

The American Association of University Women

The TORCH

, May, 2023

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*AAUW. Vol. 61 No. 8
Peggy Drennan Cihl, Editor.*

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

The April Scholarship Recipient Luncheon was wonderful! It is always so nice to meet them. Dr. Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf did a MARVELOUS job of organizing and hosting. It was especially nice to hear and see the girls' gratitude. Cheryl's speech was very appropriate and summarized Ten Pertinent Bits of Advice that could benefit anyone. Well done!

AAUW National Elections will be available online until May 15th. ALL AAUW members can log in and VOTE at AAUW.org which is the National website. If you are logging in for the first time OR if you have forgotten your password, just click. FORGOT PASSWORD and follow the instructions.

The AAUW Florida 2023 Annual Meeting will be held via ZOOM on Thursday May 18th, 2023- from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Just visit the AAUW-fl.aauw.net website for the ZOOM link. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer will be the keynote speaker.

Planning for next year 2023-24 has already begun! It will be another great year! Our Bingo Gala date has been set for Thursday December 14th.

We will be gathering at the Landings/Picnic Point on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 11:30 for a FUN End of the Year Picnic. Refer to the invitation in this TORCH for more details. When you arrive at the front gate you can ask the Guard for directions. Park at the Marina.

We are very pleased and thankful to Ron Glasgow for donating a credit card reader that will be very useful at our fundraising events.

We would like to thank the Board of Directors as well as ALL members for the support you have provided this year. We look forward to working with the newly elected President, President Elect, Secretary, and VP of Programs and the 2023-2024 Board. Have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

"Cause a little bit of summer is what the whole year is all about." John Meyer

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

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

Pictured below are outgoing presidents Bonnie Ryan and Janet George, Vice President of Membership Jemetta Hunt, Vice President of Programs Jill Jennings, Secretary Patricia Crowe, and Past President Kathleen Haibach.



Join us for some fun!

MAY LUNCHEON

Picnic Lunch and Bingo

**Thursday May 4, 2023
11:30 am
Picnic Pointe-
The Landings Yacht,
Golf & Tennis Club, 5200
South Landings Drive**



**Located on
The Caloosahatchee
River
at the Landings Marina**



\$10.00

**Choice 1
Ham and Cheese
½ sub served with lettuce and
tomato, chips, cookies and wine
and other beverages**

**Choice 2
Turkey and Cheese
½ sub served with lettuce and
tomato, chips, cookies
and wine and other
beverages**

**Picturesque Picnic Pointe
On the banks of the Caloosahatchee**



Our speaker, Miriam Ortiz, will be from the
Gladiolus Food Pantry.



Please bring a donation of canned or
packaged food. Please check the
expiration date.

Our own poet, Jill Jennings, will share a few of
her poems with us and there will some games of
bingo with fun prizes.

Bob Cihi will provide piano entertainment.

**RSVP and indicate your choice of sandwich
by contacting Kathleen Haibach by phone or
e-mail:**

(585) 233-7974

kathhaibach@gmail.com

You will pay \$10.00 when you arrive to
cover the cost of the box lunch.

For cancellations, please use the same method
above by May2.

Hope to see you at the Pointe!



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



Cheryl Tromley and Devera Graf

We celebrated our wonderful scholarship winners at our April luncheon. We were happy to be able to welcome five of our winners in person (three others were previously committed and could not attend). They all expressed their profound gratitude and the importance of the awards to them. At various times there wasn't a dry eye in the house. This luncheon always reinforces why we do what we do. To see these talented young women, meet their parents, and hear their stories is priceless. We want to thank you, our members for your generosity. Without you, our members, none of this would be possible. You are making a profound, positive difference in the futures of these young women!!



Left to Right—
Devera Graf, Emily Farnsworth, Julianna Bendeck, Janeth Rubio, Sophia Perez, Anne Noel, Cheryl Tromley



Janeth Rubio
and her mother Alma Hernandez

Janeth received the ***AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship*** which awards one \$1,000 scholarship per year to a graduating female student from Fort Myers High School. She will be attending FSW. She is a first-generation college-bound student who plans to study nursing. This award will be a great help to her. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to AAUW and her school counselors for choosing her.





