

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

, April 2021

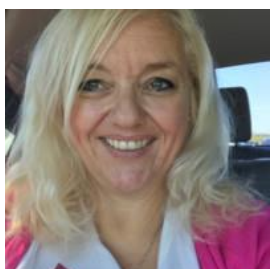
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AAUW. Vol. 58, No. 8

Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.

MEET STEPHANIE MATHEWS

One day, while on a routine doctor's appointment, our member, Judith Sims, noticed a name on the front of a nearby door: *Stephanie Mathews*. The name seemed familiar, but Judith wasn't sure where she knew it from.



Stephanie Mathews, it turns out, was the name of one of our chapter's scholarship recipients. In fact, she was the very first one who received a scholarship from the Fort Myers/Lee County branch. Twenty years have passed since Stephanie was in college. As of today, she has earned numerous degrees and certifications, among them: B.S in Nursing from Florida Gulf Coast University; two Masters degrees, one in Health Management, the other in Nursing; and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the University of South Florida.

She is also an AAPRN, an autonomous nurse practitioner. What is amazing to anyone hearing about Stephanie is that she obtained all this education while working and raising a daughter. She recounts how twenty years ago, almost no support was available for working mothers with children.

Now, The American Family Leave Act allows women to take maternity leave, but it is really a misnomer. The woman must use up all her sick leave first, then she takes leave, but has no income. The main protection is against being let go for taking maternity leave. Lack of pay equity in a male-dominated field such as medicine is still a huge issue. Despite these obstacles, Stephanie Mathews has reached her goals. She owns her own practice, Brashear Geriatrics and contracts with skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. As if that were not enough, Stephanie also teaches as an adjunct profession in the Graduate Nursing Department at USF!

"Receiving scholarships, including the one from AAUW, allowed me to accomplish my academic and professional goals and care for my daughter to the best of my ability. It has helped me become a better woman. I am forever grateful for the generosity of AAUW, as it has shaped who I have become. Thank you for taking a chance on me. It changed my life."

In our April meeting, we will have a chance to see and hear from Stephanie again. We would like to honor her with a certificate of appreciation and a year's free membership in AAUW. She is the reason we have a mission to help women and girls obtain their educational goals. What better example could we have than Stephanie Mathews?

--Jill Jennings

THANK YOU !!



OUR SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Scholarship Committee:

Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf, Marcia Howard

Our members continue to step up and as members of our Lee AAUW community, I think we would all agree that the things we do together, from the book clubs to the fashion show, are fun. We would undoubtedly also agree that we learn a lot from our luncheon speakers and from our Great Decisions discussions, and that we can't wait to be able to get back together in person. In the meantime, it is clear from your generosity that you haven't lost sight of our primary focus: "empowering women and girls" through our scholarships. THANK YOU for your generous support!!!!

This month we received an additional \$1,300 from Peggy Cihl, Kathleen Haibach, Jill Jennings, Mary Jane McDowell and Judith Sims. This brings our total scholarship donations to \$4,300 with an additional \$650 in unrestricted funds. To all those who have contributed, THANK YOU for helping us help girls and women achieve their potential!!

We awarded two STEM scholarships this month. These scholarships were established in 2001 to encourage middle and high school girls in STEM fields. The first award is \$500 to a top female entrant in the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year it was awarded to Kalyn Stetina a junior at Lehigh Senior High School. Her project is "*HOW IS SOYBEAN AND VULCAN LETTUCE PLANT GROWTH AFFECTED WHEN WATERED WITH DILUTIONS OF GREYWATER CONTAINING DIFFERENT DISH DETERGENTS?*" The second scholarship is a "First Time" award of \$100 given to a female entrant for an

outstanding first entry. This was awarded to Kiki Jiang a sophomore at Bonita Springs High School. Her project is "*THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIGHTING ON ACRYLIC PAINT.*"

Reviewing the entries was a wonderful experience.. We were all so impressed by the sophistication of the projects. I have to admit that your Scholarship Committee was not even able to understand some of the titles! Thankfully we had the expertise and guidance of Cathy Tucker, a science teacher at Fort Myers High School and a member of our Lee AAUW community. We cannot thank her enough for all her work and patience.

If you have not had the opportunity to donate, it is not too late. As you all know, because of Covid, this is our only fund-raising mechanism, so we REALLY need your contributions, so we can support more girls and women.

OUR SCHOLARSHIPS:

AAUW Star Bright Scholarship: 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.

Marie Glasgow and AAUW STEM Award Fund: Established in 2019 in honor of Marie Glasgow, president of AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch for two years. It is awarded each year with the goal of improving educational opportunities by rewarding young Middle School girl(s) who are winners at the Junior Division of Edison-Kiwanis Science Fair or Thomas Edison Festival of Light Regional Inventors Fair.

Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS): This hands-on program is dedicated to science education for regional middle school girls by enthusiastic professionals and undergraduates 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 in either of two ways:

1. Download the [Donation Form](https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/) from our branch website (<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/>). Print it and return it with your tax-deductible gift.
2. Or you can use the form that appears in this edition of the Torch.

Whichever method you use, 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

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



2020-2021

FLORIDA BRANCH NAMED GIFT HONOREES - CAROLYN NANCE AND JUDITH SIMS

AAUW Florida has afforded our chapter the opportunity to acknowledge and honor two prominent members as Branch Named Gift Honorees. They are Judith Sims and Carolyn Nance. Both members have been very generous with their financial contributions as well as giving of their time and service. Below are just some of the positions they served in. The list is not inclusive; space would not permit them all. Congratulations, Carolyn and Judith!

Carolyn Nance, B.A., M.A., has been an active member of the Fort Myers/Lee County Chapter of AAUW since 2002. She served for two years as President; Vice President for Membership for two years; Co-Treasurer for six; Co-Editor of the Directory for three; and Fashion Show Reservations Chair for nine years. In addition, Carolyn has worked the polls in Adopt-A-Precinct for nineteen elections. Carolyn lives in Cape Coral.

Judith Sims, B.A., M.A., PhD, has been a member since 1995. She has served as Co-Vice President,

Programs two years; Scholarship Committee Chairman for seven; Co-Editor of the member Directory for eleven; Co-Editor of Newsletter for two; Co-Treasurer for six; Historian for seven years; and as did Carolyn, Judith worked the polls for Adopt-a-Precinct in twenty-one elections. Judith lives near the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers.

A list of positions held by these members and years of service hardly does justice to all that these energetic ladies have accomplished; nevertheless, we take note and thank them for what they have done to help us fulfill our mission of providing resources, scholarships, and leadership skills for girls and women in Lee County. We look forward to seeing their faces and thanking them in person in what we hope will be the very near future.

- Jill Jennings

MELISSA MINDS VANDEBURGT



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBER

Melissa Minds VandeBurgt comes to us from Florida Gulf Coast University's Library, where she is currently Head of University Archives and Special Collections. Before joining the faculty of FGCU, she spent seven years developing digital services for special collections at California State University. Melissa's passion for cultural heritage materials drives her desire to get rare books out of the vaults and out to a broader audience. She says, "I joined AAUW to further engage with the community and find opportunities to contribute."

President's Message

Greetings Members! It is April the return of spring and the beginning of warmer weather in the Northern Hemisphere. Springtime refers to the season and ideas of rebirth, growth and renewal. Breathe in and breathe out. Hope is on the way. It has been a very long year, from spring 2020 to spring 2021. We are grateful for all the scientists who have developed the COVID-19 vaccines and the many individuals who volunteered for the trials. According to the CDC, it is estimated that 79.4 million US citizens have received at least one dose and 43 million people are now fully vaccinated due to the rapid distribution of shots-in-arms. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines and consult with your health care providers. We strongly encourage all of our AAUW members to get vaccinated. We look forward to having our luncheon meetings in person next season.

It is, also, time to renew your AAUW Membership. Lisa Crotty, VP Membership, has updated the renewal form. See attached form in this Torch. *(It is two pages long, one for renewal, the second page to indicate your interests.)* Membership renewal is open from March 15 through June 30, 2021. We greatly appreciate your continued support of AAUW throughout this very challenging year. Month by month, we stayed connected via Zoom, successfully conducted our business and met our fiscal responsibilities. The monthly programs and presenters have been outstanding and relevant. Thank you, Jill Jennings, VP of Programs. And thanks to the generosity of our members, we have raised nearly \$5,000, for scholarships and \$3,683, for our general funds from the Adopt-A-Precinct program. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Cheryl Tromley, Marcia Howard and Devera Graf, will be presenting this year's scholarship recipients at the April meeting. You are making a difference in the lives of girls and women in our community. We applaud you and thank you.

At the April 17, monthly board meeting, the nominating committee will present the slate of nominees for the open positions of Elected Officers, 2021-2022. The nominees are as follows: Janet George and Bonnie Ryan for the position of Co-Vice President Elect; Jill Jennings for Vice President of Programs; and Pat Crowe for Secretary. Installation of Elected Officers will take place at the May 15, Annual Board Meeting. The following Elected Officers will continue and begin their second-year term on July 1, 2021: Kathleen Haibach, President; Jemetta Hunt, Past President; Mary Kellner and Judith Sims, Co-Treasurer; and Lisa Crotty, Vice President Membership. Members of the nominating committee are Kathleen Haibach, Jemetta Hunt, Tina Hoegler and Peggy Cihl.

