

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

*December, 2022
SPECIAL EDITION*

*AAUW. Vol. 61 No. 3
Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.*

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Dr. Heather Skaza Acosta, our November speaker, explained STEM and STEAM and shared the work that the FGCU Whitaker Center has implemented for female students in Elementary School, High School and FGCU. Our AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch supports her mission by funding hands-on programs offered to local students in the GEMS (Girls, Engineering, Math, Science) Program. It is always nice to hear how our donations are being put to work.

This December edition of the TORCH is arriving earlier than usual to remind everyone about the December BINGO Gala Fundraiser event on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Tickets are still available. (REMINDER: \$60 until November 20; \$65 thereafter.) The fundraising committee has planned a fun-filled evening that includes dinner, BINGO (with cash \$\$ prizes), and valuable silent auction items. A good time will be had by ALL. There is still some time to invite your family and friends. There is more information about this event further in the TORCH.

November Meeting Summary:

- Jemetta Hunt provided an explanation of various fundraising options that members can utilize to continue the Scholarships.
- Faye O'Briant explained changes in the Election Poll Workers' program and its effect on our funds.
- Mary Lou Chamberlain is continually managing the Branch website and Facebook content.
- QR (Quick Response) Codes for Website and Facebook were introduced
- Cecile Brennan (President Elect) will be scheduling a social media tutoring session. Watch for more information in January.

Have you been noticing these symbols lately?

This symbol is called a QR (quick response) code.



They are everywhere!!!

It is a bar code that is a shortcut to an internet website. How many times have you tried to type in a website for a search and got frustrated because you mistyped or couldn't read the tiny, small print? It is a variation of the UPC codes that we are all using at the stores. Luncheon guest, Astoria Aviles, provided a brief hands-on opportunity to show interested members how to access the QR code for our Branch Website and Facebook page. More details will be coming on how to use it.

"We are tenacious and trailblazing, advocating for women & girls since 1881 and into the future!"

Janet George & Bonnie Ryan

Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.



BINGO Scholarship Fundraiser

We hope to have you join us for a wonderful evening. We have exciting plans for you and your spouse, significant other and friends! **The dinner will be an extensive buffet; and there will be a silent auction, a live auction and \$\$\$\$ prizes for the bingo games!**

5:00 Doors Open, view/bid on silent auction items.

5:30 Welcome by Co-Presidents

- *Introduction of the Bingo Team*
- *Buffet Dinner immediately afterwards*
- *Bingo*
- *Auction winners announced*

Mark your calendars, invite your guests and make a reservation as soon as possible for this fun-filled evening! You can reserve 6, 8 or 10 people to sit at a table. The donation is \$60 per person until Nov. 20; \$65 up to date of event. **RESERVE YOUR TABLE RIGHT AWAY!**

To reserve a space for you and your party, contact

Carolyn Nance at
cnance5240@gmail.com
or (239) 785-9993

Payment is required ahead of time. Send the check to Carolyn Nance at
11674 Lady Anne Circle, Cape Coral, FL33991



**Buffet Dinner and Bingo Games
Saturday, December 3, 2022**

This will be a fun-filled evening where you can interact with your friends and family. You will be able to admire and bid on some wonderful baskets created around themes. You will find yourself in The Landings' beautiful party room where the aroma of a delicious buffet wafts through the air.

The **BUFFET** will feature:

**A COBB SALAD STATION
WITH ASSORTED DRESSINGS**

ROLLS AND BUTTER

CHICKEN MARINARA

SALMON PICCATA

PASTA PRIMAVERA

VEGETABLE MEDLEY

FINGERLING POTATOES

A DESERT STATION

WITH ASSORTED DESERTS

Bingo will follow with cash \$\$\$\$\$ prizes.

Reservations and Payment Required

**Contact: Carolyn Nance at
cnance5240@gmail.com**

or at

(239) 785-9993

**Send the check to Carolyn Nance at 11674 Lady Anne
Circle, Cape Coral, FL33991**

AAUW



We have two book clubs. Each welcomes new members.

Cover Girls is now meeting in members' homes. Zoom will be available for those who are out of town or unable to otherwise attend. A luncheon at Cristof's restaurant rather than a book discussion is scheduled for December 14. The selection for January will be "Wish You Were Here" by Judy Picoult. The meeting time is generally the second Wednesday of each month from 1 pm to 3 pm. If interested in joining or have questions, contact Carol Fuechsel at cbfuechsel@gmail.com.