Cheryl Tromley, Anne Noel,
Anne's Counselor, Elaine Petrie

The ***AAUW Star Bright Scholarship*** awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a female student attending the second semester at (in alternating years) Fort Myers or Cape Coral Technical College. **Our winner this year is Anne Noel**, who is working toward a degree in Practical Nursing. She is described as “...a hardworking, enthusiastic student with a lot of compassion for the sick.” This scholarship is a lifeline for her. She did not know if she would be able to attend her final semester, because she did not know how she would pay for it.



Emily Farnsworth, Emily's Mother Rose Farnsworth, Ron Glasgow, Stella Egan from the Foundation For Lee County Schools, Inc.

Emily received the ***Marie Glasgow and AAUW Friends STEM Award Fund*** award of \$500 for her entry in the Inventor's Fair. She is from the Alva School. Her project was *The Flat Feet Focus Flippers*, an aid in physical therapy. In addition to the Marie Glasgow and AAUW Friends STEM award, Emily was also invited to attend the *Raytheon National Invention Convention* held at the Henry Ford

Museum in Dearborn, Michigan this summer. The Glasgow foundation is providing transportation to this event.



Juliana Bendeck
and her mother Enas Bendeck

Juliana won the ***AAUW Thomas Edison and Kiwanis Regional Science & Engineering Fair Emerging Research Scholar Award*** which provides \$300. Juliana attends Bonita Springs High School. Her project was: *The Importance of Altruism in Schools: Do Altruistic Student-Teacher Relationships Foster an Intrinsic “Willingness to Learn” Amongst Highschool Students?*



Sophia Perez
and her mother Alexandra Perez.

Sophia was awarded an \$1000 ***AAUW Lee County High School Scholarship***. It will help her reach her goals in college.

(The photos above were taken by Jemetta Hunt, who is our official photographer, a past president of AAUW; and is the coordinator of the interest group: Nature Walks and Day Trips and winner of the AAUW National Art Contest.)



SURVEY FOR PROGRAMS for 2023-24.

We would like your input.

PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 5

TO

aauwleecounty@gmail.com OR mail your choices to :

AAUW

PO Box 2115

Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

Luncheon Program Suggestions for 2023-24 year and afterwards.

The following Categories are reflective of our Mission of Empowering Women and Girls: STEM and STEAM, EDUCATION, HEALTH and SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, COMMUNITY.

The January 13, 2024 program is already set as Sheryl Faye portraying Queen Elizabeth II.

From the list of presenters and topics below, please select three by number that you think you would enjoy.

1. Maria Barbero - Dept. of Integrated Studies FGCU
Humanities as part of a good, well-rounded education. (EDUCATION)
2. Diane Kratt – Professor at FGCU
Mental health in schools. (HEALTH)
3. Russell Sabelle – Professor at FGCU
Cyberbullying. (SAFETY)
4. Kristen Ziman – retired Police Chief and author
Expert on mass school shootings. (SAFETY)
5. Ginni Rometty- former IBM CEO
Author, expert on using female power in the workplace. (WOMEN EMPOWERMENT)
6. Radu Popaniou- Symphony Conductor
Discussion on chronological movements in music. (COMMUNITY)
7. Carolyn's Shell Collection –
Professional shell collector (STEAM)
8. Greig Logenhagen – FGCU Drama Professor and Director, Florida Rep Theater
Hiring the best actors for these local productions. Making it all come together. (COMMUNITY)

Please indicate your three choices and list any other programs that you suggest. Send your response to the above address or e-mail.



Our Book Clubs Welcome New Members.

Cover Girls Book Club

Cover Girls book club will be meeting for lunch on May 10th and every member will be bringing a book for the 2023-2024 year. For more information, contact Carol Fuechsel .

cbfuechsel@gmail.com

Page Turners Book Club

Page Turners Book Club is on hiatus until the Lakes Library reopens. Even though we do not have a meeting date, we are currently reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain. New members would be welcomed. If interested, contact Jill Jennings.

magistra_jennings@yahoo.com

Woman of Interest



Reisa Anne Sperling, MD

Can we treat Alzheimers 20 years early?

