

BRANCH BEACON



AAUW was formed in 1881 by seventeen women from eight colleges.

The Lake Wales Branch was founded May 16, 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.



Ask me
about
AAUW

NEW MEMBERS' BRUNCH

Saturday, September 20 – 9:30 AM
Water's Edge – Second Floor Auditorium
10 W. Grove Ave. – Lake Wales

Hostess: Betty Martin, VP for Membership

Our year will start off with a reception for new, returning, and prospective members to acquaint them with AAUW's purposes, history, and accomplishments. Over two dozen interested people have been invited.

WE'RE EXCITED ! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE !

The brunch buffet is \$15, *Complimentary for guests*
Reservations are required for the brunch.

Reserve with Georgianna Pentinen
gpentinen@tampabay.rr.com or tel. 863-678-1349

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GEORGIANNA PENTINEN

The New Members Brunch will take the place of the branch meeting for September. Our first regular meeting of the year will be:

Thursday, October 16th at 11:30 a.m.
Water's Edge, Second Floor Auditorium,
10 W. Grove Ave., Lake Wales

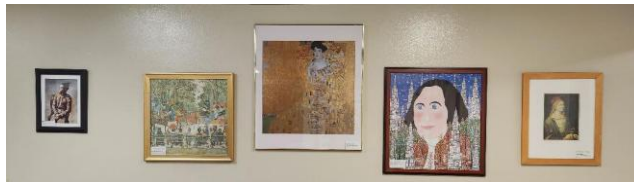
PROGRAM

October is Women's Health Month - Listen. Balance. Thrive.
A Comprehensive Look at Hearing and Balance Health for Women
Dr. Tonya LaLonde
Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center

LUNCH \$15 - PLEASE RESERVE WITH GEORGIANNA
gpentinen@tampabay.rr.com or tel. 863-678-1349

Art-in-Schools Successes

A well-practiced team of three distributed new displays of framed prints to eight local schools in early August, just before school started again. The reception was uplifting. Some schools have expanded their gallery space and increased the number of prints on display. We are gratified to have this enthusiasm for our decades-long project. The art itself is always a thrill to view. Consider joining us to work with it this winter. We will be sprucing up the labels and evaluating prints to rotate out of and into our collection.



Left: Kandinski's "Black Lines" 1913

Above: Prints on display at Bok Academy South

**Call me
if you can
help!**

863-632-1039

Betty Martin



Remembering Sharon Becker Allen

Sharon and Fred pictured at their wedding



We are saddened to report that Sharon passed away on August 17, 2025 from a respiratory illness.

Sharon was one of our longest continuous members and strongest branch supporters. She served as our president from 2000 to 2002 and was most recently Recording Secretary to our board. She celebrated the branch's 50th and 70th anniversaries, and chaired our lemonade stand fundraiser for years until her husband, Hubert, became ill.

After Hugh passed away, she met Fred Allen at a bereavement group. When they married, they became virtually inseparable, but for Sharon's volunteerism at church, the Lake Wales Chorale, school book bag project, school lunch project, and our AAUW branch. With Fred, she was a diehard Eagle Watch volunteer, and she coordinated the Ridge Audubon Christmas Bird Count for a decade or more.

She served for years on the Lake Wales Board of Adjustment and Appeals and on the Planning Board where she was active in the extensive revision of the land use regulations.

She was known to break out in song spontaneously and had a hearty laugh. She used a clothesline religiously and ran 5K races. Her smile was broad and expressive. Her passion was deep. She was a tireless advocate for human rights and social justice.

She was one of a kind.

Betty Martin, VP for Membership

DINING GROUP

Linda Brown, Chair

The dining group meets monthly for a meal at a local restaurant.

Please contact me if you would like to join in this fun group.

Tel. (231) 420-0991 Email: lindabrown306@hotmail.com

September's dinner will be at:

San Diego's Mexican Bar & Grill

1300 3rd St. SW, Winter Haven

Thursday, September 11, 5 p.m.



Sakura Japanese Steakhouse



Cherry Pocket



Ruby Tuesday's

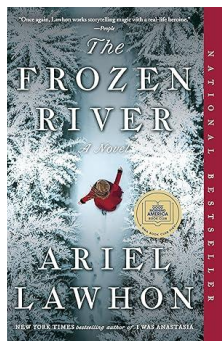


Carrabba's Italian Grill

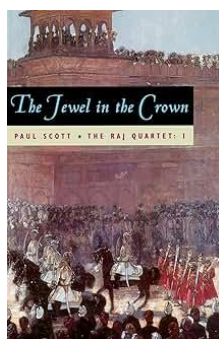
ABOVE: Members caught having fun at the Dining Group this summer

BOOK STUDY GROUP

Palmetto Café at Bok Tower Gardens – 10 AM – Second Wednesdays



The book selection for **September 10th** is *Frozen River* by **Ariel Lawhon**, a historical novel set on the banks of the Kennebec River in what is now Maine. The book was “inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.” (Amazon book description) *Frozen River* is a *New York Times* bestseller and an NPR book of the year.



The Jewel in the Crown by **Paul Scott** is the selection for **October 8th**. In this first book of his *Raj Quartet*, written in 1966, Scott dramatizes the end of the British rule in India during World War II. The book begins at the height of the War in 1942. The *Raj Quartet* books are considered classics and were developed into a TV series in 1984.

Future book selections to be announced

Carol Gillespie, Chair

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER, AND SCRAPBOOK

Please send photos from AAUW events to Betty Martin, our historian.
email to Bettymartin8888@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR AAUW WINE AND CONVERSATION

First Friday of each month 4-6 p.m.

Sept. 5

THE THIRSTY DRAGON

Oct. 3

126 N. First Street, Lake Wales

This newsletter is a publication of:

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Branch Officers 2025-2026:

President: Georgianna Pentinen	Immediate Past President: Juanita Zwaryczuk
Co-Vice Presidents Programs: Dorothy Scott Wilson & Kay Bean	Vice President Membership: Betty Martin
Communications Secretary: Margaret Swanson	Recording Secretary: TBA
Co-Treasurers: Jennifer Nanek & Dianne Schmoyer	Bylaws: Pauline Phillips
Parliamentarian: Charlene Bennett	Historians: Betty Martin & Gail French
Public Policy: Terry Howell	
Newsletter Editor: Margaret Swanson MAGJS411@gmail.com	