

# The Branch Beacon

empowering women since 1881

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."*

- Henry Ford

Moving forward together with several branch activities over the past two months has definitely had positive results. Interesting, informative programs, along with delicious menu items have livened our Branch luncheon meetings. The new yearbook was published and sent out, and will soon be available digitally on our web site. Our Web page is getting a new facelift and our Facebook page has stepped up several notches in content and reach. The first Branch hybrid meeting was tested and accomplished using a newly purchased conference speaker. The purchase of a new display tent was a proud background for our recent participation in Pioneer Days, where we spread the word about who we are and what we do as members of AAUW. Happily, this exposure resulted in several inquiries by prospective members. We launched our first fundraiser of the year, a raffle for a beautiful original acrylic by our late member Jane Fronappel. Through the ticket sales, we are on our way to funding one of the scholarships that will be awarded at the end of this club year. We had the pleasure, this month, of welcoming a new member, Commissioner Terrye Howell to our ranks and we recently reconnected with a few members that we haven't seen for a while. None of this would have been possible without the combined hard work of our Board and club members who generously give of their time and expertise. I would personally like to thank each and every one of you who participated in these efforts.

September's speaker, Marian Ryan encouraged us to advocate for local land preservation through supporting the Polk Forever Ballot initiative. Mary Gatta, our October speaker, presented some startling statistics concerning income insecurity among several groups of women in Florida. Our focus for November will be to identify strategies that our club might undertake to address some of the need brought to light in the October presentation. I hope all members will join us at this very important November meeting as we apply our combined education, experience, and expertise to address this AAUW National initiative.

Considering the words of Oscar Wilde when he said, "Too much work, and no vacation, deserves at least a small libation", we continue, as we work, to make time to enjoy each other's company through social activities like the Lunch Group and First and Third Friday Wine and Cheese. We also look forward to a fun Holiday Dinner in December.

Considering all this, I am confident that, as we continue moving forward together, success is definitely taking care of itself.

Regards, Juanita

AAUW was founded in 1881 by 17 women from 8 colleges.

The Lake Wales branch was founded on May 16th, 1953.

The purpose of this branch shall be to unite graduates of different educational institutions in order to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS



## *Wine Down Into the Weekend*

Our Friday Wine and Conversation events have been taking place successfully outdoors on the patio at the Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens. Please join us the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month 4-6pm. Food, wine and beer are available to purchase inside the café until 5:00 pm. Some of us bring our own beverages and refreshments. If a member wants to participate and does not have a Bok membership, entrance as a guest with another member can be arranged ahead of time by calling Juanita at 631-317-0159.

## Women Who Inspired Change



NEW AND PROSPECTIVE members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Lake Wales branch, were guests of honor at a welcome coffee held last Saturday at the home of Nell Richmond. The women are, from left, front row, Barbara Stevens, Linda Bachman and

Tere Serra-Ane; second row, Terry Lindquist, Peggy Paige, Jane Hankins and Elizabeth Johnson; and third row, Barbara Mac Maekin, Ruth Costello, Nancy Hoyt, Barbara Seel, Yvette Johnson and Joanna Rudy.

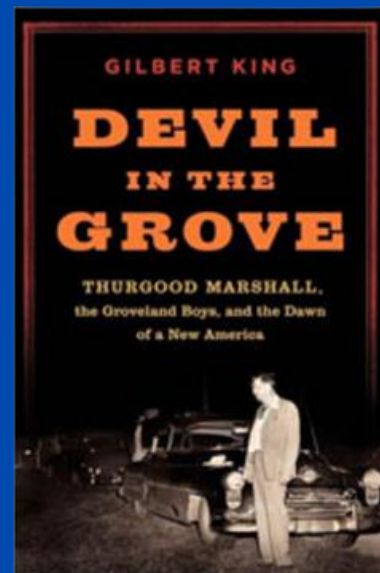
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# Book Club

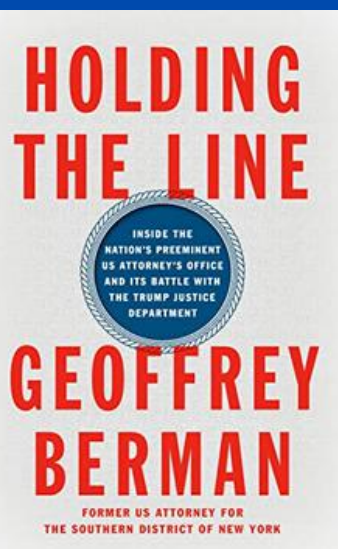
The book group continues to meet on the outside patio of the Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower. Upcoming selections are as follows:

November: DEVIL IN THE GROVE by Gilbert King

December HOLDING THE LINE by Geoffrey Berman.



The book group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Blue Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens at 10:00 AM. All who are interested are welcome to attend.