Dr. Reisa Sperling is a neurologist focused on the detection and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, even before clinical symptoms are evident. Dr. Sperling is a Professor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School, and Director of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Can new imaging techniques help determine who will develop Alzheimer's before symptoms show? Sperling says early detection and prevention research is the best defense against a disease we discover too late to treat.



The Great Decisions special interest group met on Friday, April 14, to discuss “China and the U.S.” Pat Crowe led the discussion. Thank you, Pat!

Of course, the U.S. has a complex and complicated history with China. The Foreign Policy Association article on which our discussion was based was written by David M. Lampton, Professor Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he headed China Studies until 2018. He is now Senior Research Fellow at the School’s Foreign Policy Institute. He took us from Richard Nixon’s initial visit with Mao Zedong in February 1972 (the first U.S. President to visit China) through the relationships with succeeding Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping. Mr. Lampton compared the four elements of foreign policy—Leadership, Capabilities, Interests, and Global Currents—through each of those periods of U.S. engagement. China comes up in many of our Great Decisions discussions.

The 2024 Great Decisions discussions will begin in February, 2024. The topics have not been released, yet. However, if you would like to participate in the remaining 2023 discussions (there are five remaining), please contact Suzan Harden. If you are interested in participating in Great Decisions, remember to check the box on your 2023/2024 AAUW membership/renewal form. You can go to the Foreign Policy Association website, www.fpa.org, for more information. Just click the “Great Decisions” link at the top of the home page.

Contact Suzan at skh062653@gmail.com.

PUBLIC POLICY

The 2023 Florida Legislative Session concludes May 6. If there are major issues still to be considered, the Governor can call an emergency session, as happened in 2022 and prior to this year’s session.

Since the Torch was last printed, HB1/SB202 – School Choice was passed by both the House (83-27) and the Senate (26-12) and signed by the Governor. This bill goes into effect July 1. AAUW was opposed to this bill and advocated in opposition to it during AAUW FL Lobby Days in March. Our opposition to this bill is its potential to drain millions of dollars away from local school districts. Estimates prepared by the Florida Policy Institute indicate as much as \$88 million could be diverted from Lee County Schools to private schools in the next school year. AAUW believes in a strong and equitable public education system, and there are many concerns that this bill will weaken opportunities for many children.

Two bills AAUW FL supports are moving through the system. Both Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools (Learning with Dignity Act) and Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Acts are looking good for passage. The update provided at the April 15 meeting is attached to this edition of the Torch. Updates since April 15 are in **bold type**.

INTEREST GROUP

Tools for Advocacy

Last fall our branch began a special interest group called ***Tools for Advocacy***. The purpose of this group is to keep a finger on the pulse of political discussions that may result in bills either supporting or oppressing AAUW's missions. The intention was that we would share information, discussion strategies for advocating with legislators and exploring tools citizens can use to track legislation all during the year, not just through the legislative session. If you are interested in participating in this group, please let Suzan Harden know.

If anyone tuned in for the April 27 AAUW webinar, "How to Engage with Elected Officials," please provide your feedback to Suzan Harden. If you are interested in Tools for Advocacy, you can check the box on your 2023/2024 AAUW membership/renewal form. This is a new group, and everyone is welcome. Anyone can join *Tools for Advocacy*. Our goal is to follow legislation related to the issues important to AAUW's Strategic Plan and to coordinate advocacy efforts. Contact Lisa Crotty or Suzan Harden if you are interested.