Page Turners' meetings have been cancelled since the hurricane due to the unavailability of the Lakes Library, which is being used by FEMA. The December meeting will be a social luncheon with no book discussion. Future monthly meetings will be reviewed at the December luncheon meeting. Days and time remain the same when and if the group can reserve the room again at the library. Contact Lynn Felice if you have questions or want to become a member: lfelice@embarqmail.com



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Due to Hurricane Ian, the AAUW mailbox location is now at the Page Field Post office. If you mailed donations prior to the hurricane, please check your bank account statement that your check has been cashed. The post office we had used was flooded. The post box address remains the same.



**Ruth Bader Ginsburg – “I
Dissent”
Portrayed by Sheryl Faye**

**AAUW would like to welcome
you to experience a portrayal
of Ruth Bader Ginsburg at
our January 14 luncheon.**



Sheryl Faye, originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, decided at an early age that she was determined to be an actress. Sheryl majored in acting at Emerson College in Boston.

Success favored Sheryl, and to date she stars in ten one-woman productions that she has written and produced. Most subjects of her shows are notable women in history such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Clara Barton, and Susan B. Anthony. This is a program you will want to attend. If you would like to make a reservation, please 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, January 9*.

Woman of Interest

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Interesting Facts:

- She graduated first in her class from Columbia Law School.
- She was the first person on both the Harvard and Columbia law reviews.
- She became the second female law professor at Rutgers—and fought for equal pay.
- She and her daughter became the first mother-daughter duo to teach on the same law faculty
- She gained notice for her impassioned dissents
- She argued six cases before the Supreme Court—and won five

In the Spotlight

This month we pause to honor our Treasurer, **Mary Kellner**, one of our most active AAUW members. In addition to serving three years as our Branch treasurer, she was also Assistant Treasurer when Marie Glasgow was our president. More recently, she was instrumental in organizing the garage sale at Judy Sims' home. Mary is a snowbird, dividing her time between Lee County and Buffalo, New York. In Buffalo, Mary served as Branch Co-President the year before she relocated to Fort Myers. She is best remembered for her work as Chair of the Buffalo Branch's Annual Book Sale for several years, which cleared around \$70,000 each year! She still goes up in May to help with the sale. Mary was employed as a math teacher in Tonawanda, New York, and Anchorage, Alaska and then worked for the IRS. She is married with two daughters and one grandson. Mary says she loves to travel and has almost finished checking off the countries on her Bucket List.



2022-2023 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

Please note: All our meetings are on the third Saturday except JANUARY.

Meeting Date	Deadline for Articles	<u>Mail Torch Date</u>
Bingo Dinner Dec. 3	November 14, 2022	November 18, 2022
January 14, 2023	December 17, 2022	January 5, 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

AAUW Adopt-A Precinct

November, 2022

Faye O'Briant



Another Election Year has passed for our volunteers. It has been a very different year with all the changes in Lee County procedures. This year we were no longer assigned as Adopt-A-Precinct volunteers to Precinct 90 at St. Cecelia's Church in Ft. Myers. I tried and tried to get us going with no change in the status they were projecting. A new person oversaw the volunteers and indicated that we would be assigned to the precinct where we vote rather than travel to a location.

Sam O'Briant and I were unable to participate in the August 23 date. We were trained but had to cancel due to my mother's death. For the August Election, we only had two participants depositing earned monies: Carolyn Nance and Colleen Wheeler.

While in the mountains, Sam O'Briant was contacted to participate in Early Voting since he was scheduled to participate in the training with early-voting participants. The big change was there would be no further training due to hurricane Ian, and we would have 12 mega-precincts in Lee County. Sam was assigned to Precinct 809, Northwest Cape Library. He asked if I could also be included. I was assigned as a Register Inspector. We worked two shifts of four days – eight days straight, from 8 am to 6 pm with no set up required. It was an exhausting adventure; however, we met new people and enjoyed the experience. They were short of enough trained people and placed me in a position where I was needed.

The process for the "mega" procedure was greatly appreciated by voters, and workers. Everyone who wanted to vote by Express Vote was able to do so. Express Vote allowed touch screen choices, and a smaller printed ballot to be tabulated. The mail-in box was in our room for people to drop them by. I only had two people not interested in the computer process and requiring a regular ballot. The good thing was voters could be from any precinct, and their ballot was accessible for them. I see many advantages for that procedure in the future. It was used on Sanibel in August. Tommy Doyle, Supervisor of Elections, would like to continue to use the large precincts, and asked the workers to write our representatives to possibly get it approved. We were allowed to have mega precincts only due to the hurricane.

