



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As the 2021 year ends, our branch has much to be proud of. We have adapted to Covid-19 challenges with Zoom meetings and established safety protocols for safe in person meetings. Our Committees have worked tirelessly to ensure we move forward with the AAUW mission.

We look forward to our Holiday Party, December 7th at Picnic Point at The Landings. A reminder to bring your contributions for the Fashion Show auction. There will be no December Board meeting.

Our January 15th in-person Board Meeting and Luncheon will be held at The Landings. All attending need to show proof of vaccination. To prevent a backup at the check-in table, please consider taking a photo with your phone of your vaccination card and email it to Jemetta Hunt, Jemetta@aol.com. or text her at (203) 249-6545. You will only need to do this once. At the luncheons, will have tables of four persons, spaced far apart, so masks will not be required.


Strategic Planning Committee update: Several years ago, National put out a Strategic Plan to assist branches through research, education and advocacy. I established this committee for our branch to examine National's plan and make recommendations as to how our branch may incorporate some of National's Strategic Plan suggestions.

Some areas being explored are ways to increase our branch membership; collaboration with local Universities and other Florida AAUW branches and additional ways to support our Scholarship recipients. I am hopeful this endeavor will provide additional opportunities, to our members, to be more involved in their areas of community interest.

The Committee will present its findings and recommendations at the January Board meeting for Board approval. This has been an arduous process and I thank Lisa Crotty for chairing and all those serving on this committee.

Happy and safe holidays to all.

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

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| 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

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

| <u>Meeting Date</u> | <u>Deadline for Articles</u> | <u>Mail Torch Date</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| January 15, 2022 | December 27, 2021 | January 6, 2022 |
| February 19, 2022 Fashion Show | January 28, 2022 | February 9, 2022 |
| March 19, 2022 | February 26, 2022 | March 9, 2022 |
| April 9, 2022 | March 16, 2022 | March 28, 2022 |
| May 14, 2022 | April 22, 2022 | May 3, 2022 |
| September 17, 2022 | August 25, 2022 | September 6, 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.)

Women of Interest: AAUW winners of the STEM Award*

STEM

December 4 - 10 is Computer Science Education Week

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is a broad term used to group together these academic disciplines. This term is typically used to address an education policy or curriculum choices in schools. It has implications for workforce development, national security concerns (as a shortage of STEM-educated citizens can reduce effectiveness in this area) and immigration policy. The *science* in STEM typically refers to two or more of three major branches of science:

1. formal sciences, of which mathematics is an example, along with logic and statistics and computer science
2. natural sciences, including biology, physics, and chemistry;
3. social sciences such as: psychology, sociology, and political science.

Organizations in the United States, such as the National Science Foundation; the Department of Labor's online database for job seekers in STEM, O*Net; and the Department of Homeland Security use all three.

Our branch of AAUW supports STEM education in our schools in Lee County.

*See the STEM award given by our branch, described on page 5 in the Scholarship article.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science,_technology,_engineering,_and_mathematics#cite



AAUW Christmas Gathering

It Can Happen "Face to Face!"

How: OUTSIDE
Where: The Landings Picnic Pointe
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

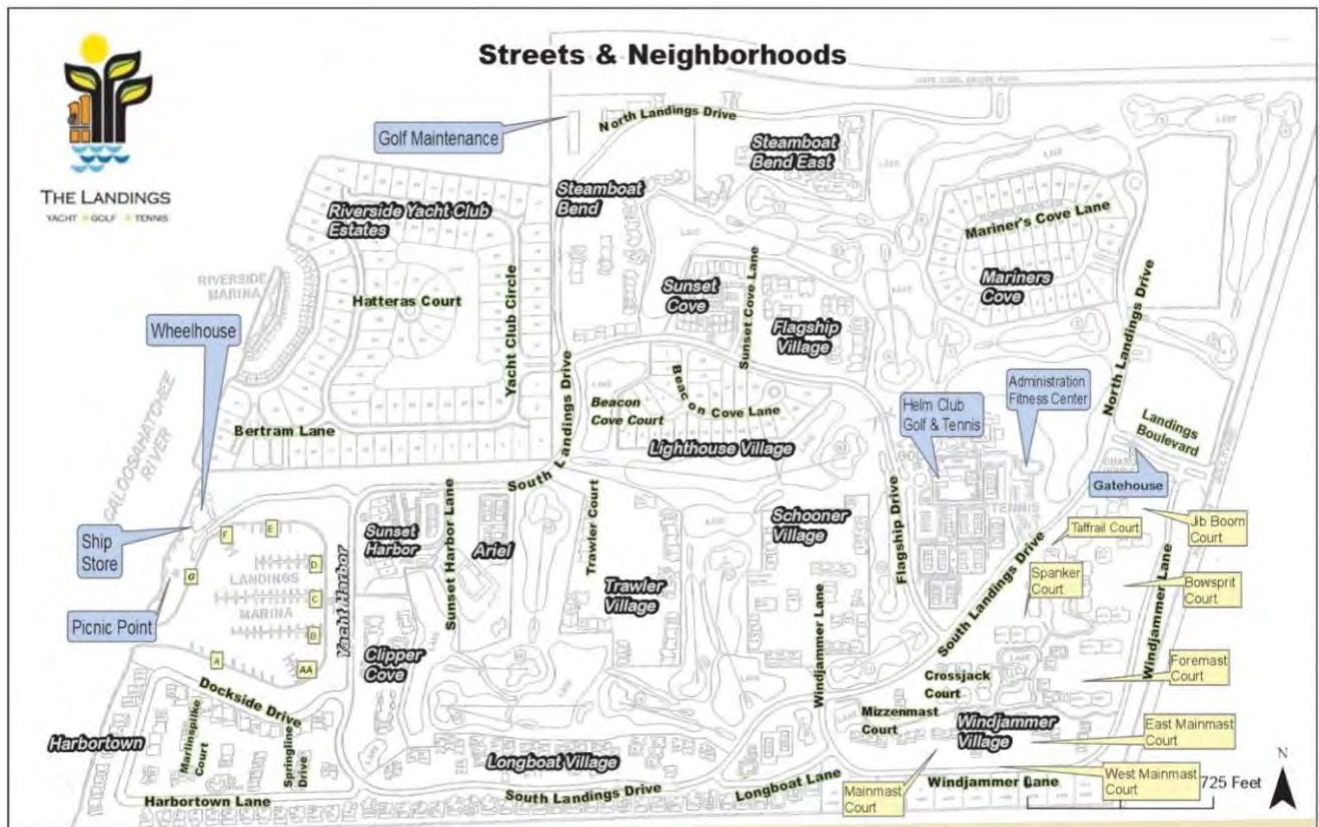
Examples: gift cards from restaurants, spas, theaters or small gift items to add to baskets.

