



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Our first in person meeting in two years was a great success with 40 members registered. While Zoom was a wonderful tool for remaining connected; nothing can replace the bonding experience of in person meetings.

OUR APRIL 9th LUNCHEON IS FREE!! An anonymous donor has offered to pay for all those who are attending the April meeting; with the suggestion that each member attending the luncheon consider donating the price you would have paid for the ticket, to the Scholarship Fund. We are so grateful for this donor's generosity. Reservations are required. See details on page 2 of The Torch.

- The Board meeting begins at 10:00.
- Luncheon check-in begins at 11:30
- Lunch will be served at 11:45 followed by the Program of Scholarship Recipient Awards.
- The Agenda, Treasure's Report and March minutes will be available at the meeting.

RAFFLE OF DONATED GIFTS will follow the presentation. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund.

A reminder is to submit your name to The Nominating Committee, if you are interested in being on the Slate for the office of President Elect, VP of Membership, or Treasurer, prior to the April meeting. The Nominating Committee's members are:

Janet George, bfiegeorge@comcast.com

Bonnie Ryan, bonniemarieryan@aol.com

Looking forward to seeing you all at the April meeting.

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



Join us for Our Luncheon and Program

OUR MEETING Date:
Saturday, April 9, 2022
Gathering: 11:45 A.M.

Location: In The Garden Room
The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club, 5200 South Landings Drive

Luncheon Menu: Rolls, Coffee, Tea

Choice 1: Caprese Salad with grilled chicken, and basil-olive oil reduction, with vine-ripened tomatoes, sliced fresh mozzarella, basil, and Bermuda onion on a baby spinach and Romaine mix.

Choice 2: Turkey, Asparagus and Parmesan Crapes; with sun-dried tomato cream, served with harvest wild rice.

Choice 3: Vegan Meal. Chef's choice
Dessert: Chef's Choice or Fruit Cup
Beverages are available. Wait staff will accept charge cards for beverages. Reservations are required with choice of menu.

Proof of Vaccination is required.



For luncheon reservations, contact Carolyn Nance. She'll acknowledge your reservation by return e-mail. If you do not receive a note, please contact her again. Carolyn's contact is:

cnance5240@gmail.com

or at

(239) 785-9993

Please title your e-mail **AAUW Reservations**, and contact Carolyn Nance no later than **Monday April 4**. Cancellations must be made no later than **Tuesday, April 5**, using the same method of communication, otherwise, payment is expected.

The value of luncheon is \$23.00

(Mark your calendar for our meetings the second Saturday in April and May. These meetings are earlier than usual due to unavoidable conflicts. Meetings end in May and begin again the third Saturday in September.)

AAUW Adopt-A-Precinct – April

AAUW Adopt-A-Precinct procedures have changed this year. Instead of working as a team at Precinct 90, we can still volunteer at our individually assigned precinct. Volunteers will still be issued a check for services but will need to submit a personal check to our treasurer after payment.

Those who worked previously and received an application by mail, would complete it and notify Faye O'Briant through email. If you did not work before and have not received an application, you will need to go to www.lee.vote to get one. On the website, select *Poll Worker Information*, then select *Become a Poll Worker*. Complete the application and notify Faye through email when you have submitted your application. This is the only way that we can keep an accurate list of participants for our records.

If you have any questions after reading the on-line information, please phone me at 239-994-9864. I encourage you to volunteer in this way to assist with our efforts to earn monies for scholarships. Faye O'Briant. Nanagrams5@gmail.com

Scholarship Recipients Honored at Our Monthly Meeting April 9th



Dr. Laura Frost, who is Associate Dean for Faculty and Graduate Affairs and Professor of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences at FGCU, will tell us about their scholarship program.

We will introduce our membership to the lucky college students who have been the winners in our annual scholarship competitions.

At that time, we will present the students with their awards and allow them a few minutes to tell us a little about themselves. At press time, we are in the process of notifying the students of their winnings, so we do not have their names yet. We want to thank all our members who contributed financially to our scholarship fund, and the members of our Scholarship Committee: Cheryl Tromley, Devera Graf, and Marcia Howard for all their hard work organizing the program, notifying the students and setting up this event.



You Can Help Preserve History

Many of us are looking for volunteer opportunities while staying safe. The Library of Congress may have just the opportunity for you.

Many of the materials donated to the library are archives, journals and personal items from historical collections. These materials have been scanned and now need to be transcribed so they are searchable and available to scholars around the world.

The Library offers collections online with instructions for virtual volunteers to enter or review materials. Information is available on the *By The People* page -

<https://crowd.loc.gov/?loclr=eacwd>

Current projects that may be of particular interest to members include:

Clara Barton's papers - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/clara-barton-angel-of-the-battlefield/>

Organizing for Women's Suffrage - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/organizing-for-womens-suffrage-the-nawsa-records/> (mostly requires review of transcribed pages)

Walt Whitman - <https://crowd.loc.gov/campaigns/walt-whitman/>

Recently completed projects include papers from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Anna E. Dickinson.

To learn how to get started, read the Welcome Guide and select a campaign.

<https://crowd.loc.gov/help-center/welcome-guide/>

Woman of Interest

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall, who was interested in animal behavior from an early age, left school at age 18. She worked as a secretary and as a film production assistant until she gained passage to Africa. Once there, Goodall began assisting paleontologist and anthropologist **Louis Leakey**. Her association with Leakey led eventually to her establishment in June 1960 of a camp in the Gombe Stream Game Reserve (now a national park) so that she could observe the behavior of chimpanzees in the region.