As I talked with Tommy Doyle prior to the August election, he indicated that we do not have the Adopt-A-Precinct in Lee County. It was initiated by AAUW under a different Election Supervisor. We need to decide how our organization wants to move forward with this process. It will never be like it was before.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR SCHOLARS Scholarship Co-Chairs: Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf

Starting this month, we will be highlighting one of our scholarships in each edition of the Torch. We are starting with the *AAUW Star Bright Memorial Scholarship* which was established in 2005 by Book Club 3. It provides 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.

The *AAUW Star Bright Memorial Scholarship* is a particularly meaningful scholarship, because it is the only one we offer to women attending Technical Colleges. These recipients are often women of color who are working incredibly hard to improve their lives against the odds.

Let me introduce you to last year's winner. Her name is Julisa Howell, and she is attending Cape Coral Technical College to become a Medical Assistant. Julisa is a single mother of two daughters, ages 2 and 3, who maintains a 92% grade point average. In addition to her academic achievement, she is lauded in her references as someone who makes a difference in people's lives through her loyalty, kindness, and reliability. "Julisa is somebody you can count on

no matter what." There is nothing more important to her than keeping her word, while also proving it through her actions."

We hope some of you were able to meet her at our luncheon last spring. When we first met Julisa, we were impressed by her excitement about not only winning the scholarship but also about being honored at our luncheon. She made us feel so grateful to have the opportunity to help her on her journey.

As you can see from the description above, we only offer the *Star Bright Memorial Scholarship* when the necessary funds have accrued. We have been successful every year since it was established 17 years ago in 2005. However, this year is uncertain. Last month we put out a plea for help. At that time, we had only \$235.00 in the fund. Since that time an anonymous donor stepped up and we are up to \$285.00—a big THANK YOU to that donor!! I hope this might inspire you to contribute as well. Please keep in mind that every dollar you give goes directly to our scholars, we have no administrative fees. Giving "close to home" makes contributing to our scholarships especially meaningful as we can see the impact we have and meet those who have been positively impacted. Anything you can give will be a big help! Thank you.



Cheryl Tromley (left) with scholarship recipient Julisa Howell



OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

The AAUW Star Bright Memorial Scholarship: Established in 2005 by Book Club 3, this scholarship provides 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 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

Carol Fuechsel, Coordinator
cbfuechsel@gmail.com

Book Club Meets
Cover Girls 2nd Wednesday, 1 PM
Page Turners 4th Thursday, 12:45 PM
(The book clubs are very interested in new members. If interested, please contact Carol.)

BRIDGE

Kathy Jones, Coordinator
Kathy1972@hotmail.com

HAND & FOOT

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
Meets –1st Monday each month
cnance5240@gmail.com

MAHJONGG

Carolyn Nance, Coordinator
Meets –3rd Thursday each month
cnance5240@gmail.com

GREAT DECISIONS

Suzan Harden, Coordinator
Meets 1st Friday of the month
skh062653@gmail.com

NATURE WALKS and DAY TRIPS

Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator
jemetta@aol.com

TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY

Susan Harden Coordinator
Skh062653@gmail.com

New Interest Groups Are Welcome

Contact: Bonnie Ryan
bonniemarieryan@aol.com
Janet George
bffegeorge@comcast.net

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

2021-2022 Officers

Elected – Executive Board

Co-Presidents – Bonnie Ryan
and Janet George
Past President – Kathleen Haibach
President Elect – Cecile Brennan
Vice-President of Programs –
Jill Jennings
Vice-President Membership –
Jemetta Hunt
Secretary – Patricia Crowe
Treasurer – Mary Kellner

Appointed Officers – Board Members

Public Policy – Suzan Harden
Co-Chairs of Scholarship —
Cheryl Tromley and
Devera Graf
Communications/Website/Facebook —
Mary Lou Chamberlain
Ways and Means – Peggy Cihl

Standing Committees

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihl
Records Retention – Executive Board
Science Fair - Cathy Tucker
Adopt-A-Precinct – Faye O'Briant
Diversity Officer - Lisa Crotty
Strategic Plan -

Ancillary Positions

Reservations – Carolyn Nance assisted by
Lynn Felice
Sunshine – Mary Jane McDowell
Greeters – Board Members
Torch Circulation –
Jemetta Hunt (US Mail)
Kathy Jones (E-mail)



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>

Facebook, linked from the website and the direct link:

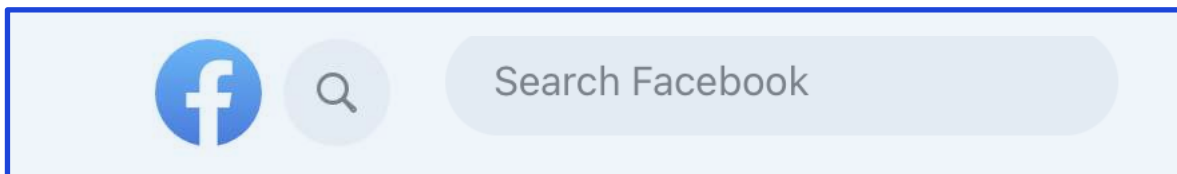
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Fort-Myers-Lee-County-Branch-107794550957375>

Internet Happenings with AAUW

We have been doing some work on our sites on the internet for AAUW Lee County. We currently have two sites we've been working on. We are doing this as ways for AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County to connect with our members.

