

The American Association of University Women

The **TORCH**

May, 2022

AAUW. Vol. 60, No.9

Peggy Drennan Cihi, Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Summer is around the corner. This is our last TORCH and Luncheon until September. Our meeting is Saturday May 14th at The Landings. The Board Meeting begins at 10:00, followed by the Luncheon check-in at 11:30, with lunch being served at 12:00. RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED. The Program includes voting for and Induction of Officers as well as some fun activities. The slate for Officers is: President Elect-Cecile Brennan; Vice President of Membership-Jemetta Hunt; and Treasurer-Mary Kellner.

Bring your checkbook if you would like to renew your membership for next year at this meeting. We need everyone to renew by June 30, so all names will be in our 2022-2023 Directory. Invite a friend to join.

Our April Scholarship Recipient Luncheon was exceptional with many of us teary eyed hearing the heartfelt thank-yous from our talented and adorable students. We should all feel so proud that we are able to assist financially these deserving young women. Thank you to our Scholarship Co-Chairs Dr. Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf for organizing the event and arranging for our speaker, Dr. Laura Frost. A special thanks to our members who so generously contributed to the Scholarship Fund in place of a Fund-Raising event.

It has been an honor to serve as your President. I have been very fortunate to be part of a Board with members who are innovative and possess so much foresight for the future of our Branch and the AAUW mission. A few of our accomplishments this year was the establishment of a Strategic Plan, which includes collaborating with other Florida branches and local universities. We also expanded our committees, to include more members. This allows us to take advantage of the many diverse talents our members possess. A special thanks to our VP of Membership, Lisa Crotty, who worked tirelessly assisting myself and other Chairs in moving our Branch forward. And thank you to our members. You have continued to support our Branch through some difficult times these past several years. The best is yet to come!

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you all in September.

Kathleen Haibach,

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



**Join us for
Our Luncheon and Program**

**The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis
Club, 5200 South Landings Drive**

OUR MEETING DATE:

**Saturday, May 14, 2022
Gathering: 11:30 A.M.**

Location: In The Garden Room

Luncheon Menu: Rolls, Coffee, Tea

Choice 1: Chicken Pecan Salad with baby greens with mandarin oranges, red onion, gorgonzola cheese, sliced strawberries, blueberries, toasted pecan, sliced chicken with citrus vinaigrette dressing.

Choice 2: Classic Italian Lasagna with meat sauce and chef's choice of vegetable.

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 May 9.**

**Cancellations must be made no later than
Tuesday, May 10, using the same method
of communication, otherwise, payment is
expected.**

The value of luncheon is \$23.00

**(Meetings end in May and begin again the
third Saturday in September.)**

AAUW Nominees for Election May 9, 2022

Nominee for Vice President Elect:

Cecile Brennan

Cecile is from Ohio and recently retired from teaching full time at John Carroll University. As a snowbird Cecile was looking for a way to engage and give back in her new Fort Myers Community and joined AAUW in 2021 where she felt welcomed and energized by our mission to support and empower women. In her position Cecile would like to assess how to provide the most assistance without duplicating other efforts and continue our tradition of welcoming others to our intellectually engaged and socially minded AAUW Branch.

Nominee for Treasurer:

Mary Kellner

Mary has been our branch secretary for the past two years and a member of AAUW since 1996 when she joined the Buffalo Branch and is a past president. Mary continues to co-chair their annual book sale upon returning north each Spring. She has had a long career as a secondary school math teacher, then with the IRS. Mary has ushered for years at theaters here in Fort Myers and in Buffalo and also holds a national position with her sorority while still finding time to travel. Mary is excited to see how active our Branch has been during these past “Covid” years and how members contributed so generously to the Scholarship Fund allowing continuation of Branch scholarships.

Nominee for Vice President Membership:

Jemetta Hunt

Jemetta joined our AAUW Branch in 2010 and has served as Co-Chair for our annual fund raiser Fashion Show from 2013-2015, as President Elect in 2019-2020, President 2020-2021 and Past President 2021-2022. Jemetta retired from the Boston Public School System after 26 years as teacher and school administrator and became a certified personal trainer as a Pilates instructor. Currently she teaches movement classes at Ellio Pilates Studio. Jemetta offers her Branch experience to the VP Membership role where the focus is to develop and implement recruitment and retention practices.

May Program

Installation of Officers

AAUW Adopt-A-Precinct – May

As we prepare for the changes for our participation in the **Election for 2022**, we have been in touch with Tommy Doyle, Elections Supervisor for Lee County. He explained that the county is revising all numbered precincts, changing and reducing from a total of 127 precincts to 102. With these changes taking effect, we can understand how our usual participation as a group would make it difficult to accommodate.

So, as we proceed with those volunteers wishing to participate. Volunteers will be receiving directions from the Elections Office. Please call Faye O'Briant if you have any questions. The following member volunteers have provided their information: Janet George, Jemetta Hunt, Kathy Jones, Carolyn Nance, Sam O'Briant, Judith Sims, Phyllis Waco, Colleen Wheeler, and me. If anyone else would like to participate, please let me know.

As a recap, training is provided 2 – 4 weeks prior to each election, The elections will occur on August 23rd and November 8th. Volunteers will be assigned to the precinct to which each has been assigned to vote. We will not be working as a group as we did at St. Cecelia's.

When you , as a volunteer, receive your payment for working the election, deposit it into your personal checking account and write a check payable to AAUW Lee County/Ft. Myers. Please send it to Jemetta Hunt at P.O. Box 2115, Ft. Myers, FL 33902. She will deposit the checks into the AAUW account while our treasurer, Mary Kellner is away.

