



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The latest Covid-19 update that booster shots are now available to those 65 and older is very encouraging, moving us closer to feeling more comfortable attending in person monthly meetings. We plan to resume our Luncheons beginning in January.

The November 20th meeting will be via Zoom. The Speaker portion of the program begins at 12:30. Our speaker is Annmarie Connor who is Assistant Professor and Director of the Community Autism Network at FGCU.

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

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN DECEMBER. In place of the meeting, there is a holiday social gathering, scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th at Picnic Point in the Landings 12.00-1:30. Box lunches will be available for \$20. Further information on this event is in this Torch. RSVP is required. Hope all will attend to celebrate the holiday season.

A good time was had by all at our newest Interest Group, Cocktails and Conversation, outdoor gathering October 20th. Thank you, Bonnie Ryan and Janet George for hosting. Please consider hosting one of these gatherings in your community. They are easy to organize with BYOB and small snacks. These get-togethers provide a great opportunity to get to know other members in a small-group setting. Please contact the Coordinator, Bonnie Ryan, to host.

Four Ad-Hoc committees have been formed: Record Retention, chaired by Pat Crowe; By Laws, chaired by Bonnie Ryan and Janet George. Reports from these two committees are due in January. Fashion Show, chaired by Peggy Cihi, will provide monthly updates. Strategic Planning, chaired by Lisa Crotty, will provide monthly updates in the Torch, beginning in January.

Directory news: they are completed (thank you Lisa Crotty and Jemetta Hunt) and are being mailed to all members.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the mission of AAUW: To advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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

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



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>

Dr. Annemarie Connor
Our November 20th Speaker



Annemarie Connor, PhD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, and Director of the Community Autism Network (CAN) at Florida Gulf Coast University.

After 15 years of clinical experience as an occupational therapist (OT), Dr. Connor transitioned to academia to research the needs of an underserved segment of the disability community, adolescents and young adults with autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders.

Dr. Connor's research agenda focused on the complex needs of the autism community, namely: early identification, biological causes, and potential cures. Her Occupational Therapy clinical background and PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling, which honed her research skills, have made her a premiere expert on the autistic individual and his or her underserved family and community.

She has published numerous journal articles and is the principal investigator of multiple community-based participatory research projects. In addition to her work with CAN, Dr. Connor's service commitments include co-chairing the Florida Occupational Therapy Association Research Special Interest Section; the Promising Pathways Autism Conference, non-profit Board work; and reviewing for the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

As an educator training the next generation of practitioners, Dr. Connor focuses on the translation of research to practice, and the development of her students' professional identity and their therapeutic affect through explicit use of teacher-student working alliances.



November Monthly Meeting - AAUW Fort Myers / Lee County
Time: Nov 20, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831545882?pwd=Szd3MTIUVk12c3hwdzc3d3BuVjAzdz09>

Meeting ID: 898 3154 5882

Passcode: 154565

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89831545882#,,,,*154565# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89831545882#,,,,*154565# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 898 3154 5882

Passcode: 154565

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcCgVr3FtW>

**In The Spotlight :
Naomi Bloom**

You have probably already seen this phrase: brought to you by Naomi Bloom at the end of numerous local public TV productions. In addition to support for WGPU, Naomi donates to AAUW's Scholarship funds, as well as providing vouchers for Florida Repertory Theater's productions as items for our auction. She has also been made a Grand Dame of The PACE Center for Girls, just one of her many civic accomplishments. Thank you, Naomi, for all you do for AAUW, Fort Myers and the arts!



2021-22 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

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

(NOTE: No in-person meeting is scheduled for the remainder of 2021 due to health precautions, except for the outdoor Christmas Gathering (See page 4.). 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.)



AAUW Christmas Gathering

It Can Happen "Face to Face!"

How: OUTSIDE
Where: The Landings Picnic Point
When: Noon, Tuesday, December 7
Why: To Celebrate Being Together "Cautiously"
Menu: Box Lunch \$20
Variety of mini sandwiches
Chips and Pasta Salad
Bottled water or bring your own beverage
Surprise dessert

RSVP: By 12/1 to Bonnie Ryan
716-860-7361 or bonniemarieryan@aol.com

"Gift Gathering Extravaganza"

