



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We were all hoping to return to in-person luncheons beginning in October. Unfortunately, due to the Covid surge, we had to reassess this decision. Members' input from the Safety Protocol Survey (thank you Tamara Pigott), as well as the September Breakout sessions, resulted in suspending in-person meetings until January 2022. Over 50% of our members participated in the Survey. The results are in this Torch.

The October 16th meeting will be via Zoom. The Board meeting will begin at 11:00. The speaker portion of the program will begin at 12:30. The speaker is our chapter member Melissa Minds VandeBurgt. She is currently head of University Achieves and Special Collections at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Lisa Crotty, VP of Membership and our *Website* manager, will email the Zoom link, as well as the Agenda, September Minutes and the Treasurer's Report the Wednesday prior to Saturday's meeting to be available for you to print out. Please be looking for this email.


Members suggested in-person gatherings that can be held outdoors. A new Interest Group, Cocktails and Conversation, has been added to meet this need. It will provide an opportunity to socialize in a safe environment. Our first gathering is Wednesday October 20th 3-5 pm at Picnic Point in the Landings. See more information on this, and future outdoor get-togethers in this Torch. Jemetta Hunt is the Interest-Group Coordinator and will be taking reservations. The Board recommends that each individual Interest Group will determine safety protocols for their group.

A new Committee, Strategic Planning, will be formed to address our mission of advancing gender equality for women and girls. We will be identifying needs and developing community interaction programs. This is an exciting new committee for our chapter and opportunity for our members to be involved. Please contact me by text, email or phone to serve on this committee.

Let's continue to work on staying connected and safe.

Stay safe and be well.

Kathleen Haibach, President AAUW
Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

 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



2021-22 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

(NOTE: No in-person meeting is scheduled for the remainder 2021 due to health precautions. Meetings for the remainder of 2021 will be via Zoom. April and May meetings are the second week of the month due to a conflict with the Helm Club.)

SEND ARTICLES TO peggychi@comcast.net

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
November 20, 2021 <i>See note above</i>	October 30, 2021	November 10, 2021
December 18, 2021 <i>See note above</i>	November 27, 2021	December 8, 2021
January 15, 2022	December 27, 2021	January 5, 2022
Febr. 19, 2022 Fashion Show	January 30, 2022	February 9, 2022
March 19, 2022	February 28, 2022	March 9, 2022
April 9, 2022	March 16, 2022	May 30, 2022
May 14, 2022	April 20, 2022	May 5, 2022
September 17, 2022	September 26, 2022	September 7, 2022



Fall AAUW meetings will be held on ZOOM. Information on how to connect to the meeting will be sent on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Here is the information for the October Meeting:

Topic: AAUW Lee County October Meeting
 Time: Oct 16, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87299043923?pwd=SG1hTUxsVVdPT3dmT3R3S24yQmNIUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 9904 3923
 Passcode: 357291
 One tap mobile
 +13126266799,,87299043923#,,,,*357291# US (Chicago)
 +19292056099,,87299043923#,,,,*357291# US (New York)

Dial by your location
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 872 9904 3923
 Passcode: 357291
 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdSHoUgwwU>

WELCOME, MELISSA MINDS VANDEBURGT - OCTOBER 16th SPEAKER



Melissa Minds VandeBurgt is Associate Director and Head of University Archives and Special Collections at Florida Gulf Coast University's Library, and Interim Director for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Research. Before joining the faculty of FGCU in 2012, she spent seven years developing digital services for the Special Collections Department at California State University's Channel Island's Broome Library.

Melissa, accompanied by Bailey Rodgers, Archives Coordinator, Kaley Dietrich, University Archivist, and Viviana Whalen, Archival Assistant, will share with us their passion for cultural heritage materials and how their work has impacted their lives and careers. After her presentation, Melissa will also answer questions regarding archiving AAUW records at FGCU.

WELCOME, Bailey Rodgers



Bailey Rodgers is a student of Anthropology with a focus in museum studies, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. She has had four years of experience in museums, archival work, archaeological, and anthropological work. She has interned and worked with institutions that have helped teach and inform her of the proper procedures on how to handle archival items, including rare and precious materials.

She is proficient in creating metadata, finding aids, and oral history transcripts. Through these experiences, She has been granted interpersonal skills for communication.

WELCOME, Kaley Dietrich

University Archivist, Kaley Dietrich, received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in History at FGCU and then went on to receive her second master's degree in Library and Information Sciences at the University of Maryland. She has returned to help collect materials and resources that document the history of FGCU. History all the is happening time!

