hunt

Vice-President Elect – Kathleen Haibach

Past President – Tina Hoegler

Co-Vice-Presidents of Programs – Jill Jennings

Phyllis Wayco

Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty

Co-Secretary – Liz Foster and Pat Crowe

Co-Treasurers – Mary Kellner and

Judith Sims

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Suzan Harden

Co-Chairs of Scholarship – Cheryl Tromley,

Marcia Howard and Devera Graf

Communications – Open

Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

Website—Lisa Crotty

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl

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

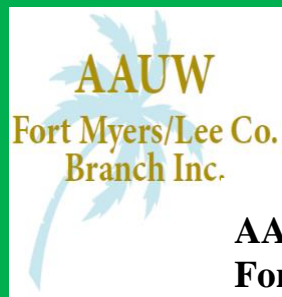
Greeters – Board Members

Reservations – Faye O'Briant

Sunshine – Ann Compton

Torch Circulation – Faye O'Briant (US Mail)

Kathy Jones (e-mail)



AAUW
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Cape Coral, FL 33904