



## Orlando \*\*\* Winter Park BRANCHLINE



### DECEMBER PROGRAM



#### GABE PREISSER

Executive & Artistic Director  
of Opera Orlando

#### We are thrilled to welcome back Gabe Preisser

Praised for his “matinee idol charm and charisma,” “a beautiful, luscious baritone,” and “a compelling, commanding stage presence” by publications such as *Opera News*, the *Star Tribune*, and the *Houston Chronicle*, Gabriel Preisser receives rave reviews for his vast repertoire of performances. Last season, he performed the role of Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* with Opera Orlando and in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Inland Northwest Opera (formerly Opera Coeur d’Alene). Other engagements last season include Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera Tampa, Sam in *Trouble in Tahiti* and the baritone soloist in *Arias & Barcarolles* with Magic City Opera and Orchestra Miami, Petruchio in *Kiss Me Kate* with Annapolis Symphony, and the World Premiere of *Today it Rains*, a new chamber opera inspired by an event in the life of American artist Georgia O’Keeffe, in a co-production between American Opera Projects and Opera Parallèle in San Francisco. Preisser also performed as soloist with the Canterbury Voices at Oklahoma City University in Britten’s *War Requiem*, and with the Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra in Orff’s *Carmina Burana*.

Accompanying Gabe on the piano  
Is Lynn Peghiny.



#### GENERAL MEETING

##### SATURDAY

December 14, 2019

9 a.m.

First Congregational Church  
of Winter Park

225 S. Interlachen Avenue  
(at New England Ave.)  
Winter Park, FL 32789

**\$18.00 per person**

**Reservations Required**

**RSVP: Ginny Gillmer**

**505-379-5484**

or

**[aauw.Virginia.gillmer@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.Virginia.gillmer@gmail.com)**

**Cash or check**

**payable at the door**

**(Checks should be made out to  
“AAUW Orlando/Winter Park”)**

**Or mail your check to:**

**Ginny Gillmer**

**588 Citrus**

**Oviedo, FL 32765**

**You must RSVP no later than**

**Wednesday, December 11!**

***You are responsible for payment in full if  
you do not keep your reservation.***

## From the President



Dear Members,

Well, this will be my 75th Christmas/Hanukkah/Winter Solstice/New Year's celebrations, but I am not sure how many Kwanzaas. I am sure that I did not celebrate the first few after it was initiated in 1966-67 as a secular festival. Kwanzaa means the 'first

fruits of harvest' in Swahili and is celebrated for 7 days with each day representing a particular principle.

Although AAUW is non-partisan, members are both political and principled. Sadly, as I watched and listened to the impeachment inquiry, I realized that many of our current political leaders hold principles other than those I value. So, I thought it would be worth sharing principles I do value. Kwanzaa embodies these principles that hold a particular relevance for women who, regardless of ancestral origins, have traditionally and continue to be oppressed economically and legally. At the risk of committing cultural appropriation, I list these principles with some comments:

**(UNITY):** To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race. (I interpret this as embracing racial and ethnic diversity. Diverse groups can unite around various issues.)

**(SELF-DETERMINATION):** To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves. (Women must advocate for themselves.)

**(COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY):** To build and maintain our community together and make our

brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together. (Issues of gender inequality affect both women and men and require everyone to work to change society.)

**(COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS):** To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together. (Pay inequity if influenced by gender, race and age.)

**(PURPOSE):** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. (Recently, the US has lost its world standing, and this must be repaired to effect global alliances that benefit all partners.)

**(CREATIVITY):** To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. (The issues of global warming require all of us to be mindful of our actions that have an impact on our environment.)

**(FAITH):** To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle. (AAUW will co-host a 'victory party' celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment on February 15, 2020. Save the Date!)

Happy Holidays,



Seven candles in a kinara symbolize the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
Professor Emerita UCF

### Presenters at our November 9 General Meeting

**Shaye Glover (L)** and **Kristen Cherry (R)** presented a short video they made highlighting their experiences at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). They, along with **Mariah Fernanda**,



attended the conference sponsored by our branch. The women expressed their

thanks for the opportunity to attend and network with other strong and motivated women.

