

The American Association of University Women

# The TORCH

February, 2021

Vol. 38, No. 6

AAUW

Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.

## “TAMING HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS IN LAKES AND COASTAL WATERS IN SOUTH FLORIDA,”

is the topic of our featured speaker, **Dr. William J. Mitsch** for our February 20 monthly meeting.

Dr. Mitsch has a long and distinguished career in ecology and water management.

For over 44 years, he has been a university professor specializing in wetland biogeochemistry and ecological engineering. His resume is twelve pages in length, organized by country. That’s how widespread his expertise and service have been. These days, Dr. Mitsch is the Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park at Florida Gulf Coast University in Naples. He is a professor of Marine Biology and Ecological Science, holding the Juliet C. Sproul Chair for SW Florida Habitat Restoration and Management at FGCU.

Among his many awards and honors is the Stockholm Water Prize, presented by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf in 2004. This award is commonly referred to as the “Nobel Prize in Water.”



Dr. Mitsch holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida and a B.S. from Notre Dame.

He has authored over seven hundred publications and edited five editions of the standard textbook *Wetlands*.

Florida and our AAUW branch are very lucky to have Dr. Mitsch with us. If anyone can help us understand the problems with our waterways, he’s the one. His talk, “Taming Harmful Algal Blooms in Lakes and Coastal Waters in South Florida,” will be followed by a brief Q & A session on Zoom.

*Instructions for joining a Zoom session are on page 3 of the TORCH.*

### Interest Groups updates:

- Cover Girls Book Club is looking for members. If interested, please contact Marilyn Myli, [marilynmy7@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynmy7@hotmail.com)
- Members who are interested in Photo Walks to Lakes Park, Six Mile Cypress Slough, Ding Darling and Naples Botanical Gardens – contact Jemetta Hunt – [jemetta@aol.com](mailto:jemetta@aol.com)
- The Great Decisions Discussion Group – To join the Zoom Meeting on February 5, at 12:30 PM., contact Suzan Harden – [skh062653@gmail.com](mailto:skh062653@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU !!**



**OUR SCHOLARSHIPS  
IN THE TIME OF COVID**

**Scholarship Committee:  
Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf,  
Marcia Howard**

A HUGE thank you to all of you who generously contributed to the support of our scholarships. As of January 29, eleven of our members (Naomi Bloom, Tamara Pigott, Devera Graf, Janet George, Judith Sims, Cheryl Tromley, Lynn Felice, Mary Kellner, Judith Clare, Robin Tuthill, Carolyn Nance) have donated a total of \$3,200. THANK YOU for helping us help girls and women achieve their potential!!

If you have not had the opportunity to donate, it is not too late. Currently, this is our only fund-raising mechanism, so we still *REALLY* need your contributions to make it possible for us to offer our scholarships. 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 this year.

Our *AAUW Star Bright Scholarship* winner for 2020/2021 is Jasmine McDow who is pursuing her LPN at Fort Myers Technical College. Congratulations Jasmine! This scholarship was established in 2005, by Book Club 3, to provide branch members with the opportunity to make donations honoring friends and commemorating special events. As funds accrue, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a female student attending the second semester at Fort Myers or Cape Coral Technical College.

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

*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.

*Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS):* This hands-on program for middle school girls. It is dedicated to science education. It is led by enthusiastic professionals and undergraduates who serve as facilitators and role models in a girls-only environment.

*AAUW FGCU Endowed Scholarship:* Established in 2000, with member and matching funds from the state, it awards one scholarship to a female student who resides in the five-county (Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry) area with financial need pursuing an undergraduate degree at FGCU. Priority is given to the current awardee.

*AAUW Sue Gottcent Memorial Endowed Scholarship:* Established in 2006 with a bequest from the estate of member Sue Gottcent who was an avid supporter of AAUW’s mission. It awards one \$2,000 scholarship to a Lee County female student age 25 or older with demonstrated financial need who attends an institute of higher education that is part of the Florida State University system. Priority is given to the current awardee.