AAUW has proposed a change in the membership requirement which would eliminate the degree requirement. We hope that you have been able to attend one of the three Town Halls to hear the discussion on the pros and cons of this proposal. More information can be found on the national website, AAUW.org. The window for voting on this proposal is fast approaching, April 7-May 17, 2021. Lisa Crotty, VP Membership, sent out a lengthy email on March 17, regarding specific voting instruction. Mark your calendars and prepare to vote. You will need your membership ID#.

We welcome Stephanie Mathews as our honored guest at the April meeting. Stephanie was one of our first scholarship recipients nearly twenty years ago. Stephanie earned a B.S. in Nursing from FGCU, a Master's in Nurse Practitioner, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of South Florida. She has agreed to join us and share her incredible story. I will be presenting Stephanie with a one-year AAUW membership. Please join us as we honor Stephanie and welcome her into our branch.

Continue to 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

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

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, Coordinators
Magistra_jennings@yahoo.com judithssims@gmail.com

New Interest Groups Are 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 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.

Contact V.P. Programs Jill Jennings via e-mail at magistra_jennings@yahoo.com

Woman of Interest

Dr. Kizzmekia Corbet

"Kizzy is an African American scientist who is right at the forefront of the development of the vaccine."

abcnews.go.com

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett is a research fellow and the scientific lead for the Coronavirus Vaccines & Immunopathogenesis Team at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She was and still is one of the leading scientists behind the government's search for a vaccine. Corbett is part of a team at NIH that worked with



Moderna, the pharmaceutical company that developed one of the two mRNA vaccines that has shown to be more than 90% effective. She earned a PhD in microbiology and immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) in 2014.^[4] Appointed to the Vaccine Research Center in 2014, she is currently the scientific lead of the VRC's Coronavirus Team,^[5] with research efforts aimed at propelling novel coronavirus vaccines, including a COVID-19 vaccine.^{[6][7]} In December 2020, the Institute's Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci said: "Kizzy is an African American scientist who is right at the forefront of the development of the vaccine."

TORCH PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Send articles to

peggycihi@comcast.net

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
May 15, 2021	April 26, 2021	May 5, 2021



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>



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.

- Creative crafts can be part of the silent auction at a future fashion show. 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 9, “Donation of Items for Fund Raising” and send it in. Please include a photo if possible.
- 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.
- 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. When submitting a recipe, please include a list of ingredients and a step-by-step list of how to prepare it. Do not worry about copyright. Since the cookbook would be for our group and not sold or advertised publicly, we can add our favorite recipes. See sample recipe:

Chicken Salad with Grapes

Mix the following ingredients together:

3 cups	leftover chicken (cooked and diced, this is also approximately how much one deli rotisserie chicken yields)
1 cup	red seedless grapes (halved)
2 ribs	celery (chopped)
1 tablespoon	onion powder
½ teaspoon	seasoned salt or salad seasoning
½ cup	mayonnaise (amount depends how creamy you like a salad)

Donation of Items for Fund Raising

List your donations on the attached donations sheet. Include a photo if possible. Store all items at your home.



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:

For your donations, make a copy of the list for yourself. Send the original and photo to:

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

dgraf3@gmail.com

4733 Harbortown Lane

Fort Myers, FL 33919



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

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 33902-2115

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. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch

Membership Renewal Form

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 Membership Year

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Florida Address (is this new or edited? Y / N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Dates usually in Lee County: ☐ Full Time from: _____ to: _____

Out of Season Address (is this new or edited? Y / N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Information

Will be included in the directory and used to send branch communications such as the Torch.

Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell) _____

Birthdate Month/Day: _____ / _____

Education

As you would prefer to be included in the directory

College/Degree: _____

Membership

Level of Membership	Dues Amount	Amount Paid
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Branch Member	\$83.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Member – Primary membership with another branch Primary branch: _____	\$21.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member of AAUW National	\$21.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life Member (50+ Years of Membership)	\$0.00	_____

Payment

Please pay online using the personalized email link provided or mail a check to:

AAUW/Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

I would like to participate in the following committees:

- ☐ Accounting/Finance ☐ Adopt-A-Precinct (Elections) ☐ Communications/PR ☐ Fashion Show
- ☐ Fundraising ☐ Membership Directory ☐ Scholarships ☐ Torch Newsletter Production
- ☐ Other (Please describe) _____

Interest Groups and Coordinators

I am interested in learning more / joining the following interest groups:

- ☐ Book Groups – Marilyn Mylii
- ☐ Bridge – Marilyn Mylii
- ☐ Day Trips – Robin Tuthill
- ☐ Great Decisions – Suzan Harden
- ☐ Hand and Foot – Carolyn Nance
- ☐ Mahjongg – Jean Schoenthaler
- ☐ Photo Walks – Jemetta Hunt
- ☐ Writing / Poetry – Judith Sims and Jill Jennings
- ☐ Suggestion for New Group (Please describe) _____