**Leslie S. Lieberman, Ph.D.**, President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park, presented a program about the Origin of Obesity. (Some members were seen hiding their half-eaten sweet rolls in their purses.)



## VP Membership

Welcome to our New Members



Joanne Grey  
joannevg1968@yahoo.com  
The College of New Jersey, B.A. Psychology, 1990

Teresa Rockwood\*  
tsurbrook@cfl.rr.com  
Oakland University, B.A., Communications  
and Journalism, 1982

An interesting note about Terri: She was a single mom with no money and four children living in Michigan. We normally do not hear from our scholarship recipients, but Terri related that she received a scholarship from AAUW which led to a degree, a career in journalism, and a new life. The punchline to the story was Terri's confession that she thought the scholarship was from the UAW! She said that once she learned the truth, she wanted to thank us—and so she did!

*Maria Bonnet*

## SAVE THESE DATES!!

**DEC. 12—EXPLORING CENTRAL FLORIDA  
BOK TOWER**

**DEC. 20—PACE HOLIDAY PARTY** (see p. 5  
for more information)

**FEB. 15, 2020—"THE HEART OF THE  
MATTER IS VOTING"**  
(see p.4 for more information)

**MAR. 7, 2020—LITERARY LUNCHEON**

## Scholarship



**PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS,  
FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT  
THIS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Applicants must be women studying in a STEM field at a local regionally accredited college/university. AAUW members are also eligible to apply. Past recipients have been awarded between \$500 and \$2,000.

The application is on the website and the deadline is March 1, 2020.

### VALENCIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This AAUW Endowed Memorial Scholarship (# 1178) is the perfect opportunity to make a charitable contribution or a memorial gift. You will receive a receipt from this non-profit organization.

Contact: Elvin Cruz, Administrative Manager/College Scholarships, Valencia College Foundation, 1768 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835.

For more information, contact: Karen Buchan (kgb@unknownegg.org) or Rosemary Vendena (rovendena@hotmail.com.)



### IN MEMORIAM



**Florence Bacas-Snow**

*She was born Efrosini Bacas in Albania, but we knew her as Florence Bacas-Snow.*

*She joined AAUW in November of 2011, and notwithstanding her active participation in many other groups and organizations, she wasted no time in volunteering to chair the Legal Advocacy Fund.*

*Florence was instrumental in organizing a showing of "The Invisible War," on January 14, 2013, about sexual assault in the military.*

*Florence is survived by her husband John, two daughters, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AAUW?

### Special Webinar from AAUW CEO

Join AAUW CEO Kim Churches for an exclusive member webinar on Thursday, December 5, at 3 p.m. ET, titled: "Together in 2019, Together in 2020." She'll talk about AAUW's latest research on sexual harassment, 2020 convenings and other strategic updates.

### New Pay Gap Facts

Earlier this month, AAUW released some updated highlights of our signature report *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*. The analysis indicates that women do not make less money simply because they choose different careers than men or decide to become mothers. Rather, the undervaluing of women's work, implicit bias against working mothers and direct race and gender bias diminish women's salaries.

### National Fundraising AAUW Rolls Out Biggest Board Match Ever

AAUW's board of directors is kicking off this giving season with its largest match in our organization's 138-year history. From now until December 31, the board will match — dollar for dollar — every donation we receive up to \$68,800.

## SAVE THE DATE – February 15, 2020 "THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS VOTING"

**Let's launch the Centennial 2020 year together, celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote and advocating Votes for All.**

**"The Heart of the Matter Is Voting,"  
Saturday, February 15, 2-4 p.m.,  
Rio Pinar Country Club, 8600 El Prado Ave., Orl.**

### We have much to celebrate!

- ◆ 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's right to vote in the United States.
- ◆ Feb. 14, 2020, is the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the national League of Women Voters.
- ◆ Feb. 15, 2020, is the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of leading suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

The League of Women Voters of Orange County will present an all-star program, led by headliners Linda Chapin and Marty Haynie, that includes dramatic readings by costumed characters, live music, and refreshments.

Event collaborators are the **Orlando/Winter Park Branch of the American Association of University Women**, the **Central Florida International Black Women's Congress**, and **Orange County League**.