**AAUW FSW State College Endowed Scholarship:** Established in 2000, with member and matching funds from the state, it awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a female Lee County student with financial need attending the Fort Myers Campus of FSW. Priority is given to the current awardee.

**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. You can donate by using the *Branch Donation Form* which is attached to this

issue of the TORCH. Print the form, fill it in, and return with your tax-deductible gift.

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

AAUW – Attn: Treasurer  
PO Box 2115  
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

Thank you very much for whatever you can do to help.

This donation form can also be found on our AAUW website:

[\(https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/\)](https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/)



**Zoom is a video conferencing app that will allow us to meet together. Each video conference meeting has a unique multi-digit ID number that will be required to join a Zoom meeting.**

**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>**

**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/keG0bLvlDB>**

### This month's In The Spotlight member is

**Mary Jane McDowell.** She joined AAUW back in 1979 and has been active all these years! Mary Jane's relationship with AAUW began with a \$500 scholarship awarded to her in 1972. She used it to attend Edison Community College and later went on to Barton College in North Carolina, where she earned her B.A. degree, majoring in Sociology and Religion. Mary Jane forged a career working in government for ten years, for an attorney for seven, and other venues in the private sector. She has served as our Treasurer for two years, helped with the Fashion Show, and represented our branch in state and leadership meetings. Her attendance has been outstanding; her loyalty remarkable.



Tamara Pigott

#### INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBER

A life-long Floridian, I've lived in Fort Myers for 30 years. For the last decade I have served our community as Lee County's tourism director. I attended Florida State University, earning degrees in economics and political science. My family consists of my husband of 28 years, Steve, and a grown daughter, Hayden. I am a fan of travel, hiking, college football and craft beer. I look forward to getting to know the other members of AAUW and working together to elevate women. Reach me at [tampigott@gmail.com](mailto:tampigott@gmail.com)

### Looking back at the history of the American Association of University Women



The American Association of University Women is a non-profit organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

***"We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!"***

One of the founders was **Ellen H. Swallow Richards** who is one of America's first female professional chemists and the first woman to be accepted by a scientific school,

Richards is best known for pioneering the field of sanitary engineering. Richards performed an unprecedented survey in 1890 that led to the first state water-quality standards in the nation.

[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

## President's Message

February is Black History Month, an annual observance to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of Black Americans throughout our history. In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson, who authored the "Journal of Negro History," first chose the second week in February which coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14. Decades later, in 1969, black educators and students at Kent State University first proposed February to be Black History Month.

On January 20, 2021 at the 46<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration, Amanda Gorman recited her poem titled, "The Hill We Climb." What an incredible brilliant recitation, she skillfully delivered. Amanda is a young black woman and recent graduate of Harvard. In 2017 she became the first person ever to be named National Youth Poet Laureate in the U.S. As I witnessed Amanda recite her poem, I had thoughts of Maya Angelou when she stood at the podium in 1993 to recite, "On The Pulse of Morning," at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Inauguration. Maya Angelou was the first black and the first woman poet to recite at a presidential inauguration. At age 22, Amanda became the youngest.

AAUW's mission remains bold as we celebrate 140 years of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. The pandemic has disproportionately impacted women. It is estimated that over 2.2, million women have left the workforce. More and more families are facing serious economic insecurity. "AAUW has pledged to work with the new administration and the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to make equity a top priority in 2021." *\_AAUW Action Newsletter*

The pandemic is far from over. We must continue to practice social distancing, wear our masks and wash our hands. The demand for the COVID 19 vaccine is far greater than the

current supply. Vaccine production and distribution remain problematic. We are making progress, but it will take time before we experience relief. Let us continue to keep the families who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

Our January program was well received by our membership. Mary Lewis, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, shared the latest research on how to achieve and maintain optimum health. Her presentation was certainly timely as we wait to receive the COVID 19 vaccine. We learned that we could boost our immune system by eating a healthy diet, exercising daily, getting adequate sleep, maintaining healthy relationships, and managing stress. The closing Q & A session was especially valuable.