Over the years Goodall was able to correct several misunderstandings about chimpanzees. She found, for example, that the animals are omnivorous, not vegetarian; that they can make and use tools; and, in short, that they have a set of hitherto unrecognized complex and highly developed social behaviors. Goodall wrote books and articles about various aspects of her work, notably *In the Shadow of Man* (1971). She summarized her years of observation in *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior* (1986). Goodall continued to write and lecture about environmental and conservation issues into the early 21st century. In 2002 she became a UN Messenger of Peace.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jane-Goodall>

2021-22 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	Mail Torch Date
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

April and May meetings are the second week of the month due to a conflict with the Helm Club



EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

With Our Scholarships

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

We are so excited to be on track to honor our scholarship recipients on April 9. We hope you plan to attend to celebrate their accomplishments and learn why your contributions to our scholarships are so meaningful.

Remember that an anonymous donor has very generously volunteered to cover the cost of our April Scholars luncheon. The hope is that this act of generosity will spur you to contribute as well. We are asking you to donate the normal cost of your lunch and bit more to the Scholarship Fund. We cannot thank this donor enough for such wonderful support!!

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 aged 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 a great idea!
Make a contribution to our fund-raising for our scholarships so we can continue with these worthy benefits!
(Our donation form is on page 9.)

Thanks to these members for their donations:

Jill Jennings in memory of her grandmother-Missouri Lester Stanley		
Mary Jane McDowell	Ellen Schneider	Phyllis Wayco
Cheryl Tromley	Jemetta Hunt	Judith Clare
Kathleen Haibach	Judith Sims	Marilyn Marr



The Great Decisions discussion group has been meeting on the first Friday of each month to discuss topics pertaining to foreign policy. Our next discussion will be held on April 1 and is entitled "Putin's Russia." Cheryl Tromley will be our discussion leader. If you heard her presentation at the March meeting, you would understand why we are all eagerly anticipating the discussion. There is still one book available at the discounted price. If anyone would like to join the group, please contact Suzan Harden for more details.

PUBLIC POLICY

The 2022 Florida Legislative Session concluded Monday, March 14, with the passage of a \$112 billion budget, over which Governor DeSantis has line-item veto power. On Friday, March 18, you should have received an email from AAUW Lee with the Public Policy report, which contained details about the disposition of bills that were identified by AAUW and AAUW-FL as being closely aligned with AAUW's mission. Highlights:

- Again this year the attempt to establish the Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act (HB 293/SB 322) gained no traction in the legislature. It is likely that AAUW will continue working with legislators to present a similar bill in the future.
- AAUW strongly opposed HB 57/SB 242, Racial and Sexual Discrimination. This bill would have prohibited state agencies and contractors with state agencies from creating mandatory diversity training programs in the workplace. The bill died in the Education and Employment Committee.
- School board elections can continue to be non-partisan in the counties where that is the practice (Lee County is one of them) and the Commissioner of Education will continue to be an appointed position.
- The Legislature approved HB 497, proposed by Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka, to allow Lee County residents to vote on whether or not they want to elect the Superintendent of Schools or continue the practice of having the school board interview and hire the superintendent. That measure will go before Lee County voters in November.
- The budget that was passed included a provision that \$200 million be diverted from the 12 school districts that defied the governor's no-masks mandate at the beginning of this school year to the remaining 55 school districts. Lee County is not one of the 12 districts.
- Although Florida considers itself a leader in the battle against human trafficking, none of the three bills AAUW supported dealing with the trafficking issue made it out of committee to a vote.

Items of general interest:

- Although availability and affordability of property insurance is a concern throughout Florida, the legislature did not take action to make significant changes in current law.
- A measure to repeal Florida's no-fault automobile insurance system and replace it with a bodily injury system died in committee.
- Despite last summer's Surfside building collapse, the House and the Senate could not agree on legislation requiring condo associations to set aside money for needed structural repairs.

INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS

BOOK GROUPS

Marilyn Myli, Coordinator
Marilynmy7@hotmail.com

Book Club **Meets**
Cover Girls **2nd Wednesday, 1 PM**
Eat, Share, Read **4th Thursday, 12:45 AM**
(The book clubs are very interested in new
members. If interested, please contact
Marilyn.)

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 Cih

Standing Committees

Website/Directory—Lisa Crotty,
assisted by Tamara Pignott
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
Reservations – Carolyn Nance
Sunshine – Ann Compton
Torch Circulation – Jemetta Hunt (US
Mail) Kathy Jones (e-mail)



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

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 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	\$88.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Member – Primary membership with another branch Primary branch: _____	\$21.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing 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**



AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell) _____

I would like to participate in the following committees:

- ☐ Adopt-A-Precinct (Elections) ☐ Communications ☐ Fashion Show ☐ Finance
- ☐ Fundraising ☐ Membership Directory ☐ Public Policy ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Torch Newsletter Production ☐ Other (*Please describe*) _____

Interest Groups and Coordinators

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

Check all that apply

- ☐ Book Groups – Marilyn Mylly
- ☐ Bridge – Marilyn Mylly
- ☐ Day Trips – *Need coordinator*
- ☐ Great Decisions – Suzan Harden
- ☐ Hand and Foot – Carolyn Nance
- ☐ Mahjongg – Jean Schoenthaler
- ☐ Writing / Poetry – Judith Sims and Jill Jennings
- ☐ Suggestion for New Group (*Please describe*) _____



AAUW FORT MYERS/LEE CO. BRANCH

Jemetta Hunt Torch Distributor

7361 Twin Eagle Lane

Fort Myers, FL 33912