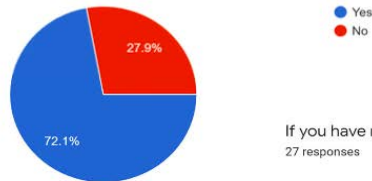


Thank you for your participation in our Membership Survey

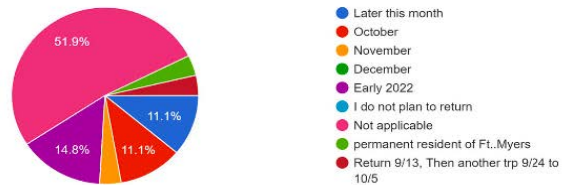
Our September meeting was held via Zoom. We surveyed your thoughts on meeting in person, in small groups, and our future meetings.

Thank you to AAUW member Tamara Pigott for creating the survey.

Are you currently in Southwest Florida?
43 responses



If you have not yet returned to Southwest Florida, when do you plan to return?
27 responses



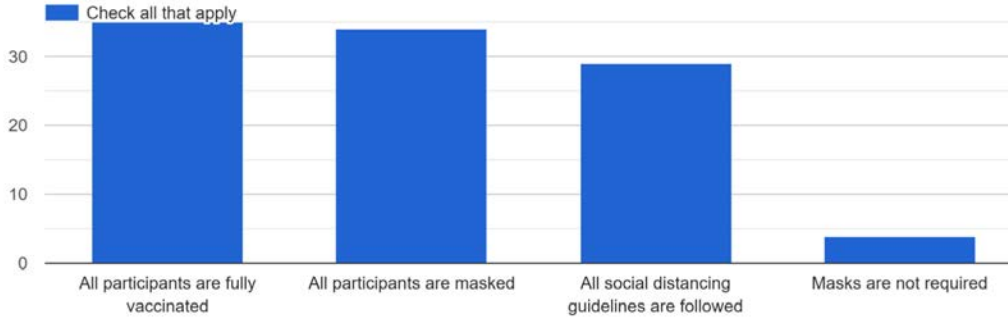
- Of the 43 responses, more than 7 out of 10 of respondents were in SWFL at the time of the survey
- Of those that were not:
 - Half will return this month or next
 - 1 in November
 - 4 in early 2022
 - Note: There were no responses for December and "I do not plan to return"

At this time, are you comfortable resuming in-person, indoor chapter meetings in October as originally planned?
42 responses



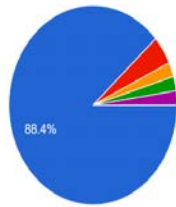
- Half of the respondents were not comfortable resuming in-person, in-door chapter meetings
- However, one in three is comfortable resuming in October as originally planned
- Several additional people indicated they would be more comfortable if people were vaccinated and/or there were distancing protocols

Which of the following, if any, would make you more comfortable attending in-person, indoor chapter meetings?



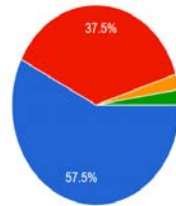
- 35 respondents indicated they would be more comfortable if all participants were fully vaccinated
- 34 would be more comfortable if people were masked
- 29 would be more comfortable if all social distancing guidelines are followed
- 4 would be more comfortable if masks were not required

At this time, are you comfortable attending small group meetings held outdoors?
43 responses



- Yes
- No
- Not sure I would want just a small group. If groups are alternating, not sure that is any safer
- Maybe: If all are vaccinated and wear masks
- Depends on the physical arrangements: seating provided, shaded, etc.

At this time, would you prefer we continue to hold all chapter meetings via Zoom?
40 responses

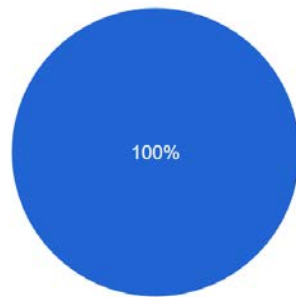


- Yes
- No
- Depends on safety protocols
- At least for the fall.

- Most respondents were comfortable with small group meetings held outdoors (88.4%)
- 2 indicated no interest in outdoor meetings
- 2 indicated they may be comfortable with this type of arrangement, one with a caveat about seating and shade
- 1 wanted all participants at the small group outdoor meeting to be vaccinated and masked
- In terms of continuing to hold chapter meetings via Zoom
- While the majority (57.5%) of respondents prefer this approach, more than one-third are not
- One indicated to continue with Zoom for the Fall
- One indicated their response depended on the safety protocols

Are you COVID-19 vaccinated ?