This month, we are honored to have Dr. William J. Mitsch as our guest speaker. Dr. Mitsch is the Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park at Florida Gulf Coast University in Naples. For a brief summary of his distinguished career, see the preview article submitted by Jill Jennings, our VP of Programs in this Torch. Mark your calendars, now!! [Join us on February 20 at 12:30 PM via Zoom to meet Dr. Mitsch.](#)

Our monthly Board Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. We will continue to meet via Zoom until further notice. The Board Meeting begins promptly at 11 AM and the Program at 12:30 PM. The Zoom link is the same for both. All members are welcome to attend the Board Meeting. The Minutes, Agenda and Financial Report will be emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

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

Jemetta Hunt, President

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County, Inc.

## INTEREST GROUPS & COORDINATORS

### BOOK GROUPS

**Marilyn Myli, Coordinator**

[Marilynmy7@hotmail.com](mailto:Marilynmy7@hotmail.com)

Club	Meets
Cover Girls	2nd Wednesday, 1 PM
Classy Ladies & Literature	3rd Wednesday, 2 PM
Eat, Share, Read	3rd Thursday, 11:30 AM

### BRIDGE

**Marilyn Myli, Coordinator**

[marilynmy7@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynmy7@hotmail.com)

### HAND & FOOT

**Carolyn Nance, Coordinator**

[cnance5240@gmail.com](mailto:cnance5240@gmail.com)

### MAHJONGG

**Jean Schoenthaler, Coordinator**

[jeanschoenthaler8102@comcast.net](mailto:jeanschoenthaler8102@comcast.net)

**Meets – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 1 PM**

### GREAT DECISIONS

**Suzan Harden** [skh062653@gmail.com](mailto:skh062653@gmail.com)

### PHOTO WALKS

**Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator**

[Jemetta@aol.com](mailto:Jemetta@aol.com)

### DAY TRIPS

**Robin Tuthill, Coordinator** [rtuthill12@aol.com](mailto:rtuthill12@aol.com)

### WRITING / POETRY

**Jill Jennings and Judith Sims, Coordinators**

[Magistra\\_jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:Magistra_jennings@yahoo.com) [judithssims@gmail.com](mailto:judithssims@gmail.com)

**New Interest Groups Are Welcome**

**Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator**

[Jemetta@aol.com](mailto: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 and Phyllis Wayco*

*Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty*

*Co-Secretaries – Liz Foster and Pat Crowe*

*Co-Treasurers – Mary Kellner & 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 Cih*

#### *Standing Committees*

*Website – Lisa Crotty*

*Torch Editor – Peggy Cih*

*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*

*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)*

### 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 e-mail at [magistra\\_jennings@yahoo.com](mailto:magistra_jennings@yahoo.com)

### Woman of Interest

### Mary Cassatt



Children at the Beach  
By Mary Cassatt

Part of the Impressionist movement in art, Mary Cassatt exhibited her paintings with such artists as Monet, Pissarro, and her close friend Degas, and shared with them an independent spirit, refusing throughout her life to be associated with any art academy or to accept any prizes.

Cassatt's art portrays the activities of women in their worlds: caring for children, reading, crocheting, pouring tea, and enjoying the company of other women. Cassatt was the first American artist to exhibit with the French impressionists in Paris. She first traveled to Europe with her family when she was eleven, and by the age of sixteen had decided to be a professional artist.



Mary Cassatt lived in Paris for most of her life, however she herself an American and was proud of her Philadelphia roots. Mary Cassatt, *photo from the Smithsonian American Art*



### AAUW WEB SITES

#### AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County

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

Our local e-mail address:

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

#### Our National Organization

<https://www.aauw.org>

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Deadline for TORCH Articles</u>	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
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

## Do you have something to contribute?

Creative projects have filled our time as we waited out the pandemic. 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. Creative crafts can be part of the silent auction at a future fashion show. If we are still unable to get together in large groups, we may have an online auction. Stores are giving wild discounts to attract customers. Pick up something to save. Devera Graff is keeping track of these items. Please let her know what you have available. Fill in the form, on page 10, "Donation of Items for Fund Raising" and send it in. Please include a photo if possible.

