

#### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

#### Greeting Members,

The January 14 Meeting, Luncheon and Program were wonderful! We had 106 attendees which included Fort Myers Branch Members, four other Florida Branches, and many guests.

Jill Jennings deserves a special thank you for finding, booking and welcoming Sheryl Faye, who did a portrayal of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We learned so much about the Supreme Court Justice.

Carolyn Nance handled all the reservations, lunch orders and table assignments extremely well. She is amazing. We thank her for all the time and effort that she dedicated to this event as well as the monthly work that she does, behind the scenes so that we all can enjoy our luncheons.

The Board has unanimously voted to have all luncheon reservations PREPAID. This worked out so well in January that we will continue to follow this procedure requiring a check to be mailed to Carolyn to confirm. The future plan is to implement debit, credit or PayPal payments.

The following are the summaries of the January Board meeting:

• The Nomination Committee announced the three open positions and the interested nominees: Secretary – Patricia Crowe and Kathy Jones

VP Programs – Jill Jennings

President Elect –available

- The Treasurer reported an adjustment of scholarship funds allocation.
- Our Programs Chair reported February speaker cancelled. We have an interesting replacement.
- Membership Chair reported a Branch Brochure was designed and will be ready for distribution.
- Our Scholarship Chair announced our April luncheon will include introducing and meeting our recipients. The Star Bright Scholarship will be a line item for \$1000. Donations will be accepted to fund the Scholarship. Two High School Scholarships will be presented this year instead of one due to sufficient available funds. Awards promoting STEM will be now listed as STEAM awards to include the Arts category. A mentoring program is being developed. Details will be provided.

Janet George and Bonnie Ryan Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.

## **Hurricanes and Climate Change**

Joanne Muller, PhD

We are pleased to welcome Joanne Muller, PhD, Professor in the Department of Marine



and Ecological Sciences in the Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University, as our February 18<sup>th</sup> speaker. Dr. Muller comes

from Queensland, Australia where she was educated at James Cook University, culminating in earning a PhD in Paleoclimatology. Her interests include geology, earth science. meteorology. monsoon and ocean circulation. climate change and hurricanes, specifically those in Southwest Florida.

Scientists agree: one area in our state very vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge is the Cape Coral- Fort Myers metro area. Dr. Muller explains: "Because sea surface temperatures are warmer now, hurricanes have more likelihood of reaching Category 3,4 and 5 status. The most recent research is showing that hurricanes are not increasing in frequency, they are just getting more intense."

Factors such as overdevelopment, destruction of the mangroves, reluctance of government and realtors to embrace the fact that climate change is real and is affecting our coastal waters and our way of life, are a few of the issues scientists such as Dr. Muller must contend with. But there are things that can be done to counter the current climate crisis here

in Southwest Florida. Be sure to join us on February 18 and find out what those measures are.



#### Woman of Interest



#### Joanne Simpson

Joanne Simpson was born in 1923 and was a pioneer by the time she was in her twenties. As a student pilot during World War II, she studied meteorology. Joanne then spent the rest of the war teaching meteorology to Aviation Cadets. She earned a B.S. in Meteorology from the University of Chicago. In 1949, Simpson became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in meteorology, focusing research on clouds, and went on to serve on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

Simpson made her mark in meteorology in the late 1950s, when she and her former professor, Herbert Riehl, came up with

an explanation of how the atmosphere moved heat and moisture away from the tropics to higher latitudes. That explanation included the "*hot tower*" hypothesis that later shed light on hurricane behavior. A "*hot tower*" is a tropical cumulonimbus cloud. These clouds are called "*hot*" because they rise high due to the large amount of latent heat released as water vapor condenses into liquid.