Lisa Crotty lisajcrotty@gmail.com and
Suzan Harden Skh062653@gmail.com



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>

AAUW FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2023

Updated as of April 15, 2023

Updates in Bold Type

Bill	Sponsor	AAUW Position	Current Activity
HB51/SB590 – Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle in the Education System	Rep. Driskell/Sen. Powell	Support	3/7 – 1 st reading in both House and Senate 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action
HCR513/SCR270 – Equal Rights for Men and Women	Rep. Joseph/Sen. Berman	Support	House: Referred to Judiciary; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government; Operations. 1 st Reading 3/7. 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action.
HB59/SB166 – Human Trafficking and Prostitution (Refines definition of “coercion”; prohibits facilitation of the crime (i.e., hotels, motels, etc.); provides increased penalties.)	Rep. Skidmore/Sen. Berman	Support	House: Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Justice Appropriations; 1 st Reading 3/7. Senate: Referred to Criminal Justice; Appropriations. Introduced 3/7. 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action.
HB651/SB326 – Human Trafficking (Would require Dep’ts. of Educ and Health, in conjunction w/Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, to establish an awareness and training program and community partnerships)	Rep. Robinson/Sen. Osgood	Support	House: Referred to Criminal Justice; Justice Appropriations; Judiciary. 1 st Reading 3/7 Senate: Referred to Criminal Justice; Appropriations on Health&Human Svcs; Fiscal Policy. 1 st Reading 3/7 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action.
HB389/SB334 – Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools (Learning with Dignity Act)	Rep. Skidmore/Sen. Book	Support	House: Referred to Education Quality; Pre-K-12 Appropriations; Education & Employment. 1 st Reading 3/7. Senate: Referred to Education PreK-12; Appropriations Committee on Education; Fiscal Policy. Introduced 3/7. 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 House: Favorable by and reported out of Education Quality Subcommittee; Favorable by and reported out of Education&Employment Committee. Added to 2 nd Reading Calendar. No further Senate action. 4/21 House: Passed 112-0; Senate: Referred to Fiscal Policy

HB1/SB202 – School Choice	Rep. Tuck/Sen. Simon	Oppose	House: Passed 3/17 83-27 Senate: Passed 3/23 26-12 Governor signed 3/26 Effective 7/1/23
SB276/SB330 – Crimes Evidencing Prejudice	Sen. Polsky/Sen. Berman	Support	Senate: Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Rules. Introduced 3/7. 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action.
HB663/SB576 – Employee Leave and Wage History	Rep. Casello/Sen. Rock	Support	House: Referred to Regulatory Reform and Economic Development; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law and Government Operations; Commerce; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee. 1 st Reading 3/7. Senate: Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy. Introduced 3/7. 3/21 – No further action. 4/15 – No further action.
CS/HB431/SB486 Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Acts (This is an oddly titled bill, the purpose of which is to clarify the definition of this crime and who can be charged.)	Rep. Baker/Sen. Bradley	Support	House: Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Justice Appropriations. 1 st Reading 3/7 Senate: Referred to Criminal Justice; Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice. 3/21 – Favorable by Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice – YEAS 12; NAYS 0 4/15 – House: Favorable with CS and reported out of Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Favorable by and reported out of Judiciary Committee; added to House calendar for 2 nd reading. Senate: No further action. 4/21 – House: Reported out of Judiciary Committee; added to 2nd Reading Calendar; message sent to Senate.
CS/HB999-CS/SB266 – Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions	Rep. Andrade/Sen. Graff	Oppose	House: Referred to Postsecondary Education & Workforce; Higher Education Appropriations; Education and Employment. 1 st Reading 3/7.

(Senate bill is titled “Higher Education”)			Senate: Referred to Education Postsecondary; Appropriations Committee on Education. 3/21 – Senate: CS by Education Postsecondary read 1 st time. 4/15 – House: Favorable with CS and Reported out of Postsecondary Education & Workforce Committee; now in Education & Employment Committee. Senate: CS/CS by Appropriations Committee on Education, Yeas 8, Nays 4. CS by Education Postsecondary Committee, Yeas 7, Nays 3 4/21 – House: CS/CS/HB99 added to 2nd Reading Calendar. Favorable with CS and reported out of Education & Employment Committee. Senate: Favorable with Fiscal Policy Committee (14-6); favorable with Appropriations Committee (8- 4).
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CS – Committee Substitute

CS/CS – Committee Substitute of a Committee Substitute

For more information about any bill, go to www.myfloridahouse.gov. On the first page you can scroll through the entire list of bills that have been proposed for this session. (That list goes on for many pages.) There is also a line to put in the number of a specific bill to search for that bill. On the page for each bill you will see the activity for that particular bill. You can also track any bill of interest. If you do so, you will get an email every time there is action on the bill. Also, when you sign in to www.myfloridahouse.gov you can see at the top what they are discussing currently and click in to see it live.

2023-2024 MEETING DATES and Torch Production Schedule

SEND ARTICLES TO peggycihi@comcast.net

(Schedule will be completed in the September issue.)

