

# The Branch Beacon

empowering women since 1881

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“You can get excited about the future. The past won’t mind.”

Hillary DePiano

Happy New Year! Thank you all for making 2022 such a pleasant and productive year for our Branch. I am grateful for having had many opportunities to work together to accomplish our goals while enjoying each other’s company and I enthusiastically look forward to 2023.

The newsletter previews what will take place in the next two months. I am happy that it contains many opportunities for member participation. Keep an eye out for an email survey based on strategies to address Women’s Income Insecurity in Florida. Now that strategies have been identified by participating members at our November lunch meeting, the results of this survey will focus us on which to implement. Once identified we will form a committee to get to work on addressing this AAUW initiative. Also, if you know of someone who meets the criteria for our Educational Award, please send them an application, or make the committee aware of how to contact them. Our awards are a mainstay of our commitment to supporting equity for women. We would like to make sure we can provide this boost to as many mature women continuing their studies, as possible.

Through our increased community outreach, we have been fortunate this year to attract new members, the most recent being Mandy Lonsdale Cilliers, Adrienne Clinton, and Karyn Finley Thompson. I am sure that we will all extend a warm welcome to them at our next event. Plans are in the works to provide a few additional evening meetings in an effort to include our working members who cannot attend during the day.

All in all, 2023 looks exciting and with everyone pulling together, it is sure to be a great year!

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

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

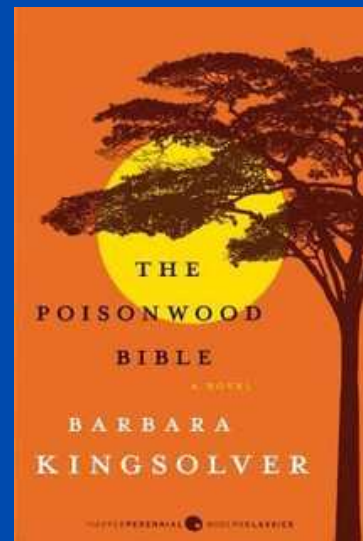


A BEAUTIFUL Christmas tea at the home of the Stephen W. Keens this week, honored new members of the Lake Wales branch of the American Association of University Women. Left to right, front row, are Mrs. Marv Jerrell, Mrs. David Stubbley, Miss June Dixon and Mrs. Earl Norton Jr. Second row, Mrs. Evan R. Reese, Mrs. James S. Harter, Mrs. James Crouch and Mrs. W. S. Craig. Third row, Mrs. Glenn Treflinger, Mrs. Betty Thomas and Mrs. Helen Kincaid Hudson. Mrs. Roger Kenney, membership chairman, pinned the new members with corsages. —Highlander Photo by Betty

# Book Club

The book group has remained active during the holidays. In December we discussed the thought-provoking book *The Sacred Depths of Nature* by Ursula Goodenough, and we launched into the new year with a discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. This book describes the many hardships and challenges encountered by a family of American missionaries living in the former Belgian Congo. At our January meeting, we selected for February to read *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult and *Lessons* by Ian McEwan for March.

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

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at AAUW's Bi-Annual Game and Card Party 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

ATTACHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE 2023 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION APPLICATION. PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS THROUGHOUT POLK COUNTY.

## MAKE IT MAGICAL

Amid manufactured “snow”, smiling children, and all manner of adult revelers, Jennifer Nanek, Dianne Schmoyer, Kristin Vanpraet, Charlene Bennett and Juanita Zwaryczuk represented our branch at one of Lake Wales’ most awaited yearly events, Make It Magical. Staffing the Information Booth, they greeted thousands of visitors, providing logistical event information and explaining AAUW to those who inquired. Gillian Kieft and Pauline Phillips provided Santa hats with the AAUW logo to foster a festive air. In order to attract new members and applicants for our educational awards, participation in community events is crucial. What better way to let people know who we are and how we advance equity for women and girls through education, advocacy and research? Thank you to the members who helped make this project a success.



## PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 24 LUNCHEON MEETING

Our January topic is The Future of Work. Branch member Gillian M. Kieft will present a PowerPoint presentation based on AAUW national research on this topic. The future is not what you imagine. Join us to learn some unusual projections for women’s work in future decades.

## NOT YOUR MOTHER'S WORKFORCE



## FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

On February 28th, in honor of Black History Month, we welcome Clifton Lewis the President of the Neighborhood Improvement Corporation of Bartow, Inc. who will discuss the historic legacy of L.B. Brown. Born into slavery, Brown became a successful community leader in Polk County and millionaire.



# MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

## HOLIDAY PARTY

A merry time was had by all who attended the AAUW LAKE WALES FLORIDA BRANCH 2022 HOLIDAY PARTY. Besides the terrific food, attendees enjoyed poppers, trivia, a group sing-along, and as always, great company and conversation. The children's underwear and sock drive which culminates on the day of the annual holiday party, proved to be quite successful this year. Through member generosity, forty-six boys' briefs and 22 pairs of socks were collected. Sixty-two panties and 28 pairs of socks were donated for the girls. The charter school nurses appreciate our annual donation of this category of clothing. Bathroom accidents do happen to students of all ages and being able to stay in school that day with a quick change due to our donation, is another way to support students.

Thank you to Sharon Allen for putting together another delightful celebration!



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



## EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

---

As an adult learner, you have the power to achieve magnitude with your education – no matter your age or life stage. Pursue a higher degree and make history by becoming part of the growing population returning back to school later in life! Open up opportunities for yourself today and discover how completing that dream course can help build toward a successful future.

The Lake Wales Branch of the American Association of University Women is offering Educational Achievement Awards of \$1,000 to mature women residents of Polk County who are interested in continuing their education and who are enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education.

Applications are available on the AAUW Lake Wales website: [lakewales-fl.aauw.net/Apply](http://lakewales-fl.aauw.net/Apply) for Awards.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be women residents of Polk County motivated to complete an educational degree beyond the high school level. ***Preference will be given to mature women who are returning to the educational process.***
2. Each applicant should submit the application form and a 1 to 2-page letter describing her background and life focus, educational achievements, future goals, and addressing her financial need.
3. Applicants must provide proof of enrollment in an institution of higher learning with the application.

### DEADLINE AND MAILING INFORMATION

All applications shall be postmarked by **March 31, 2023**. Send your application letter to:

American Association of University Women

Lake Wales Branch

Educational Achievement Awards Committee

P.O Box 1264

Lake Wales, FL. 33859-1264

*The AAUW helps women both locally and nationally to expand their educational and life horizons through research, advocacy, education, and philanthropy. The Lake Wales Branch of AAUW has served the local community for 60 years through education, project initiatives, supporting women's issues, and educational awards.*

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of UNIVERSITY WOMEN**



## AAUW LAKE WALES (FL) ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Best Telephone Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

College Attending or Admitted to \_\_\_\_\_

Major Courses of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ Plans After Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of this award? \_\_\_\_\_

Submit application and a one or two-page letter describing your background, your aspirations, educational achievements, and future goals. Explain your financial need to complete your education. You must also provide proof of enrollment in a higher educational institution with your application.

Application must be postmarked by **March 31, 2023** and mailed to:

**AAUW Lake Wales (FL) Affiliate, Inc.  
Educational Achievement Awards Committee  
P.O. Box 1264  
Lake Wales, FL 33859**