43 responses



- Yes
- No
- I have received one dose of the vaccine, awaiting dose two
- I prefer not to answer

- 100% of respondents indicate they are vaccinated

Additional Comments

- Several indicated that while they felt it was best to continue on Zoom at this time, they do hope to get back to in-person meetings in the New Year.
- A few mentioned Zoom fatigue and said they miss the more personal connections gained meeting face-to-face
- One person expressed dissatisfaction with the survey being a Google tool due privacy concerns
- One person said that it was a matter of personal responsibility and if people don't feel safe, they shouldn't attend in person meetings

MEET AND GREET OPPORTUNITIES

Save the date!

“Cocktails and Conversations!”

New Interest Group!

We thank Pallas Diaz for sharing her idea and Bonnie Ryan for agreeing to be the group's coordinator. The date and location have been reserved for October 20, 3-5 PM at Picnic Point in the Landings. A small fee will be charged for appetizers and beverages. More info with specific details will be shared via an email prior to the next board meeting. Interested? Reservations required.

Email, jemetta@aol.com or call/text Jemetta (203) 249-6545

The following interest groups have been meeting throughout the year: Book Groups, Bridge, Hand and Foot, Mahjonn, and Great Decisions. If you would like to join any of these groups, contact the group coordinator. Contact information is located in the yellow rectangle on page 9 of the TORCH.

Many of our members have expressed interest in continuing the Movie, Theater, and/or Day Trip Groups. Interested in being a coordinator for one or more of these groups? New interest groups are always welcome.

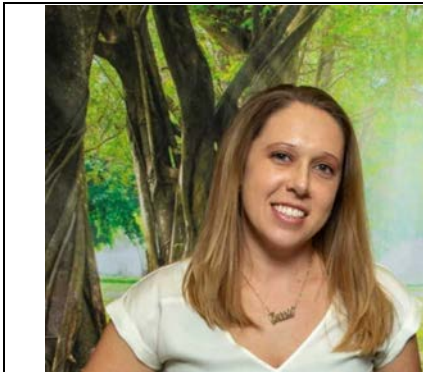
Email, jemetta@aol.com or call/text Jemetta (203) 249-6545

Jemetta Hunt, Interest Group Facilitator.

OUR SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Scholarship Committee: Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf, Marcia Howard

We really thought that, by now, we would be looking forward to thanking you, in person, for your generosity in supporting our scholarships. Unfortunately, because Covid remains too much with us, that will have to wait. So, we will take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your generous donations and service at the voting polls. Because of that generosity, we were able to award all our scholarships last year!!!! Quite an accomplishment in these times, and it would have been impossible without your commitment to support our fundamental mission, “empowering women and girls” through our scholarships.



We have one new scholarship recipient to announce.

Carrie Waskin is the winner of the
AAUW Sue Gottcent Memorial Endowed Scholarship.
She is a junior at Florida Gulf Coast University
with a major in Psychology.

Carrie Waskin’s words of gratitude say much more powerfully than we ever could why your generosity is so important and what a huge impact it has.

“I am beyond grateful for the generous donation to my education, career, and future for myself and my family. I am a wife, mother, full-time employee, and full-time student who is doing everything in my power to make my dream a reality. This upcoming school year will allow me to complete my senior year of college at Florida Gulf Coast University and obtain my bachelor’s degree. Upon completion, I plan to work directly with children; more specifically, neglected and abused children. I have witnessed first-hand the everlasting effects of abuse and neglect on children, as well as the adults that these children grow into. It breaks my heart to know how often this occurs in our society, and it is my life’s mission to make as much change as I can possibly make. Even if I touch the heart and life of one single child, I will know that my hard work, dedication, and time has not been for naught. I am eager and focused on my educational and career goals and look forward to the day that I can begin giving back to my community and its children. This education and career path has been a dream of mine for quite some time now and I am beyond thankful for the support that I have received as I embark on my long journey to success. Your generous contribution absolutely helps to make my dream possible.

Without financial assistance, college would not have been a possibility for me, as my husband and I struggle to make ends meet for our family. However, this donation to my education is of great help and assistance and will be put to great use. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank you for your gift and willingness to support myself and others and our dreams.”