She researched hot towers, hurricanes, the trade winds, and air-sea interactions. She eventually became NASA''s lead weather researcher and authored or coauthored over 190 articles. In 2021 the American Meteorological Society established the Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology Research Award granted to researchers who make outstanding contributions to advancing the understanding of the physics and dynamics of the tropical atmosphere.

https://www.nasa.gov/topics/people/features/joanne-simpson.html



Sheryl Faye Presents

A shout out to our members and guests from our January presenter:

Sheryl Faye portrayed Ruth Bader Ginsburg in her performance of "I Dissent" and brought Ginsburg to life before our eyes., " All in attendance at our January 14 meeting enjoyed a fabulous one- woman show by Sheryl Faye, but she enjoyed us too! Below is the entire text of her Facebook post:

That's a wrap #florida! 13 shows in total across the state. I couldn't have asked for a better finale. A huge thank you to The AAUW - Fort Myers / Lee County Branch for hosting my #ruthbaderginsburg show today. A packed house, 130 people, #standingovation too! A woman came up afterwards and said, "I have seen so many other presentations, but yours is light years beyond anything I have ever seen." I know so many people help me to do what I love and I'm so grateful to them! See you next year, Florida!

Sheryl Faye, originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, decided at an early age that she was determined to be an actress. Encouraged by her mother, with whom she was very close, Sheryl majored in acting at Emerson College in Boston. Success favored her, and to date she stars in ten productions, one-woman shows, 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, to name just a few. Her latest will be about Queen Elizabeth. https://sherylfaye.com





Join us for Our Luncheon and Program

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

#### OUR MEETING DATE:

Saturday, February 18, 2023 Gathering: 11:30 A.M. Location: The Main Deck Dining Room

Luncheon Menu:

Rolls, Coffee, Tea

Choice 1 CAPRESE SALAD W/ GRILLED CHICKEN- basil and olive oil reduction, vine ripe tomatoes, sliced fresh mozzarella, basil and Bermuda onion on baby spinach and romaine mix.

Choice 2: MEAT LOAF With brown gravy, whipped potato, chef's 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** and please indicate choice of menu.



## For luncheon reservations,

#### Payment Is Expected

to insure your reservation. Contact Carolyn Nance with your choice of menu by e-mail, phone or when you send in your check.

> Carolyn's contact is: cnance5240@gmail.com

or at (239) 785-9993 11674 Lady Anne Circle Cape Coral, FL 33991

Please title your e-mail <u>AAUW Reservations</u> and contact Carolyn Nance no later than Monday, February 13. Cancellations must be made no later than Tuesday, February 14.

The value of luncheon is \$27.00

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

# AAUW



## We have two book clubs. Each welcomes new members.

#### **Cover Girls Book Club**

Our club is now meeting in members' homes. Zoom will be available for those who are out of town or unable to otherwise attend. The selection for February will be *"The Island of Sea Women" By Rebecca Rangier*. The meeting time is generally the second Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. If interested in joining or have questions, contact Carol Fuechsel at <u>cbfuechsel@gmail.com</u>.

#### **Page Turners Book Club**

Since the hurricane, meetings have been cancelled due to the nonavailability of the Lakes Library, which is being used by FEMA. A meeting is tentatively planned at the Lakes Library when the library opens. The book planned for discussion is *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hildebrandt. Contact Lynn Felice if you have questions or want to become a member at <u>lfelice@embarqmail.com</u>

## 2022-2023 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule SEND ARTICLES TO <u>peggycihi@comcast.net</u>

Please note: Not all our meetings are on the third Saturday (exceptions are Nov., Dec., Jan.)

## **Meeting Date**

March 18, 2023 April 15, 2023 May 20,2023 Deadline for Articles February 13, 2023 March 22, 2023 April 26, 2023

#### Mail Torch Date

March 8, 2023 April 5, 2023 May 10, 2023

Please NOTE the early **February 13** deadline, as the Torch editor will be unable to accept articles after that date.



## **It's Election Time!!**

Your AAUW chapter has three openings for elective office: <u>Vice President-Elect</u>, <u>Secretary</u>, and <u>Vice-President of Programs</u>. Whether you are a new member, a long-standing member, a prior officer, introverted or exuberant, we can use your experience and willingness to serve!

