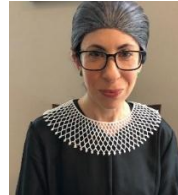


November 2025

# BRANCH BEACON

Coming Very Soon

Sunday, January 4, 2026 @ 7 p.m.



## RBG- Ruth Bader Ginsburg- I Dissent

**I Dissent**, a live biography of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, is a unique, rarely seen version of a one-woman performance by Sheryl Faye. You will see RBG grow from a young girl to a Supreme Court Justice before your eyes in a one act performance: no intermission. Her performance will immerse you in a multimedia learning experience that will captivate you and pique your interest in the character making you want to learn more about RBG. It will be approximately 1 hour with the possibility of asking Sheryl questions regarding her performance and preparation for performances. She does perform as other female historical women.

The **I Dissent** performance as our major fund raiser for 2025 to support the two one-thousand-dollar (\$1,000) scholarship we award each April for two mature women who are re-entering higher education institutions to continue or advance their current degree. This event replaces The Lemonade Stand previously held during the Lake Wales Arts Festival in February. Your participation in this event is less labor intensive, time consuming and will be enjoyable! No chilly wind off the lake or rain drenched tent!

In place of the lake, the venue will be The Vanguard School's lovely Performing Arts Center on Highway 27 S in Lake Wales. Instead of selling cookies, lemonade, and dog biscuits, you are asked to sell tickets to this performance. Do you have three friends or relatives or both who would buy tickets to attend a unique and educational event? Tickets will make wonderful Hanukkah or Christmas gifts! Our goal is to sell as many tickets as we can, up to 220, that is the capacity of the theater at Vanguard! If tickets sales exceed our expectations, it will provide flexibility with the scholarships; either in increasing from 2 to 3, increasing the amount of the scholarships or initiating a long-awaited STEM project. A large audience would leave the actress with a positive impression of the AAUW Lake Wales membership and by support demonstrated by the Lake Wales community. Please do all you can to support this event as it will take all of us to achieve our goals.

The program is appropriate for all age groups, especially middle and high school students and even men! Ticket prices will include a reduced-price ticket for students and adult price will not exceed \$25. Credit cards will be accepted. AAUW Lake Wales is a nonprofit corporation (501(c)(3) so tickets can be a donation. Printed information such as posters and information cards will be available at the Branch Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued on Page 4, RBG*



*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.*

## Member and Program News

### We've grown!

Prospective and returning members attended our September brunch, and seven joined on the spot. Our branch grew by two more at our October meeting, so we have grown by nine!

We extend a warm welcome to Destyne Ayala, Rhoda Beutler, Helena Camps, Twanna Davis, Pamela June, Tina Peak, Kathy Sites, and Mary Vollaro! And welcome back to past Membership VP Jean Baker, who has enthusiastically re-joined. These women represent widely varied fields of study and professions, including legal studies on human trafficking, agronomy, international studies, social sciences, health, psychology, metallurgy and mechanical engineering, communication arts and information sciences, and education.

The Membership Committee thanks Terrye Howell, Victoria deLissovoy, Susan Hagans, Betty Martin, Carol Gillespie, Linda Brown, and Alexandria Figueroa for encouraging friends to check us out.

We aim to continue this growth spurt. Word-of-mouth has always been our best advertisement. If you would like to carry some "You Belong in AAUW" business cards to give to eligible prospects you meet, please ask Betty Martin for a few.

### ANY PHOTOS OUT THERE?

Unfortunately, the journalist we invited to document our New Member event lost his photos. If any members took pictures that day, kindly share with Historian Betty Martin.

*Betty Martin*, VP Membership

### BOOK STUDY GROUP

The book group had an interesting discussion at our October meeting about the book Jewel in the Crown by Paul Scott. This is the first in a series of books about the end of British rule in India, which was made into a movie that some of us watched on PBS.