### Exploring Central Florida Bok Tower 12/12/2019

\$25 adults. Group rate is \$19 for twenty people. Please bring cash as we will need to pay for the entire group as a unit.

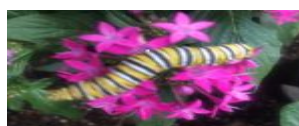
**Contact Christine Porter for more details.**

Christine Porter, Leader  
248-504-9879  
Portercl7166@gmail.com



**It's not too late to sign up!**

Exploring Central Florida visited the Butterfly Encounter at Lucas Nurseries in November.



## THANKSGIVING AT PACE WAS A DELICIOUS EVENT! (November 21, 2019)

A big thank you to our AAUW members for providing such an amazing Thanksgiving luncheon for our friends at PACE Center!

So many of you supported this yearly project with monetary donations, service, and delicious food. The PACE community of nearly 100 girls, family members and staff was very grateful to AAUW for the scrumptious meal and the warm fellowship.



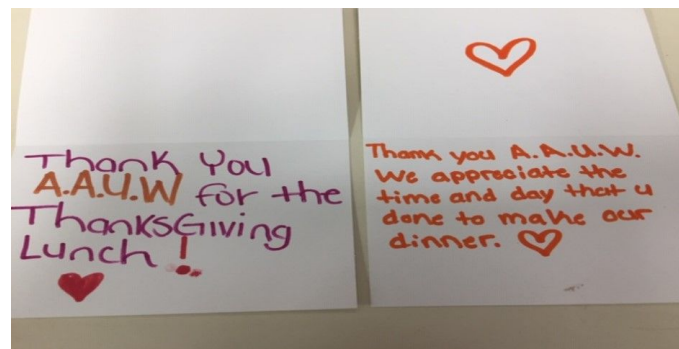
Thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your support!



Karen Gillett and Pat Stamm sharing a secret recipe?



Linda Fessel and Ruth Webb: getting high on sugar!



The grammar may not be perfect, but the sentiment is.

## MIRACLE BAGS FOR PACE STUDENTS — AN AAUW TRADITION



What an amazing response from AAUW members! All PACE student names were chosen at our last meeting. Members will decorate and fill a bag with three items suggested by the student, and return

the bag at our General Meeting on Saturday, Dec. 14. No need to wrap the gifts. Just decorate the bag any festive way you choose. We hope to collect enough additional small items (lotions, make-up, socks, gift cards, etc.) to add to the bags, and then we'll add tissue paper to make them complete. Be sure to put your name on the card attached to your bag - girls love to know who donated their gifts. The bags will be distributed at the PACE holiday event that AAUW sponsors on December 20.

We are a generous, giving group, and the girls are truly appreciative of the thought and effort that you put into these gifts. They mean a lot - probably more than most of us realize.

Please bring your gift bag for a PACE girl at the General Meeting on December 14. If you are able, please bring a few small little "extras" (in a separate bag) so they can be evenly distributed among the bags. Thank you for all you do for the girls at PACE Center.

Anne Landrum, Pat Stamm, Roberta Cooper,  
Diana Secor, and Karen Gillett

## A SPECIAL TOUR OF PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

A tour of PACE Center has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to tour their building, learn more about everything they are doing in and outside of the traditional classroom, and perhaps meet a few of the girls. Their classrooms are so inviting, creative and conducive to active learning. Did you know that our AAUW branch created their library and then recognized us by naming it for long-time member Martha Williamson!

The tour is open to all AAUW members whether you have been there many times, never been there, or have helped with our Thanksgiving lunch or Holiday brunch/miracle bag distribution but never toured the school. We will plan to have lunch afterwards; location TBD.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be available at the December and January meetings.



# Interest Groups

## DECEMBER



Happy Holidays to all of the Interest Groups--and Thank You to our leaders for the time and skill you have volunteered to make this another successful year of activity for our AAUW Chapter.

And for the membership, here is -- Yet Another!--suggestion for a New Year's Resolution: Make a point of

trying out a new interest group in 2020. it will lead to your learning a new skill and getting to know fellow members!