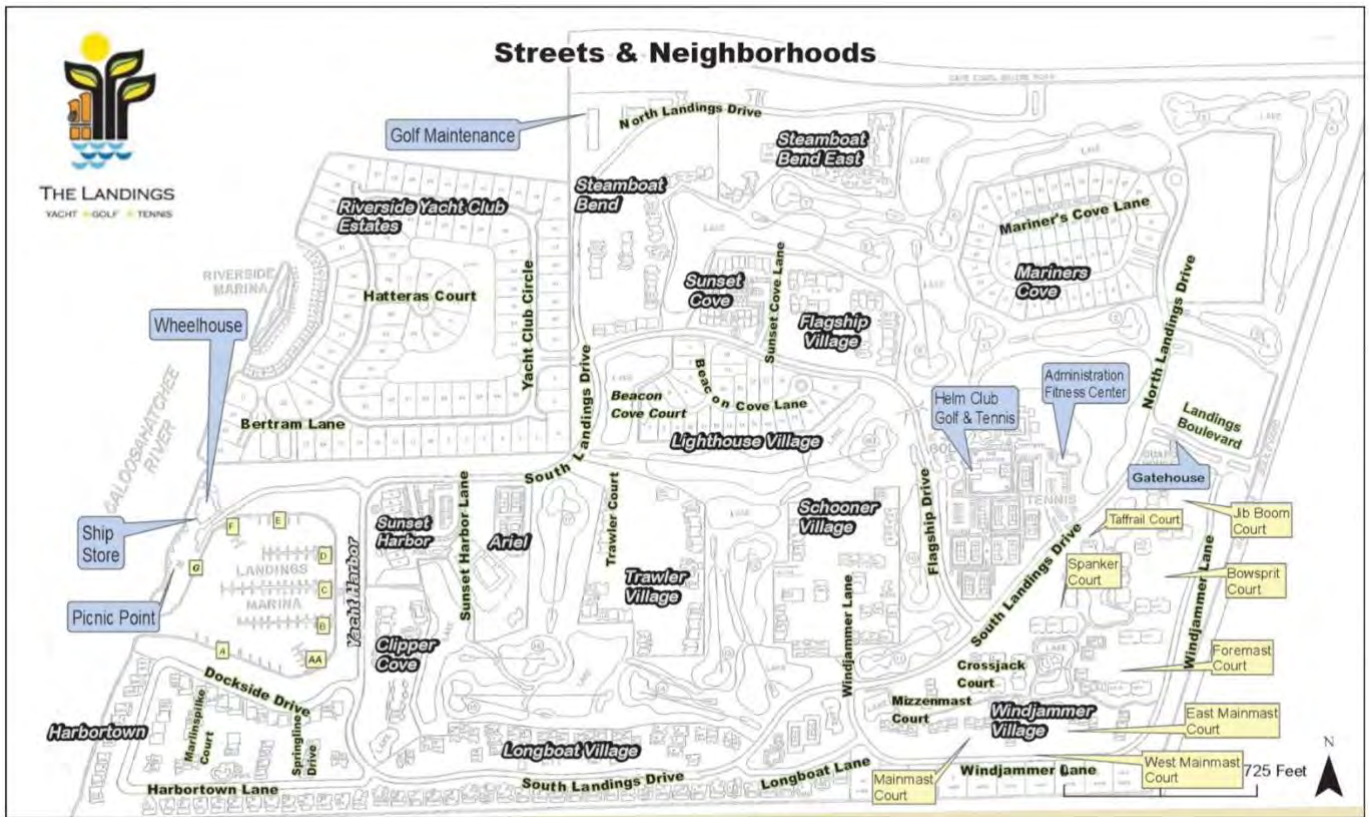
Bring small items for Fashion Show Gift Baskets

Examples: gift cards from restaurants, spas, theaters or small gift items to add to baskets.



**CHRISTMAS GATHERING
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
DECEMBER 7 AND MAKE A
RESERVATION NOW!
(SEE PAGE 4)**

Directions to Picnic Point in The Landings



Enter at the Gate House. Turn left at the STOP sign onto South Landings Drive. At the three-way-STOP, turn right onto Flagship Drive. At the next STOP sign, turn left onto South Landings Drive (this road circles around the area). Continue until you reach the Yacht Harbor. Turn right onto the road that borders the harbor on the north. Find a place to park and continue walking on the path to Picnic Point on south (left. } In case of rain the area has transparent curtains to lower, so the weather is never a factor. We hope you will join us.

**In October, AAUW had a gathering at the lovely Picnic Point in The Landings where our Christmas Gathering will be on December 7. Come join us.
A map of The Landings is on page 12.**



Devera Graf and Janet George



Bonnie Ryan, Peggy Cihl, Cheryl Tromley, Kath Hiabach, Jill Jennings



Carolyn Nance, Mary Kelner, Phyllis Wayco, Marilyn Myli



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

We are excited to introduce you to our newest scholarship recipient. Isabella Santoro, a freshman, with a pre-elementary education major, who plays the violin for the FGCU Symphony Orchestra, was awarded our 2021-2022 AAUW FGCU Endowed Scholarship.