PUBLIC POLICY

An important part of AAUW's mission is to inform members of public policy issues, debates, and decisions that affect the lives of women throughout the lifespan and to actively engage with legislators to provide information as issues arise. The following statement taken directly from the AAUW national website explains AAUW's philosophy of advocacy succinctly:

"Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination."

The following is a statement from Kate Nielson, AAUW's Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy, & Research:

On September 14, 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics released data indicating that, in 2020, women were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man. While the numbers show that the gender pay gap closed slightly amidst the chaos of COVID-19, this data point is highly misleading. The unfortunate story behind the statistic is that the pandemic has been devastating for women and their families, reversing the progress women have made in recent decades.

Millions of women lost their jobs during the first year of the pandemic and remained out of work for a long time. Additionally, countless more women left the workforce completely to deal with childcare, homeschooling and other domestic responsibilities. These women are absent completely from the calculation on which today's pay gap figure is based. Couple that with the fact that women make up the majority of the low-wage workforce, which experienced especially devastating cuts over the past 18 months, and it contributes to the appearance that women's wages actually rose in comparison to men's wages.

Since this new data looks only at full-time, year-round workers, however, it does not fully capture what happened to women's wages in 2020. So, we cannot adequately compare this year's data to that of previous years and cannot fully assess the impact of the massive job losses on the gender pay gap. But make no mistake, women are decidedly *not* better off now than they were in 2019. And if anything, this tells us that we need to ensure more women have pathways to good jobs, with good pay and good benefits.

Over the past 18 months, many workers, especially women, have struggled because of inadequate paid leave and/or affordable quality childcare. This new data notwithstanding, the bottom line is that the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the economic gender divide. As we begin to rebuild from the health and economic crises, it is imperative that we put women at the center of our recovery efforts and seize the moment to correct the inequities that persist in our labor force. Now is the moment to reconfigure our national priorities and build a society where women—and the families who depend on them—get the economic security they rightly deserve.

Submitted by Suzan Harden

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

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
Meets – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 1 PM
cnance5240@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden, Coordinator
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

COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATIONS

Bonnie Ryan, Coordinator
bonniemarieryan@aol.com

New Interest Groups Are Welcome

Jemetta Hunt, Facilitator
Jemetta@aol.com

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

2021-2022 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

President – Kathleen Haibach

Past President – Jemetta Hunt

*Co-Vice-Presidents – Bonnie Ryan
and Janet George*

*Vice-President of Programs –
Jill Jennings*

Vice-President Membership – Lisa Crotty

Secretary – 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 – Tina Hoegler

Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

*Website/Directory – Lisa Crotty,
assisted by Tamara Pignott*

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

Reservations – Carolyn Nance

Sunshine – Ann Compton

*Torch Circulation – Jemetta Hunt (US
Mail) Kathy Jones (e-mail)*



**What can we do to help raise funds for our scholarships?
We have three ways we can help.**

- **Creative crafts can be part of the silent auction at our future fashion show in February of 2022. Stores continually give discounts to attract customers. Pick up something to save. Devera Graf is keeping track of these items. Please let her know what you have available. Fill in the form, on page 11, “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 “AAUW” form, on page 12, and send it in with your donation.**
- **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.**

Woman of Interest



Eleanor Roosevelt

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (October 11, 1884 –November 7, 1962) was an American political figure, diplomat and activist. She served as The First Lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945, during her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms in office, making her the longest-serving first lady of the United States.

Roosevelt served as United States Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly from 1945 to 1952. She urged the United States to join and support the United Nations and became its first delegate.

Roosevelt also served as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights and oversaw the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_Roosevelt

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))



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.

P.O. Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

Donate Today 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 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 Or 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	\$ 21.00	_____
<i>Primary branch:</i> _____		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member of AAUW National	\$ 21.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Life (50+ Years of Membership)	\$ 0.00	_____

Payment [Please pay online using the personalized email link provided or mail a check payable to:](#)

**AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115**

Membership Interests

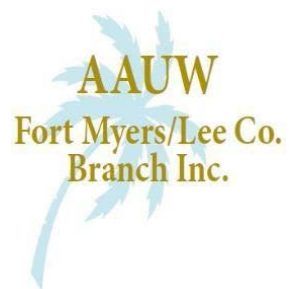
I would like to participate in the following committees:

- Accounting/Finance Adopt-A-Precinct (Elections) Communications 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 Myli
- Bridge – Marilyn Myli
- 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
- Suggestions for New Group (Please describe) _____



AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE CO. BRANCH
Jemetta Hunt Torch Distributor
7361 Twin Eagle Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33912