Please let us know by email where you worked and when. We can then keep track of our participants and their donations.

Thank you again for contributing to our scholarship funds and being a part of the AAUW elections program.

Faye O'Briant
Chairperson
239-994-9864
Nanagrams6@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY

MAY PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Now that the legislative session has ended, we are turning our attention to the August 23 primary and the November 8 general elections. AAUW does not endorse candidates for public office. Therefore, it is up to each of us to research candidates and understand their positions before we vote. We will start this month with the candidates for Governor. Here are the candidates currently running and their website addresses, if one is available. Their platforms and experience on their websites. For candidates for whom the Ballotpedia website is given, search for the candidate's name once you get to the site. The filing deadline is June 17, so there could be additional candidates.

Democrats

Charlie Crist www.charliecrist.com
Nikki Fried www.nikkifried.com
Amaro Lionheart <https://lionheart2022.com>
David Nelson Freeman www.ballotpedia.org
Annette Taddeo <https://annettetaddeo.com>

Independent

Frank Hughes, Jr. www.ballotpedia.org

No Party Affiliation (NPA)

Kyle Gibson www.ballotpedia.org

Republicans

Ron DeSantis www.rondesantis.com
John Joseph Mercadante www.patriotforthestateofflorida.com

Unity Party

Mark Graham www.ballotpedia.org

Woman of Interest: **YOU**



Women's Health Week May 14-19

Eat well-balanced meals and snacks

- Heart-healthy eating involves choosing certain foods, such as fruits and vegetables, while limiting others, such as saturated and *trans* fats and added sugars.
- It's important to ensure you are getting enough vitamins in your diet, like vitamin D. Good dietary sources of Vitamin D include fortified foods such as milk, yogurt, orange juice, and cereals; oily fish such as salmon, rainbow trout, canned tuna, and sardines; and eggs. Calcium is an important nutrient for your bone health

Take care of your mental health

- Stay connected with family and friends.
- Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations.
- Make time to unwind and focus on activities you enjoy.
- Pay attention to changes in your mood

If you or anyone you know is experiencing changes in thinking, mood, behavior, and/or thoughts of self-harm, reach out for help:

SAMHSA's* National Helpline – 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

SAMHSA's* National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.

* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

2022-223 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
September 17, 2022	August 25, 2022	September 7, 2022
October 15, 2022	September 20, 2022	October 4, 2022
November 19, 2022	October 25, 2022	November 8, 2022
Bingo/Dinner Dec. 3	November 15, 2022	November, 24, 2022
January 21, 2023	December 24, 2022	January 12, 2023
February 18, 2023	January 25, 2023	February 8, 2023
March 18, 2023	February 22, 2023	March 8, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 22, 2023	April 5, 2023
May 20, 2023	April 26, 2023	May 10, 2023



CELEBRATING OUR AAUW SCHOLARS

Scholarship Co-Chairs: Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf

What a wonderful celebration luncheon we had on April 9! Meeting those amazing scholars reminds us all why we do what we do. Let me introduce them to you.

From left to right:



AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award: Ava Broadhead, a Sophomore at Estero High School for her project, “Exploring Personal Space.”

AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship: Alaura Santosarroyo, a Senior at Dunbar High School.

AAUW FGCU Endowed Scholarship: Bella Santoro, a Freshman at FGCU with a major in Pre-Elementary Education and a minor in Music.

The Marie Glasgow and AAUW Friends STEM Award: Sarah Engel, a middle school student at St. Andrews Catholic School, for her project, “A Salty Slick.”

AAUW Star Bright Scholarship: Julisa Howell who is studying to be a Medical Assistant at Cape Coral Technical College.

Not pictured:

AAUW Sue Gottcent Memorial Endowed Scholarship: Carrie Waskin, a senior at FGCU with a major in Psychology.

AAUW FSW State College Endowed Scholarship: Heather Shives

AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Award 2022: Kendall Williams, a student at Estero High School, for her project, “The Prevalence of Microplastics in Household Water Sources.”

It was so wonderful to meet these lovely young women. Their gratitude for the scholarships we provide, the confidence in their future that those scholarships demonstrate, and our collective celebration of their success touched all of us.

There really are no words to express our gratitude to you, our generous members, for making it possible for us to offer all our scholarships this year.

Hopefully, hearing from our scholars reinforced how meaningful what we do is.



We want to give a special thanks to the anonymous donor who covered the entire cost of our Scholars' luncheon and spurred even more generosity among our members. A huge THANK YOU to all of you who contributed at the luncheon and a special "shout out" to several of our members who were especially "spurred on" to make major contributions: Carol Fuechsel, Mary Lou Chamberlain, Tamara Pigott, Janet George, Laura Frost and Bonnie Ryan.

If you were unable to contribute at the luncheon, it is not too late. There is a donation form later in the Torch.

THANK YOU all for your support. See you in the Fall.

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 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.

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 Cihl

Standing Committees

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl
Website/Directory – Lisa Crotty, assisted by Tamara Pignott
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 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 11)



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/>



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



AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch
Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell) _____

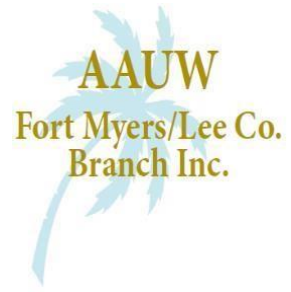
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