Our book for November is Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown, the author of The DaVinci Code. The main character, Robert Langdon, is the same symbologist who was featured in his prior books. The action moves fast, and there are even more puzzles and mysteries than in his earlier books. We had some ideas for future books, but we're trying to find one that is available in the library. We hope to select some books for future months at our November meeting. We continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Bok Tower Blue Palmetto Cafe at 10 A.M. If you don't have a membership at Bok, let one of us know, and we'll bring you in as a guest.

*Carol Gillespie*, Chair, Ph. 305.804.1708

### AFTERNOON DINING GROUP

**Monday, Nov. 24 @ 1.p.m – Lake Wales Family Diner**

Hwy 60 E, Lake Wales

\*\* RSVP required! \*\*

**Friday, Dec. 5 – Holiday Buffet dinner party at Water's Edge** 10 Grove Ave, Lake Wales

Price per person includes entertainment. TBD

\*\* RSVP required! \*\*

*Linda Brown*, Chair

Ph. 231.420.0991 –or- [lindabrown306@hotmail.com](mailto:lindabrown306@hotmail.com)



## Remembering Long Time Member

2002-2025

### Lauren Beck

Hailing from Michigan, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education. She was a respected educator and left an enduring legacy on countless students. Lauren Beck was recruited to our branch in 2002. She immediately volunteered on the Lemonade Stand fundraising committee and eventually served as co-chair. That was back in the day when we set up an elaborate backdrop for our booth and decorated it colorfully to attract attention. We also squeezed fresh lemon juice, boiled sugar water, and mixed our lemonade brew using a recipe passed down over 30 years. Her husband John helped with the labor. Her daughter Sally was also a branch member for a time. Quiet, witty, wise, and cheerful are some of the attributes that made Lauren a valued member and friend. Set back by medical problems, we haven't seen Lauren these past few years, but she loved us back by renewing her membership even this year, just as she was entering hospice care at age 94. Farewell to a jewel of a lady.

Betty Martin, VP Membership

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## Thursday, November 20, 2025 Branch Program Meeting

### Daughters of the American Revolution

Overview of DAR's mission, vision, and services in historic preservation, education, and patriotism

#### Before the Presentation

"The Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education."

The organization has a membership of 190,000 in 3,000 chapters across the world. "Members are active women who are passionate about community service, preserving history, educating children in addition to honoring and supporting those who serve our nation."

The Lake Wales Chapter of the DAR was organized on March 13, 1922, and is actively involved in the Lake Wales community.

The presentation will focus on the Daughters of the American Revolution and how we grow and maintain our membership.

**Presenter:** Regent Linda Bourgeois

Accompanied by State DAR Representative

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*Continued from Page 1, RGB*

### About the Actress

Sheryl's interest in acting began when she began to walk. Using her back porch as a theater and bathroom as the Box Office, she wrote, starred, and directed her own shows. At seven years old she began acting lessons and at nine, she starred in her first show, Cinderella. After graduating from Emerson College in Boston with a BFA in Acting, Sheryl progressed to become a full-time actress. Currently, she stars in eleven one-woman shows that tour all over the world. Several years ago, she had the honor of performing for Queen Elizabeth II. Today, Sheryl performs for a variety of organizations for adults and children and has been the recipient of many awards for stage and film.

*Georgianna, President*

## JOIN US FOR AAUW LAKE WALES WINE AND CONVERSATION

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

**THE THIRSTY DRAGON**

126 N. First Street, Lake Wales

**Nov 7**

**No W & C  
Dec 5**

This newsletter is a publication of:

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### Branch Officers 2025-2026:

**President**

Zwaryczuk

**Co-Vice Presidents Programs** Kay Bean & Dorothy Scoot Wilson

**Communications Secretary**

Margaret Swanson

**Co-Treasurers**

Jennifer Nanek & Dianne Schmoyer

**Parliamentarian**

**TBA**

Immediate Past President: Juanita

**Vice President Membership:** Betty Martin

**Recording Secretary:** Charlene Bennett

**Bylaws:** Pauline Phillips

**Historian:** Betty Martin & Gail French

**Public Policy:** Terrye Howell

**Newsletter Editor**

Margaret Swanson