Meeting Date
September 16, 2023

Deadline for Articles
August 21, 2023

Mail Torch Date
September 1, 2023



Why PayPal?

AAUW will soon be using **PayPal** to accept online payments for membership dues, luncheon payments, and donations. **You are not required to have a PayPal account to use the online payment form.** Instead, you can simply enter your credit card information like you would at any other online website to make a payment. PayPal accounts are not required to make online payments. PayPal is very secure and can give a double layer of protection when using online shopping.

What information is required to open a Personal PayPal account?

1. First and last name.
2. Address.
3. Phone number.
4. Email address

How does PayPal work? PayPal acts as an intermediary between your money and a merchant. It securely connects to a bank account or credit card. You then use your PayPal account to shop.

What is the safest form of payment? By and large, **credit cards** are easily the most secure and safe payment method to use when you shop online. Credit cards use online security features like encryption and fraud monitoring to keep your accounts and personal information safe. Link your PayPal account to your credit card.

What fees does PayPal charge for transactions? Using a personal PayPal account is free in most cases if you want to send or receive money, donate or pay for things through a PayPal account inside the U.S.

How do I use PayPal goods and services?

1. Enter the phone number, contact name or email address of the person you're sending money to, or select a contact that's already attached to your account.
2. Enter the payment amount and add a note.
3. Select "Paying for an item or service" in the pop-up that appears.

How safe is PayPal goods and services? PayPal monitors every transaction 24/7 to help prevent against fraud, email phishing and identity theft. **Every transaction is heavily guarded behind our next-level encryption.** If something seems suspicious, our dedicated team of security specialists is immediately on it to help protect you from fraudulent transactions.

Will PayPal cover me if I get scammed? When something goes wrong with your eligible transactions, **PayPal Buyer Protection has you covered.**

How do I open a PayPal account? Go to www.paypal.com and click Sign Up. · Select **Sign Up** for a **Personal Account**. Then follow the prompts.

This payment method will be available in the fall of 2023.



Fort Myers / Lee County Branch, Inc.
P.O Box 2115
Fort Myers, FL 33901-2115

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

Use my Gift for: ☐ **Operating Expenses** ☐ **Unrestricted** ☐ **Scholarships*** ☐

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone: (Mobile) _____ (Home) _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount ☐ **\$25** ☐ **\$50** ☐ **\$100** or **Other Amount \$** _____

Is the gift in honor or memory of someone? If so please complete the following:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Contact information for person honored or family of person remembered:

Name: _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Note: Should you want to specify a specific Branch scholarship or award please name below: (See list at: <https://fmlc-fl.aauw.net> 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

AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co FL is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization and gifts may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

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



Membership and Interest Form
AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch, Inc.
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Florida Address (Is this a new or edited prior address in Florida? Circle: Y or N)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Dates usually in Lee County: ☐ Full Time or ☐ Seasonal, from: _____ to: _____

Out of Season Address (Is this a new or edited out of season address? Circle: Y or 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. Education: Degree(s)/Year/College/University(s):

Level of Membership

- \$63.00 ☐ New Member (Reduced cost for first year membership! Welcome!)
- \$99.00 ☐ Renewing Branch Member
- \$27.00 ☐ Dual Member—Primary membership with another branch. Primary branch: _____
- \$27.00 ☐ Paid Life Member
- \$0.00 ☐ Honorary Life Member

Payment: Mail the Membership Form with your check, payable to **AAUW Fort Myers/Lee County Branch Inc.**
 AAUW Fort Myers/Lee Co Branch, Inc.
 P.O. Box 2115
 Fort Myers, FL 33902-2115

All questions regarding membership may be sent by email to Jemetta Hunt, Membership VP, jemetta@aol.com

My interests would be in the following Committees and Interest Groups

Check	Committees	Check	Interest Groups
	Membership/Directory		Book Group
	Public Policy		Bridge
	Scholarships		Hand and Foot
	Communications		Mahjongg
	Ways and Means/Fundraising		Nature Walks
	Torch Newsletter Production Editing		Tools for Advocacy
	Strategic Planning		Great Decisions
	Field Trips		Other:



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