Live piano styling by Bob Cihl



**CHRISTMAS GATHERING
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
DECEMBER 7 AND MAKE A RESERVATION NOW!
(SEE PAGE 3)**

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.

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 their lifespans 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 non-partisan, 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 Board and the Public Policy Committee are preparing for Lobby Days, which will be held January 18 and 19, 2022. Lobby Days will be virtual again this year, and all AAUW FL members are invited to participate. There is no cost but your time. The agenda is being finalized but will include a review of the bills related to AAUW's mission which AAUW FL is supporting or opposing, strategies for advocating and working with legislators, and virtual conversations with legislators who initiated bills we determined are most closely related to our mission. Usually, of the dozens of bills that are submitted by legislators for consideration each session, we narrow it down to five or so bills for action by AAUW FL members. Here is an overview of the process of preparing for Lobby Days.

The first step is to review the AAUW Public Policy Priorities for this biennium. Last spring AAUW's members voted to accept the following priorities for the 2021-2023 biennium by a 92 percent vote:

- 1) To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.
- 2) To achieve economic security for all women, including equity and fairness in compensation and benefits, enforcement of employment discrimination statutes, a closing of the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities, the strengthening of retirement benefits and programs.
- 3) To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.

The AAUW FL Board is reviewing the bills submitted for consideration by legislators. Bills closely relating to our mission are identified. The bills identified as critical may change, as legislators have until the 2022 Session begins January 11 to submit bills for consideration.

After the AAUW FL Board identifies the bills to be considered for our efforts, they are referred to the national AAUW Board for review and approval. We can submit a bill for approval after National makes its initial review if we believe it is necessary to do so.

Once the list is finalized, those of us on the AAUW FL Public Policy Committee divide the bills to research and prepare talking points. The talking points are submitted to the AAUW FL Board for approval. The talking points will be reviewed during Lobby Days and are made available to members to use for their individual advocacy efforts.

Individual branches are encouraged to meet either virtually or in person with local legislators to secure passage or opposition of the identified bills.

In the January Torch, the bills to be discussed during Lobby Days will be shared. To see the bills that have been proposed so far, you can go to www.myfloridahouse.gov. Click on "Bills" to see a list. To follow particular bills, click on "Tracking" to enter your personal information for e-mail updates.

Submitted by Suzan Harden



**Time to GIVE . . . is the theme for our
February 19, 2022 Fashion Show Fund Raiser
in the Main Deck at The Landings'
Helm Club.**

**Soft Surroundings from the Coconut Point store
at Estero will be our fashion show presenter.**

Reservations can be made right after Christmas for tickets for the Fashion Show Fund Raiser, costing \$55.00 each. Send a check made out to *AAUW Fort Myers* along with a list of those with whom you will be sitting. If you are comfortable with a larger number at your table, you may choose to have a table of six or eight. Send the check to Carolyn Nance at 4205 NW38th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL33993.

**Extraordinary finds and original artwork treasures
will be among the raffle items!**



- **You can help with the Fund Raiser! Creative crafts as well as purchased items will be part of the silent auction at our fashion show in February. 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 attached "AAUW" form on page 9, "Donation of Items for Fund Raising," and send it to her. Please include a photo if possible.**
- **Monetary donations can be made in honor of or in memory of someone special. Be thinking of who you would like to honor. Use the form on page 9 and send it in with your donation.**

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)

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)

4733 Harbortown Lane

Fort Myers, FL 33919



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