## Game & Card Party Returns

**AAUW's Bi-Annual Game and Card Party (cancelled for the last few years due to COVID) is on this year!! It will be held on Saturday January 28 from 1-4 p.m. at the Tower Lake Clubhouse, 1894 Tower Lakes Blvd. Our theme is Celebrate the World. Tickets are \$10 per person and tables of 4 or more are available. This is a fundraiser so invite your friends! There will be prizes and international refreshments. Get your tickets from Linda Brown: 231-420-0991.**

# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

Welcome to our newest member Terrye Howell!

Her contact info is as follows:

611 Carver Drive

Lake Wales 33853

863-605-0323 - purelife44@verizon.net.

# WELCOME

Also welcome to new members this year-Carole Essy, Kristin Vanpraet, and Tish Sheesley, all whose contact information is in our new yearbook!

## With Sympathy

We are saddened by the loss of Jacque Peppel's beloved husband, Bob who passed away on Monday, November 7th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jacque and her family.

Cards may be sent to:  
2049 Longview Dr  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

## A message from our Branch Historian

Until we have an official Branch Photographer, it will be appreciated if you share your photos of AAUW events with our historian for long-term preservation.

Likewise, if you come across old photos or memorabilia that you no longer want to keep, they will be welcome additions to our collection.

Betty Martin (863) 638-1877



# HOLIDAY

Holiday Dinner is 5:00 pm  
on Friday December 2 at  
L'Incontro on the patio.

# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

## NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING



The November Branch meeting will take place on **Tuesday, November 15th at 11:30 a.m.** The program will be a panel discussion in a workshop format focusing on possible branch action to support some of the challenges to Women's income insecurity brought to light in the research presented by Mary Gatta at our October branch meeting.

The drawing for the Fronappel Painting, our fundraiser, will be held at the end of the meeting so it is imperative that all raffle ticket stubs from ticket sales be brought to this meeting, along with the money collected.

As before, Wales Pointe Restaurant, 207 E. Park Ave., Lake Wales, will provide us with a great lunch in a comfortable, private place with facilities to enhance the presentation. Lunch is \$15 which includes a salad, entrée, dessert and beverage, including tip. We would appreciate it if you would come with the correct change or a check written to cover your lunch. That would make arriving so much easier and would give everyone more time to socialize. There will be a 50/50 drawing to benefit AAUW Funds (cash only for this). Reservations are required of ALL who attend by 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 11th, even if not purchasing the lunch. Of course, since this is being held in a restaurant, no outside food is permitted to be carried in, however the bar area will be open if you care to purchase only a beverage.


**R.S.V.P.** to Juanita at **631-317-0159** or via email at **namastejtz@gmail.com** so that I can get an accurate attendance and lunch count for the restaurant.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

At our October Branch meeting, Mary Gatta, Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology at CUNY, presented her AAUW sponsored research providing data concerning Income insecurity among three groups of women in Florida. The research shows that retired women in Florida are, in general, less economically secure in retirement than their male counterparts. Her research on Hispanic women and working Black women indicates even greater economic insecurity among those groups across their lifespans. Fortunately, the project that was undertaken to study the problem also offers policy recommendations aimed at righting the obvious inequities. At our November program, we will consider these recommendations in a workshop/panel format with the intention of finding ways for our Branch to support this AAUW initiative.


Please be sure to join us on November 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Wales Pointe Restaurant for our Branch meeting as your brainstorming and input will be vital for us to achieve this goal.



"In my future there will be a time when I can no longer work. I am very worried how I will pay my bills."

**71% of Hispanic Women 65+ are Economically Insecure**

Learn More at [aauf-fl.aauw.net](http://aauf-fl.aauw.net)



**62% of Black Women in Florida are Economically Insecure**

Learn More at [aauf-fl.aauw.net](http://aauf-fl.aauw.net)



# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS



## *Mediterranean Elegance Raffle*

Since the demise of the famous Lemonade Stand, our club has been in need of a fundraiser to fill the gap and shore up our scholarship fund. Charlene Bennett, Co-VP of Programs, came forward with a donation of one of our late member Jane Fronappel's paintings entitled "Mediterranean Elegance" which we are in the process of raffling off for that purpose. AAUW members and Lake Wales art lovers alike remember Jane fondly and extol her talent and dedication to the local art community. The sale of her generous donation of original paintings upon her death, has played a large role in funding our scholarships since. The shady haven that inspired this particular award-winning painting is located at Bok Tower Gardens, near El Retiro, formerly known as the Pinewood Estate. This bucolic spot has been visited by thousands, yet remains a lovely, peaceful retreat, ripe for quiet contemplation. In this piece, which won Third Place in a Municipal Fine Arts exhibit sponsored by the Lake Wales Arts Council and the City of Lake Wales, the artist captured the spirit of that special place.

At the October meeting, members were given a packet of tickets to sell to their friends and neighbors. The donation to take a chance is \$5.00 for one, \$10 for three and \$20 for 7. A number of tickets were sold at the club's booth at Pioneer Days and together with the proceeds of tickets sold by members, we hope to raise double the initial purchase price of the painting, which was \$350.00. If you did not get a packet of raffle tickets to promote, and want to participate in this scholarship fundraiser, please call 631-317-0159. The drawing will be held at the November meeting on the 15th and all stubs from ticket sales are due by then.