For example,



Member's Name:	Peggy Cihl
Member's Phone(s):	(239)980-4794
Donor's Name:	Peggy Cihl
Donation Amount /Value:	\$30.00
Description of Donation:	<i>Earrings</i>
	<i>Faux-Hematite Fireball Hoop Earrings 1 5/8" diameter.</i>
	<i>From Chico's. Purchased during their "winter sale."</i>

2. Donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone special. Be thinking of who you would like to honor. Fill in the attached for "AAUW" form and send it in with your monetary donation. The form is found on page 11.

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 [peggycihl@comcast.net](mailto:peggycihl@comcast.net). Include your name, title and category of the recipe, ingredients and instructions. When submitting a recipe, please include a list of ingredients and a step-by-step list of how to prepare it.

See sample recipe:



**Here is a recipe submitted for the cookbook:**

**Kringle Coffee Danish** or Dessert

This recipe originated in Racine, Wisconsin, a city which was settled by people from Denmark. They have a special Danish coffee cake called a Kringle. "Kringle" is the Danish word for pretzel.

**KRINGLE – Part 1**

1 cup flour  
1/4 lb oleo or butter

3+ Tbs.milk;  
Chopped pecans

1. Mix flour and butter (like pie crust that's crumbly; add milk; just enough to form a ball)
2. Spread in two parts on cookie sheet (about 4 in. thick.)
3. Or use large round tin, at least 10 inches in diameter.
4. Sprinkle chopped pecans on top

Other options: Instead of the nuts, spread with jelly, preserves, prepared pie filling or cinnamon and raisins.

**KRINGLE – Part 2**

1/4 lb oleo or butter  
1 cup water  
1 Tbs. vanilla extract

1 cup flour  
3 eggs,

1. Melt above over heat. Remove from heat; add flour and vanilla.
2. 3 eggs, one at a time beating well with electric beater;
3. Spoon over Part 1 so edges meet but do not overlap.
4. Bake at 425 degrees for 25-30 minutes, until golden brown. Cool before serving
5. Best to use a pie-drip saver pan to give it more of a "kringle" look, pictured below.



Frosting (Can be frosted with powdered sugar frosting when cool)

1 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1-2 tablespoons milk

1. In medium bowl, mix powdered sugar and butter with spoon or electric mixer on low speed. Stir in vanilla and 1 tablespoon of the milk.
2. Gradually beat in just enough remaining milk to make frosting smooth and spreadable. If frosting is too thick, beat in more milk, a few drops at a time.

## Donation of Items for Fund Raising

List your donations below. Include a photo if possible. Store all items at your home. Make a copy of the list for yourself. Send the original and photo to:

Devera Graf (Phone: (1-440-554-7786)

[dgraf3@gmail.com](mailto:dgraf3@gmail.com)

4733 Harbortown Lane

Fort Myers, FL 33919



Member's Name:

Member's Phone(s):

Donor's Name:

Donation Amount /Value:

Description of Donation:



Member's Name:

Member's Phone(s):

Donor's Name:

Donation Amount /Value:

Description of Donation:



**Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.**

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

Donate To help the Ft. Myers Branch to Advance Equity for Women

Use my gift for:

Operating Expenses

Scholarships

Unrestricted

Name:

Street Address:

City, State & Zip:

Phone: (Mobile)

Phone: (Home)

Email:

Donation Amount   \$25     \$50     \$100   Other Amount   \$  

Is gift in honor or in memory of someone? If the answer is "Yes," please provide the following:

In honor of:

In memory of:

Please provide contact information for the person honored or family of the person remembered:

Name:

Street Address:

City, State & Zip:

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

Treasurer

PO Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, donations to the Branch may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc., is registered as a not-for-profit charity with the State of Florida, #CH39730. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7352) within the State of Florida or online by visiting [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



**AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE CO. BRANCH**  
**Faye O'Briant, Torch Distributor**  
**2816 SE 18<sup>th</sup> Court**  
**Cape Coral, FL 33904**