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

“This scholarship means so much to my family and me as it enables me to be able to continue to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher, as well as continue to play the violin in a collegiate orchestra setting. The gift of being able to share my passions with the world is priceless and I can’t possibly thank you enough.

I hope to be able to continue my journey as a musician in both performance as well as teaching. I worked in the D303 School District in St. Charles, Illinois, in their after-school program caring for elementary school children. I loved working with the kids and often brought my violin and loved to see the expressions on their faces when I began to play. I also started my own side business in the summer of 2017 called

“Miss Bella’s Summer Violin Lessons” on Facebook @ MissBellasViolinLessons. Working with children ages K-6 has given

FOCUS ON OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

me an opportunity to teach them about music and to inspire them to have the confidence to do something new. I believe that my faith and my passion for music have guided me into teaching, in healing, as well as inspiring all people. I often feel like it is just a part of who I am. I feel incredibly lucky to have found the violin so many years ago and hope to continue to share my gift with the world however large or small that contribution may be.

I am majoring in elementary education so that my opportunities are not just limited to teaching music. Both are my passions, and I am so thankful for this generous scholarship opportunity to continue.”

Thank you all again for your continuing generosity which enables us to help young women like Isabella!

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, ages 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.

**Thank you for your contributions to
OUR SCHOLARSHIPS
IN THE TIME OF COVID**

We would like to give a BIG, grateful shout-out to those of you who generously donated to our Scholarship funds over the summer. Thank you, Mary Jane McDowell, Elizabeth Foster, Bonnie Ryan, Robin Tuthill, Ron Glasgow, Laura Frost, and Marcia Howard. Also to those who donated to our Star Bright Scholarship: Carolyn Nance, in Memory of Dorothy Bunck and Muriel Freedman; Ellen Schneider in Memory of Dorothy Bunck; Jane Lukowicz in Memory of Miriam Manpel, Muriel Freedman, Alice Mellen and Ruth Montgomery. It is only through the generosity of our members that we were able, despite Covid, to award all our scholarships and thereby support our fundamental mission, "Empowering women and girls." THANK YOU!!!!



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 AAUW-FL Public Policy Committee met October 21 to begin plans for the 2022 Florida Legislative Session. A major change of note is that the 2022 session will begin January 11, rather than in March as has been customary. As a result, AAUW Lobby Days have been scheduled for January 18 and 19, much earlier than usual. Legislators must submit bills for consideration by January 11. As that happens, the Public Policy Committee is reviewing them to see which bills directly affect our mission. Once the PPC reviews the bills and identifies a manageable number that most directly affect our mission (either to support or to oppose), the bills are submitted to National for review and approval. When our slate is finalized, it will be shared with members for their action. As Florida finalizes plans for Lobby Days, information will be shared with members. There is a very tight timeline this year. Every effort will be made to share information in a timely manner.

Submitted by Suzan Harden

WOMEN OF INTEREST

MARION TALBOT

AAUW was founded by Marion Talbot, who became the Dean of the College of Women at the University of Chicago in 1882. While still a student, she co-founded the American Association of University Women with her mentor Ellen Swallow Richards. During her long career at the University of Chicago, Talbot fought tenaciously and often successfully to improve support for women students and faculty, and against efforts to restrict equal access to educational opportunities.

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



ELLEN SWALLOW RICHARDS

Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards was an industrial and safety engineer, environmental chemist, and university faculty member at MIT during the 19th century. Her pioneering work in sanitary engineering, and experimental research in domestic science, laid a foundation for the new science of home economics. She was the founder of the home economics movement characterized by the application of science to the home, and the first to apply chemistry to the study of nutrition.

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



This MONTH Is the anniversary of the founding of AAUW.

Since its first meeting in 1881, the AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and over 800 college and university partners.

At its onset, the group's founders envisioned an organization where women college graduates could band together to open the doors of higher education to other women and to find wider opportunities for their professional training. Throughout its history, AAUW has examined and taken positions on such fundamental issues as women's role in education, society, economics, and politics.



PHOTO OF MEMBERS OF AAUW AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for women who have graduated from college. Each year, it provides millions of dollars in fellowships, grants, and community project awards.

<https://www.lavocedinewyork.com/en/lifestyles/2019/03/29/american-association-of-university-women-empowering-for-over-130-years/>



Time to GIVE . . .

is the theme for our February Fashion Show Fund Raiser.

**What can we do to help raise funds for our scholarships?
There are ways we all can help.**

- **Creative crafts as well as purchased items will be part of the silent auction at our fashion show in February of 2022. Stores continually give discounts to attract customers. Pick up something to contribute. Devera Graf is keeping track of these items. Please let her know what you have available. Fill in the form, on page 12, "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 13, and send it in with your donation.**

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 CO. BRANCH
Jemetta Hunt Torch Distributor
7361 Twin Eagle Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33912