

The Branch Beacon

empowering women since 1881

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Spring is when life’s alive in everything.”

– Christina Rossetti

I am pleased that our Branch is alive with much activity this Spring. We have been gifted with two more new members; we have plans for a field trip to the L.B. Brown House; activity is buzzing around Equal Pay Day events; and we are hosting a Lake Wales Commissioner Candidate Forum with the GFWC Woman’s Club of Lake Wales. One additional legacy activity that is a hallmark of AAUW is preparing for the Annual Educational Achievement Award. This project is keeping the committee very busy distributing applications and getting the word out to the community. Here we have an opportunity to bring life into some woman’s quest to further her education. If you know of anyone who meets the qualifications to receive this award, please pass on an application.

Spring is also a time for each of us to renew our commitment to AAUW and its initiatives which were adopted to advocate for women and girls on many fronts. A frequent check on our organization’s Facebook page brings to light those initiatives along with the news of our Branch activities. A big thanks to Kristin Vanpraet for taking on this responsibility. Please like the page and share it on your own Facebook page in order to spread the word about what we do and what needs to be done.

There are so many people to thank for leading our activities now and over the years that it is impossible to name them here, but it is not impossible to thank them all profusely since they keep the club moving forward. Although many times they remain unsung, we hope they know that they are always appreciated. I encourage those of you who are new to the organization to come to our activities and enjoy getting to know the other members face-to-face. Those members who have been with us for years, please continue to attend, inspire, and encourage the new members. A special word to those who we might not have seen for a while - please come out and mingle with us again. We need your knowledge and your experience to grow our Branch. We all learn so much from each other. If you need a ride, just give one of us a call. We miss you!

Regards,
Juanita

BRANCH BEACON
MARCH 2023

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

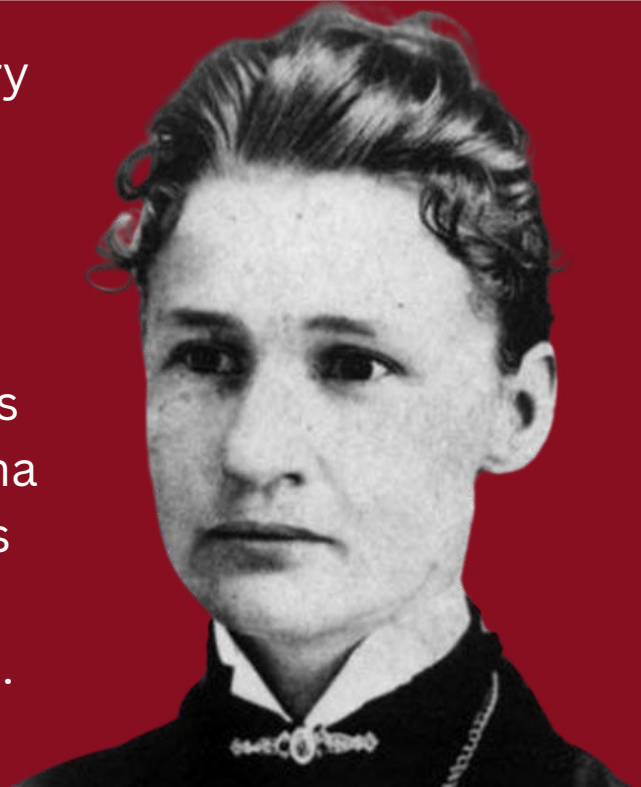


Wine Down Into the Weekend

Our Friday Wine and Conversation event last week was at Wales Pointe. We are very thankful to Tiffany who saves the back room for us and is a gracious host. Please join us the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month 4:30-6:30pm. Check your emails for reminders and exact location and time or contact Juanita at 631-317-0159 for more information. Hope to see you soon!

Women Who Inspired Change

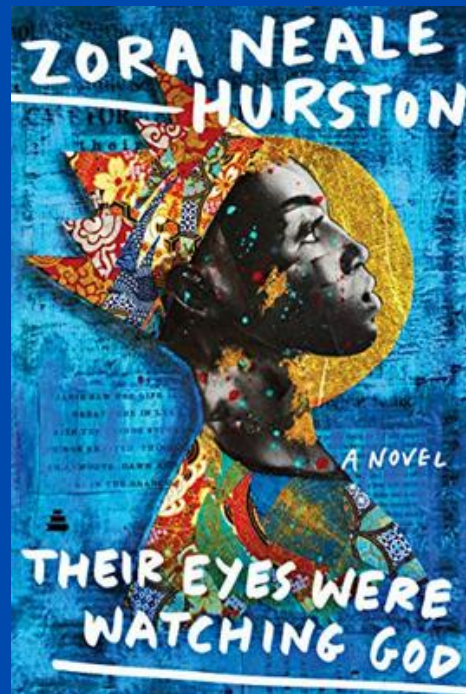
In honor of celebrating Women's History Month, we spotlight Susanna Salter, America's first female mayor. In 1887, a group of men added her name to a mayoral ballot as a joke intended to humiliate women. However, the joke was on them as their plan backfired! Susanna won over 60% of the vote and at 27 was elected the mayor of Argonia, Kansas accidentally advancing women's rights.



Book Club

This month, our book group has selected: "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose.

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. We look forward to seeing you on April 12th.



