

“THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE DRY TORTUGAS,
WRITINGS ON THE WALLS.”

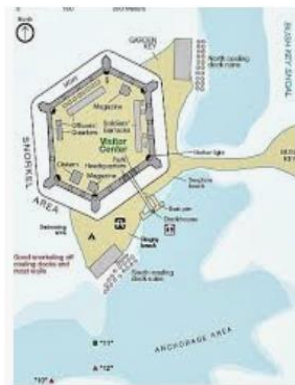


Our March presenter is Rachael Kangas, M.A., R.P.A., Public Archaeology Coordinator with Florida Atlantic University, speaking on “**The Hidden History of the Dry Tortugas, Writings on the Walls.**” The Dry Tortugas are a chain of islands in the Gulf, 70 miles off the coast of Key West. On one of the islands, Fort Jefferson was constructed after the end of the War of 1812 to defend Florida against any subsequent attacks by the British. The Fort remained Union even though Florida went with the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Today, it is known for an historic cache of graffiti left behind by decades of visitors and prisoners, most of which is not available for viewing by the general public. As you will see in Dr.Kangas’ presentation, some of them are simply the name and date of the visitor, while others are slogans such as Cuba Libre (a free Cuba!).

All of them are written in chalk on the walls, many while the visitor was in a prison cell. In addition to Fort Jefferson itself, which was constructed by the Union Army almost entirely of bricks, the location is historic as a stopover or sanctuary for a huge number of migrating birds. After viewing this presentation, you may find yourself wanting to visit Fort Jefferson. That can be arranged, but you will have to take a boat to get there!

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



Dry Tortugas National Park is in the Gulf of Mexico, west of Key West, Florida.

It comprises seven islands, plus the protected coral reefs. Garden Key is home to beaches and the 19th-century Fort Jefferson.

Loggerhead Key has a lighthouse and sea turtles. On nearby Loggerhead Reef, the Windjammer Wreck, the remains of an 1875 ship, is a popular dive site. Bush Key is a nesting site for seabirds like sooty terns. — Google

THANK YOU !!



OUR SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Scholarship Committee:
Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf, Marcia
Howard

OUR MEMBERS ARE WONDERFULLY GENEROUS!!

Our members continue to step up and generously contribute to the support of our scholarships. As of February 29, three more members (Nancy Paterson, Jemetta Hunt, Colleen Wheeler, Peggy Cihl and Phyllis Wayco) donated an additional \$400. This brings our total scholarship donations to \$3,400. To all those who have contributed, 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. We are getting closer to being able to support all of our scholarships. However, we aren't there yet. As you all know, because of Covid, this is our only fund-raising mechanism this year, so we REALLY need your contributions.

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 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 two-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 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 from the AAUW/Fort Myers website (<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/>), print, fill it in, and return with your tax deductible gift.
2. Use 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 Fort 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 A(<https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/donate/>) AUW website:



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>



In The Spotlight

March - National Women's History Month

Begun as a local celebration based in California, later designated a national week-long event, and finally .in 1987. proclaimed a month-long celebration of women, National History Month is 31 days to remember and honor women of distinction who have made significant contributions to American society and culture. This year's theme is *Valiant Women of The Vote: Refusing To Be Silenced*, in recognition of the Centennial of Women's Suffrage and the women who toiled and suffered for us to have the vote. In this time of pandemic, how can I, one person, participate? Think of a woman who has had an impact on your development. It could be a sister, mother, teacher, colleague, or a person in the news. Why not reach out to her? Send a card, personal letter, email, place a phone call, make a ZOOM lunch date-- your choice, but find a way to let her know what she has meant to you. "All my heroines have passed away," you may say. In that case, why not make a donation to her favorite charity in her name? There's always room for a contribution to one of our AAUW scholarship funds. We will list her name and yours in recognition of your donation. Remember, March is our month, women of American. In recognition of National Women's History Month and in remembrance of the women of our lives, let's all wear purple, the color of the women's suffrage movement, to our next AAUW meeting.

Pallas Diaz



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBER

Having traveled most of the world, Pallas Diaz has acquired a lot of skills which she brings with her to our chapter. A native of Naples, Florida, she founded an NGO called Global Help Foundation based in Nicaragua, set up numerous international projects, primarily for wildlife and environmental conservation, and conducted workshops for volunteers. Lately she has worked in various aspects of fundraising for the FGCU Foundation. She is a great supporter of the ERA and pay equity. We welcome her warmly and look forward to interacting with her.

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



The American Association of University Women is a nonprofit 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 **Marion Talbot** who was Dean of Women at the University of Chicago. During her long academic career, she fought to improve support for women students and faculty. aauw.org

TORCH PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Meeting Date	Deadline for TORCH Articles	Mail Torch Date
April 17, 2021	March 26, 2021	April 7, 2021
May 15, 2021	May 26, 2021	April 7, 2021
September 18, 2021	August 28, 2021	September 8, 2021

President's Message

Happy Women's History Month! The month of March is set aside to honor women's contributions to our history. "The National Women's History Museum, founded in 1996, researches, collects and exhibits the contributions of women to the social, cultural, economic and political life of our nation in a context of world history."_ womenshistory.org. Take a moment and visit their website to learn about the *NWHM's 2021 Women's History Month Resource Toolkit*. You will find numerous links to biographies, events, and programming to celebrate this important month.