Check out AAUW Fort Myers Lee County website by going to <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net>

We also have a Facebook page. You need to be part of Facebook to get on this site. Our site is AAUW-Fort Myers/Lee County Branch. Here is a simple way to get on our site. On the left-hand side close to the top of your own Facebook opening page, there is a blue circle with the Facebook logo inside the circle, which is next to a circle with a symbol of a magnifying glass. Click the magnifying glass and an oblong circle appears that says SEARCH FACEBOOK.



Put AAUW-Fort Myer/Lee County Branch in the oblong circle that says *SEARCH FACEBOOK*. Press Enter and it should take you to the AAUW site. Enjoy!

Mary Lou Chamberlain-Communications Chair



**WHAT ARE THESE CODES?
SEE THE NEXT PAGE TO FIND OUT HOW TO USE THEM.**

WHAT ARE THESE?

These are QR codes, and they are designed to be scanned by using the camera on your smart phone. These codes are unique to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch, Inc. Once you scan the code with your camera, a notification will appear on the screen with the link for the Code's content, which will be our AAUW Branch Website and the second one to our AAUW Facebook. Scanning the code, means to take a photo of it.



Scan to Visit our Website:



Scan to Visit our Facebook:



Why use these codes?

In today's media environment it is very difficult to get news of our branch activities (e.g. currently the Bingo Fundraiser) to the public. Making contact with the News Press and other local publications is not easy, and the deadlines are often difficult to meet. Using social media like our website and facebook page is critical.

The first step is to get members to use both codes. You can use it to get more information on our organization, and, best of all, you can easily prompt a friend to learn more about AAUW! You can also scan the Facebook QR code to open Facebook on your phone. Be sure to like the page by pressing the thumbs up icon. Then share AAUW's posts and updates with your facebook friends! Sharing the post on the Scholarship Bingo fundraiser with your facebook friends will help sell more tickets!

The communication plan is to have all members comfortable using this technology and soon classes will be offered by Cecile Brennan our President Elect in all aspects of these technologies; the website, facebook, Zoom, Instagram etc. based on your interest. Take a moment now and get out your phone, tap the photo icon and scan the website code and find out when the Bingo Funraiser begins!

If the scanning doesn't work, you can also visit both pages by clicking the links below or copying and pasting them into your browser:

Website: <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070887894617>

Let us know what you think by sending an email to: aauwleecounty@gmail.com



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL. 33902-2115

Donate Today to Help the Fort Myers Branch to Advance Equity and Scholarship for Women

Use my gift for: _____ Operating Expenses _____ Scholarships _____ Unrestricted

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: (Mobile) _____ Phone (Home)

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 Other Amount?

Is gift in Honor or in Memory of someone? If "Yes" please provide the following:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please provide the contact information for the person honored or family of the person remembered:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County, Inc. and mail to:

**AAUW – Attn: Treasurer
P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL. 33902-2115**

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co (FL) Branch, Inc. is a 501©3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# is 59-6163596. No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift.
"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 OR www.800helpfla.com. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE." CH39730



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL. 33902-2115

Volunteer Opportunities

Name _____

Email _____

Phone (home) _____ **Phone (cell)** _____

My interests would be in the following committees:

Check	Committees	Check	Committees
	Adopt-A-Precinct		Membership
	Communications		Membership Directory
	Diversity		Scholarships
	Finance		Strategic Planning
	Fundraising		Torch Newsletter Production
	Other <i>(Please describe)</i>		

Interest Groups and Coordinators

I am interested in learning more and or joining the following interest groups contact the appropriate Coordinators.

Check	Interest Group	Coordinator
	Book Group	Carol Fuechsel
	Bridge	Kathy Jones
	Day Trips	Jemetta Hunt
	Hand and Foot	Carolyn Nance
	Mahjonn	Carolyn Nance
	Nature Walks	Jemetta Hunt
	Tools of Advocacy	Suzan Harden

Interested in Volunteering or Starting a New Group?

Contact the Co-Presidents
 Bonnie Ryan
 Janet George



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