AAUW UNHAPPY HOUR

On Friday, March 31st, The AAUW Lake Wales Branch is inviting the public to gather with them at Wales Pointe Restaurant in Lake Wales between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. for an **UNHAPPY HOUR**. March 14 is Equal Pay Day 2023, a day that symbolizes how far into the year

women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. It is felt that since March 31st is the last day of Women's History Month, a month celebrating the many accomplishments of women throughout history, it is a fitting date to show how unhappy we are that the gender pay gap still exists. Please join us to raise awareness of this inequity that affects women nationwide. We will wear something red to symbolize how far women "are in the red" with their pay. Attendees will learn more about the **Paycheck Fairness Act** that could, if passed, help rectify this situation. Join us and enjoy lively conversation with likeminded women. Brainstorm with us regarding strategies to help women cope with the inequity. For more information or questions call 631-317-0159 or email namastejz@gmail.com.

MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

March Hot Topic Program



What is happening in Education in the state of Florida? What laws have been passed and which are being challenged? How will they impact the education of our children and grandchildren? These are some of the questions which we will be asking state representative Anna Eskamani on March 28th. We will be meeting as usual at the Wales Pointe restaurant for lunch at 11:30. Anna will join us from Tallahassee via zoom at 12:15. This important hot topic is available to the public; if you want to invite someone, don't forget to make a reservation for them.



Let Carole Knowles Know

We are pleased to announce that Carole will be heading the Branch Beacon starting next month. Please direct all information to be included in the newsletter to her via email: carole.knowles73@icloud.com
Thank you Carole!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Pauline Phillips is volunteering in a PACT (Preventing Alzheimer's with Cognitive Training) research study from USF that analyzes if computerized training exercises reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease. Visit PACTstudy.org to learn more.



MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
AND
THE GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF LAKE WALES
PRESENT



A LAKE WALES CITY CANDIDATE FORUM



FEATURING THE 2023 CANDIDATES FOR CITY COMMISSION

All Lake Wales City voters are invited to learn more about the candidates for the following 2 city commission seats:

Commissioner Seat 3 : *The candidates are Keith Thompson and Michelle Threatt*

Commissioner Seat 5 : *The candidates are: Danielle Pride Gibson and Robin Gibson (incumbent)*

DATE: Monday, March 13, 2023

MEETING PLACE: The GFWC Woman's Club of Lake Wales
275 East Park Avenue, Lake Wales

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

Please join our combined membership to hear the candidates give overviews of their backgrounds and platforms. Each candidate will answer several questions, followed by questions from the public. This is your opportunity to gain the needed information to decide who to vote for--or just to learn more about the Lake Wales election which will take place on Tuesday, April 4th.

For questions contact Juanita Zwaryczuk at 631.317.0159
namastejz@gmail.com

MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

CARD PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

The bi-annual Card and Game Party held on Saturday January 28 at the Tower Lake Clubhouse, was a great success. With approximately 50 people in attendance, we were able to raise almost \$1,000 dollars for our scholarship fund. A big thank you to the committee and all who donated and participated for helping to make the event both fun and profitable!



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Mr. Clifton Lewis, curator of the L.B. Brown house in Bartow gave an engaging and educational presentation at our February Branch Meeting.



Mr. Lewis shared the historic legacy of L. B. Brown, a prominent Black figure in Bartow who was born into slavery and went on to become a successful community leader in Polk County. Our Branch will be visiting the Brown House on March 20th.

New Members

We have seven new members since our yearbook was published. They are Terrye Howell, Mandy Cilliers, Kay Bean, Karyn Thompson, Adrienne Clinton, Carole Knowles, and Grace Engholm. Here is a little bit about several of them: Carole Knowles lives in Winter Haven, has a BS in Biology and was a certified Physical Therapist. As a second career, she got a Master's in Special Education and loved teaching. She is the mother of three grown daughters and a grandmother of four. Now retired, she is enjoying life's journey. Adrienne Clinton also lives in Winter Haven. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock with an MA in Counseling. She was a recipient of an AAUW Scholarship in PA as a non-traditional student. Adrienne currently works as a licensed counselor (LPC) and an advanced drug and alcohol Counselor. She enjoys traveling, music, gardening, and being a grandma to 3. Karyn Thompson graduated from NYU in Film and Television and was a TV producer and reporter in several locations including NYC, Chattanooga and Knoxville TN, and Orlando, FL. She retired in 2016, and moved to Lake Wales in 2018, where she produces videos for promotional and educational needs. Karyn enjoys golf, movies, spiritual arts, and spending time in nature. Welcome to all our new members! We look forward to getting to know all of you!

MEMBER & PROGRAM NEWS

We're doing a field trip to the Brown House on Monday March 20 at 10 am followed by lunch at Palace Pizza or another restaurant along the main street.



While you're in Bartow you might want to visit the Polk County Historical Museum which is just across the street from Palace Pizza. It's the old courthouse which has been refurbished and is gorgeous. Also nearby is the Luster African-American Heritage Museum at 585 E. Summerland St. Both are free but they do accept donations. Please text our Dining Group Chair, Sharon Allen (863-241-3702) to RSVP.



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
MARCH 31ST, 2023.
PLEASE ENCOURAGE
THOSE ELIGIBLE
TO APPLY. APPLICATION
IS ON PAGES 8 & 9 OF
THIS NEWSLETTER.

IT'S ELECTION TIME

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED FOR 2-YEAR TERMS ARE:

- DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
- DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

PLEASE SEND YOUR
NOMINATIONS/
SUGGESTIONS TO
GEORGIANNA PENTIN
(GPENTINE@TAMPA.RR.COM)



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 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**