Congratulations to all of our AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County, Inc., branch members! You continue to make a difference in the lives of girls and women in our community. You are "Fearless Trailblazers."_ AAUW.org. Your hard work and financial contributions are greatly appreciated by all. Thank You! And let us honor and celebrate all women who have made a difference in our lives.

As you may be aware, AAUW has proposed a change in the membership requirement. We have scheduled a Zoom meeting for our AAUW branch to discuss the pros and cons of eliminating the degree requirement for membership. The meeting will take place on March 25th at 7 PM. The Zoom link will be sent out via email prior to the meeting. Be an informed Decision Maker, visit the AAUW.org website for more information on this important proposal. The voting period will be from April 7 – May 17, 2021. Voting on line is encouraged. Paper ballots must be postmarked by April 30, 2021. You will need your AAUW membership ID#. If you do not know your ID#, review the email that Lisa Crotty, VP Membership, sent out on February 23.

It is that time of year to prepare for electing officers for 2021-2022. In accordance with our bylaws, Kathleen Haibach, Vice President Elect, has formed a nominating committee. Jemetta Hunt, Tina Hoegler and Peggy Cihl have agreed to serve on this committee. The following elected positions will be open as of June 30, 2021; Vice President Elect (3 year), Vice President Programs (2 year), and Secretary (2 year). The 2020-2021 elected and appointed officers are listed in the Torch. Contact Kathleen, kathhaibach@gmail.com, if you wish to serve on the board. The elections will take place at our annual branch meeting on April 17, 2021.

AAUW membership renewal period extends from March 15, through June 30, 2021. A renewal form will be included in the April Torch. Of course, you can always renew your membership on line at AAUW.org. Thank you for your continued support and contribution to AAUW.

Our next branch board meeting is scheduled for March 20, at 11 AM. The general meeting and program will begin at 12:30. The Zoom link will be sent out via email prior to the meeting.

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 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

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

Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman was the world's first civilian licensed African-American pilot. Only two years into her flight career, Coleman survived her first major airplane accident. In February of 1923, her airplane engine suddenly stopped working and she crashed.



She was badly hurt in the accident and suffered a broken leg, a few cracked ribs, and cuts on her face.

Thankfully, Coleman was able to fully heal from her injuries. This accident did not stop her from flying. She went back to performing dangerous air tricks in 1925. Her hard work helped her to save up enough money to purchase her own plane, a Jenny - JN-4 with an OX-5 engine. Soon she returned to her hometown in Texas to perform for a large crowd. Because Texas was still segregated, the managers planned to create two separate entrances for African Americans and white people to get into the stadium. Coleman refused to perform unless there was only one gate for everyone to use. After many meetings, the managers agreed to have one gate, but people would still have to sit in segregated sections of the stadium. She agreed to perform and became famous for standing up for her beliefs.

www.womanshistory.org



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>

AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE COUNTY BRANCH
MARCH 2021 PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

February's report dealt with AAUW Florida's upcoming Lobby Day to be held March 17. If you missed that information, catch up by reading the email sent from AAUW Lee on February 19 with the subject "February 20 Public Policy Report."

AAUW's national election includes two main items: a proposal to amend our by-laws to drop the degree requirement from membership criteria and determining our public policy priorities for the next two years. Here are a couple resources. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/membership/> and scroll down until you see "2021 Election." On the right are links to talking points regarding dropping the degree requirement for membership. This link, <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>, gives a brief overview of the public policy priorities proposed for the next two years. Fort Myers/Lee County branch members are invited to a special Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed membership change. Here are the details:

Topic: AAUW Fort Myers Town Hall

Time: Thursday, Mar 25, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87131066931?pwd=enU1VXFCaUZpYVFZMS9CR1Q4NE8wUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 3106 6931

Passcode: 065562

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87131066931#,,,,*065562# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,87131066931#,,,,*065562# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 871 3106 6931

Passcode: 065562

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbAVVm2cOP>

Voting is open April 7 through May 17 and will be done online unless a specific request for a mail ballot is submitted to AAUW. Members for whom national has no email address will receive a notice by mail to vote. Membership VP Lisa Crotty sent all members an email on February 23 with the subject "AAUW: Verify Your Information in the National Database." Your member number, which you will need to vote, is in that email. Lisa asks that we all verify our access to the site in advance of the voting dates.

[Please contact Suzan Harden with your public policy questions.](#)

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.

- 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 10, “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 peggychi@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:

Watermelon Caprese

Ingredients:

1 small watermelon, sliced or cubed, or in balls
1 mozzarella ball sliced (or use small mozzarella balls, available in Publix)
2 tbsp. sliced freshly chopped basil
Extra-virgin olive oil and Balsamic glaze

1. Slice watermelon into 1/2” thick squares or make watermelon balls.
2. Slice mozzarella into 1/2” slices. Or use mozzarella balls.
3. On a serving dish, place sliced watermelon and mozzarella
4. Sprinkle with basil.
5. Drizzle with olive oil and Balsamic glaze and serve.

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: (40-554-7786)

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



AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE CO. BRANCH
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2816 SE 18th Court
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