- The Vice-President-Elect serves in this position for one year, during the following year assumes the role of chapter President and continues in the role of Past-President for a year.
- The Secretary serves for two years and has the primary responsibility of taking minutes at Executive Board meetings.
- The Vice-President of Programs, who also serves for two years, proposes programs for our luncheons, contacts speakers and finalizes arrangements for the program.

Nominations and applications are due in writing by **February 10<sup>th</sup>**. Send an email with your nomination to Cecile Brennan at: <u>*cbrennan@gmail.com*</u></u>. Your email can be a brief statement of interest in serving in the position. Remember, it is also possible to serve with someone else and share the duties of the office. In this case, you would jointly send a single email.

If you know of someone you think is a good fit for one of the positions, please reach out and encourage them to apply.

We are as strong and effective as our membership. Please consider sharing your wisdom and skills—we need you!





What a wonderful way to spend time with members of like interest, training for each election, working for set-up, working the poll, and taking down. A very serious commitment, but it was a great pleasure to work together, earn monies from Lee County Elections, and donate our earnings for scholarships.

As times are changing state procedure requirements have changed, we are no longer allowed to work as a group at Precinct 90. We were instructed to work at our personal voting precinct. We lost the continuity we enjoyed for so many years.

I talked with our Elections Supervisor regarding all the changes. He does not acknowledge Adopt-A-Precinct in our district. I tried to look at the positives for this new rule but realized that it had lost the structure needed for our interest group. This year lan changed everything. Even though we were all scheduled to work, it was cancelled due to all precincts being cancelled and our district provided extended Early Voting at We worked eight twelve Mega Precincts. consecutive days in North Cape Coral Library. It was a long time working; however, we enjoyed meeting new friends and the process provided. Everyone was encouraged to use the E-Vote machine (computer generated responses sheet) which expedited the process for all. The August election was covered by Carolyn Nance and Colleen Wheeler. The O'Briants, Sam and Faye ,were the only ones to participate in the November election.

Total monies earned during 2006 – 2022 was 43,435.

#### Throughout the entirety of Adopt-A-Precinct, AAUW had the following volunteers:

Pat Allen, Jemetta Hunt, Faye O'Briant, Audrey Anthony, Melanie Jackman, Sam O'Briant, Carol Benning, Kathy Jones, Barbara O'Leary, Mary Bonnette, Mary Kellner, Marlene Palmer, Ginny Booth, Carolyn Kokalis, Mary Jane Robling, Barbara Briggs, Joan Krick, Bonnie Ryan, Linda Carmany, Nancy Kuyoth, Ellen Schneider, Carmen Cencer, Denise Lang, Jayne Schwarz, Therese Cinotto, Kay Ledyard, Judith Sims, Lou Ann Finnucan, Bonnie Lincoln, Shelley Siriano Liz Foster, Geri McArdle, Gwen Spuhler ,Myrna Frantz, Peg McEwen, Pat Tillis, Janet George, Jan McPeak, Betsy Vaughn, Marie Glasgow, Ruth Montgomery, Jane Wagner, Ron Glasgow, Marilyn Myli, Marilyn Workman, Tina Hoegler, Carolyn Nance, Steve Nance,

Should you continue to volunteer as a poll worker, you will need to contact **239-LEE-VOTE** (239-533-8683) or *www.lee.vote*, Poll Worker Information, Interest Application

Respectfully submitted, Faye O'Briant



## **Strategic Planning Committee**

The strategic Planning Committee will be meeting by the end of February. Anyone willing to sit on the Committee should contact Kathleen Haibach by February 10th at 585-233-7974 or <u>Kathhaibach@gmail.com</u>

A short history of this committee: several years ago, National put out a Strategic Plan to assist branches with achieving the AAUW mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. National had three areas of focus:

- 1. Education and Training (addressing barriers in education)
- 2. Economic Security (ensuring livelihoods for women)
- 3. Leadership (increasing the number of women in leadership roles)

In September 2021 AAUW Florida adopted a Strategic Plan to assist Florida branches with achieving National's goals. In October 2021 our branch formed an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee to develop a 2-year strategic plan specific to our branch, incorporating National and Florida AAUW goals. The committee was made up of multiple Board members and met over several months. The following recommendations were made and approved by the Board in April 2022:

- 1. Appoint a Diversity Officer
- 2. Expand STEM to included STEAM scholarships
- 3. Create an Editorial Committee to schedule activities/messaging reflecting a specified AAUW theme
- 4. Collaborate with other Florida branches
- 5. Increase branch membership, including mentors to new members to increase retention and participation
- 6. Designate the Strategic Planning Committee as a Standing Committee, reporting to the Board quarterly

We are currently seeking branch members to serve on this important committee. Please contact Kathleen Haibach or Presidents Janet George/Bonnie Ryan if you are interested.

Kathleen Haibach, Past President 585-233-7974 Kathhaibach @gmail.com



## HIGHLIGHTING OUR SCHOLARS AND **CELEBRATING OUR DONORS**



Scholarship Co-Chairs: Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf

This month we will be highlighting the 2021-2022 winner of The Marie Glasgow and AAUW Friends STEM<sup>\*</sup> award. This award was established in 2019 in honor of Marie Glasgow, former president of AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co. Branch for two terms. \$500 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 the Edison-Kiwanis Science Fair or Thomas Edison Festival of Light Regional Inventors Fair.

In 2021-2022 the award was given to Sarah



Engel who attends Saint Andrew Catholic School. If you were present at our Scholars' Luncheon last year, you had the opportunity to meet her. Sarah's project, A Salty Stick, hypothesized that

adding salt to absorbent materials would increase their absorbency. The hypothesis was supported by her experiments. In addition, she won first place in the Environmental Engineering category and was first runner up for the Junior Division Grand Award. Clearly, this is a girl who is on her way to a great career in STEM. Thank you, Ron Glasgow, for making this award possible!

\*STEM is an acronym that stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We also want to celebrate the many generous members who contributed to our scholarships this fall. As you can see from the list below, we had wonderfully wide participation. Just saying thank you does not seem adequate to the importance of your contributions. We could not offer our scholarships and fulfill our mission of empowering girls and women without your help.

As you can see from the description above, what you do makes a difference in lives. As we have heard from many of our scholarship recipients, the money is important, but what may have an even more lasting impact is the confidence that the money expresses. As one of them said, "successful people believe I can be successful, too." For many of these girls and women this is the first time that anyone outside of their families and teachers has invested in their future success.



We could not do it without you!!

#### **Donations to Scholarship Fund:**

Linda Allen Robin Tuthill Jane Lukowicz in memory of Alice Mellen, Mimi Manpel, Muriel Freedman Gloria Currie Devera Graf Marcia Howard Kathleen Haibach Ellen Dettmann Brenda Sheridan Margot Flynn in honor of Peggy Cihi

#### **Donations to the Star Bright Memorial Scholarship:**

Ron Glasgow Cheryl Tromley

Mary Kellner in memory of Norton Sims Carolyn Nance in memory of Norton Sims Janet George in memory of Norton Sims Jill Jennings in memory of Norton Sims Catherine Tucker in memory of Norton Sims



## **Our Scholarships**

#### AAUW Star Bright Scholarship

The AAUW Star Bright Memorial Scholarship 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.

#### 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 Awards: Established in 2001 to encourage middle and high school girls in STEM fields. It awards two \$300 prizes based on those projects submitted to the Thomas Alva Edison & Kiwanis Regional Science and Engineering Fair: The AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Award goes to a top female entrant; The AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award goes to a female entrant whose skills are laudable, but still developing. 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.



