

January 2026

BRANCH BEACON

RBG- Ruth Bader Ginsburg- I Dissent

We came; we saw and listened to Sheryl Faye as Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A group of seven adults traveled down Highway 27 for twenty-nine miles to watch their second performance of the day of conducted by Sheryl Faye. The first performance held earlier in the day was that of Laura Ingalls Wilder. These performances were not their first opportunities to watch a Sheryl Faye's historical women performance, and I do not think it will be their last if they have any control. They were Sheryl Faye fans prior to today. Sheryl has performed multiple times solely for the residents of Polo Park East in Davenport where they live. They spoke enthusiastically about all her performances. One member, Jami Rak, found the initial information about our scheduled RBG event on Sheryl's website and later one of our posters which gave her the phone number to call for ticket information. Jami said if she had found it sooner, she would have had

Continued RBD-I Dissent



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.

HOLIDAY DINNER HAPPENINGS

The Holiday Dinner Party was held on Friday, December 5th with 24 reservations for members and guests, we all enjoyed a delicious buffet complete with desserts, a lively white gift exchange, and a song quiz that had everyone singing carols and holiday songs, accompanied by Victoria deLissovoy at the piano.

Linda Brown. Chair, Social and Community Events



Linda & Victoria



Dianne & Kay reassuring Victoria



Four are members. Can you name them?



Terry & guest. Michael Ann going to talk to Gail French about the buffet?

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Applications are due March 15, 2026

Please encourage those eligible to apply

Application information and the application are attached to this newsletter

JOIN US FOR AAUW LAKE WALES WINE AND CONVERSATION

1st and 3rd Friday of each month 4:30*-6 p.m.

THE THIRSTY DRAGON

126 N. First Street, LW

*New Time

Jan. 16

Feb. 6

DINING GROUP

LADY B'S Tea Parlor- 205 S. Stuart Avenue, LW

is now open

Lady B's is owned by our own Jessica Bray

On January 6th, our Dining Group met there and give it an A++++++ rating

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Branch Program Meeting

STEM at SCHOOL

Shelly Kepler

Retired Principal & Curriculum Director

Career & Technology Magnet School, South Fort Myers, FL

BOOK STUDY GROUP

Books for January & February

The book group continues to meet at the Blue Palmetto Cafe at Bok Tower on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 AM. At our December meeting, we had an interesting discussion of the book Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro. Most of us had also seen a movie based on the book starring Anthony Hopkins as the butler, Stevens. Since we all liked the book, there was little controversy. We also agreed that Anthony Hopkins was the perfect choice to play Mr. Stevens in the movie, which is available on YouTube,

Our January book will be What We Can Know by Ian McEwan. This is the latest book by the author of Atonement. It is set 100 years in the future in a world where most of the land has been submerged due to a nuclear accident. There are flashbacks to the 21st century that are tied into the search for a poem from that period that has been lost. In his search for the poem, the researcher uncovers previously unknown information about the poet and others in his world.

For February we selected 84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff. It is a true story taken from the author's life and is in the form of an exchange of letters between the two main characters. There is also an Anthony Hopkins movie based on this book, which some of us may watch to compare his character in that story with the one that he played in Remains of the Day

All who enjoy reading and discussing books are welcome to join us.

Carol Gillespie, Chair, Ph. 305.804.1708

CARD AND GAME PARTY



Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 1-4 PM

TOWER LAKES CLUBHOUSE- 21605 US HIGHWAY 27- LAKE WALE

TICKETS: \$10 PER PERSON OR BUY A TABLE TO PLAY YOUR FAVORITE GAME WITH FRIENDS.

Consider donating raffle items, desserts, wine or cheese and crackers

Raffle tickets for great prizes available at the door

This is a fundraiser for our scholarship and brings in about a \$1,000. Let us make it even bigger this year!

Linda Brown, Chair, Card & Game Party

MAKE IT MAGICAL

Thanks go to Jennifer Nanek for the management of our annual holiday booth at the downtown Lake Wales festival on Saturday, December 13th.

And thanks to volunteers Victoria deLissovoy and Linda Brown who sat by Jennifer's side

RBG-I Dissent Continued from Page 1

more time to organize a bus load instead of her van which limited seating to seven people.

Below are the only comments received from people who attended the RBG performance at Vanguard:

“Excellent, Sheryl- What a talent!!!”

“Great presentation. You make it look easy, Sheryl- Thank you AAUW”

“Great performance in a perfect place. I liked the way she changed [her]dress in style of the times.”

“Totally impressed with your performance.”

“Very well done. Does she go to Michigan?”

“Excellent program.”



Susan & Michael Ann with Sheryl Faye

Yes, it was. It appeared that the ninety-three people who attended also thought it was an excellent program. With money from ticket sales and two donations we will be able to support one \$1,000 EAA scholarship.

Thank you to everyone who attended the performance and to those who worked crowd control.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We have another new member, Cherie Douglas, a friend of Margaret Swanson, who joined the National AAUW last year and has been attending First Friday for several months. We are glad to have her on our roster. Please insert her contact information in your yearbook:

Cherie Douglas, 971-344-9271, Cherie_douglas@icloud.com

Cherie's membership marks a milestone for our branch, as she is the first to be qualified under the brand-new “AA degree equivalent” provision in the national bylaws. Ours will be modified to match. In her lifelong learning journey, Cherie has accumulated sufficient credit hours at accredited institutions to be considered by AAUW to have achieved the equivalent of a two-year degree, which is our membership threshold. Welcome aboard!

Betty Martin, VP Membership

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Branch Officers 2025-2026:

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