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions *Briefing Book*, watching the documentary film series and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

The first Great Decisions discussion for 2023 will be held Friday, February 3, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. The topic is Energy Geopolitics. There is one extra book available at the discounted price of \$28 plus shipping and handling if anyone would like to claim a spot in the group. If more than one person is interested, books can be ordered at the regular price of \$35 plus shipping and handling. All members are welcome!

If you did not order a book and would like to participate in the discussions, please contact Suzan at <u>skh062653@gmail.com</u>.

**PUBLIC POLICY** 

The Florida Public Policy Committee (PPC) met on January 23 to begin the process of reviewing proposed bills relating to the AAUW mission. Usually, six or seven bills directly related to our mission are identified for further study. Talking points are developed for these bills and are shared with AAUW FL members for members to use in contacting their legislators. The bills currently being researched relate to paid family leave, health care, education, and human trafficking. If you read of a bill you think should be brought to the attention of the PPC, send the information to Suzan Harden, <u>skh062653@gmail.com</u>.

A preliminary review of proposed bills turned up HB 227, Lee Memorial Health System, Lee County. This bill would not be something AAUW FL would review, but it may be something we would want to review. It pertains to the business functions of the health system. It has been sponsored by Rep. Adam Botana, who serves District 80, parts of Lee and Collier County. Follow this link to read the text of the bill:

<u>https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=76946</u> If anyone has pertinent information regarding this bill to share with the membership, please do so at the February meeting.

AAUW Lobby days will be held on March 14 and 15 in Tallahassee. The hotel is the Tryp By Wyndham, (formerly Comfort Inn & Suites Tallahassee North - I-10 Capital Circle). The address is 1978 Village Green Way, Tallahassee, FL 32308. Telephone: 850.204.4000. We should contact the hotel via phone to book (AAUW Florida Block) before February 27. The room rate is \$85 per night.

#### **INTEREST GROUPS/COORDINATORS**

#### **BOOK GROUPS**

Carol Fuechsel, Coordinatorcbfuechsel@gmail.comBook ClubMeetsCover Girls2nd Wednesday, 1 PMPage Turners4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 12:30 PM(The book clubs accept new members. If interested,<br/>please contact Carol Fuechsel.)

#### BRIDGE

Kathy Jones, Coordinator Kathyj1972@hotmail.com

#### HAND & FOOT Carolyn Nance, Coordinator Meets –1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month *cnance5240@gmail.com*

MAHJONG Carolyn Nance, Coordinator Meets –3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month *cnance5240@gmail.com* 

#### GREAT DECISIONS Suzan Harden, Coordinator Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month *skh062653@gmail.com*

NATURE WALKS and DAY TRIPS Jemetta Hunt, Coordinator jemetta@aol.com

> TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY Suzan Harden Coordinator <u>Skh062653@gmail.com</u>

New Interest Groups Are Welcome Contact: Bonnie Ryan bonniemarieryan@aol.com Janet George bfjegeorge@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 Vice 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 Cihi Strategic Planning— Kathleen Haibach

#### **Standing Committees**

Torch Editor – Peggy Cihi Records Retention – Executive Board Science Fair - Cathy Tucker Diversity Officer - Lisa Crotty Strategic Plan –(open)

#### **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	American Association of University Women	
Fort Myers / L	ee County (FL) Branch Inc.	

PO Box 2115 Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

#### Donate Today to help the Fort Myers Branch Advance Equity for Women

Use my Gift for:	_ Operating Expenses	s Unrestricte	ed Scholarships*			
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Name:						
Street Address:						
City, State & Zip:						
Note: Should you v	want to specify a spec	cific Branch sch	olarship or award please name			

Note: Should you want to specify a specific Branch scholarship or award please name below: (See list under: <u>https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net</u> under tab Philanthropy; Scholarships, Awards Scholarship/ Award: \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Please make checks payable to AAUW Fort Myers / Lee County, Inc. and mail to: AAUW – ATTN: Treasurer, PO Box 2115, Fort Myers, FL 33901- 2115

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