With best wishes,  
Joanie

*Joan Liberman*

Interest Group Chair  
libermanjoan@gmail.com

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### **Booklovers**

If you are interested in getting involved with Booklovers, please contact the Booklovers' Coordinator Ellen James at 407-857-0044 or ellenjames54@gmail.com. As some dates and times have changed for this month, please refer to the calendar on the last page .

**Booklovers Lite (aka Booklovers III):** Meets at Marbeya Condominiums on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on January 22, and we will discuss the book "The Pursuit of Alice Thrift" by Elinor Lipman. We have a few vacancies, and if anyone is interested contact Karen Deo at [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)

**Cooking Globally:** This is a fun group that gathers quarterly to try new cuisines and everyone brings a dish. Members and guests are always welcome!

Dinners are held at Westminster Winter Park's Club 24 at 1824 Summerfield Road, in Winter Park off Lakemont Avenue. For more information, contact Adrienne Katz at [katzaid@yahoo.com](mailto:katzaid@yahoo.com). Come share your culinary skills and try different foods!

**Current Issues:** Meets monthly on the 3rd Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No meeting in December. There will be a planning meeting in January. For more information, contact Marcy Kysilka: [Kysilka@bellsouth.net](mailto:Kysilka@bellsouth.net)

**Dining Couples: No meeting in December.** The next Dining Couples will be held at Rosemary and Ken Vendena's home on January 18, 2020. We would like to have more interested members so we can have 2 groups of 8 in 2020!

For information about this group, contact Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703 or [Eileengar@msn.com](mailto:Eileengar@msn.com).

**Dining In:** Meets monthly on the first Friday. Dining In will meet at noon on December 6, at the home of Lynda Hinckley. Contact Jane Rosen for more information about this group: 321-295-7689 or [mjcrosen@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcrosen@hotmail.com).

**Dining Out (at night):** Dining Out meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, at Shining Spice — 3096 Aloma Ave., Winter Park; RSVP by noon on Monday, December 16 to: Susan Hoke: 407-637-6857 or [shoke5581@gmail.com](mailto:shoke5581@gmail.com)

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** On Thurs., Dec. 12, ECF will visit BOK Tower. RSVP to Christine Porter by Monday, December 9, to join the holiday festivities.

Christine Porter 248-504-9879

[Portercl7166@gmail.com](mailto:Portercl7166@gmail.com)

To be added to the contact list, please contact Temporary Chair Linda Fessel at [lfessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:lfessel@embarqmail.com).

**Foreign Affairs:** will meet at the Alford Inn on Tuesday, December 9, at 11:30. For more information about this group, contact Dee Fuentes (407-310-1154) or [tucu662@gmail.com](mailto:tucu662@gmail.com).

**Foreign Films:** Meets on the last Monday of the month at 1 p.m. NO MOVIE IN DECEMBER. Our next film (TBA) is on Monday, January 27. For more information contact Linda Fessel at [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com).

**Lunching Out:** Lunching Out will NOT meet in December. Our next lunching out (TBA) will be on Monday, Jan. 13, at 11:30 a.m. For more information about place, time, and location (or to be added to the email list), contact Linda Fessel at [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com)

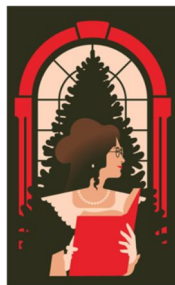
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## Interest Groups (Continued)

**Mah Jongg:** Mah-Jonggers will meet on Thursday, **December 5, 12, 19, and 26(?)**. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact

Linda Fessel: LFessel@embarqmail.com or  
Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

**Theater Group:** Our next play will be *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly* by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon on Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. You need to purchase your own ticket. We will meet at the theater at 1:45 p.m. After the play, we will meet for cocktails and conversation, plus whatever you may wish



to order. The restaurants for these after-play get-togethers will be announced by email before the date of the play.

Orlando Shakespeare Theater  
(Orlando Shakes)  
812 E. Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803  
(407) 447-1700

For questions, please email Jean Bubriski at jbubriski33@gmail.com or call or text her at 949-278-7293.

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Blankets! Blankets! Coats & Jackets

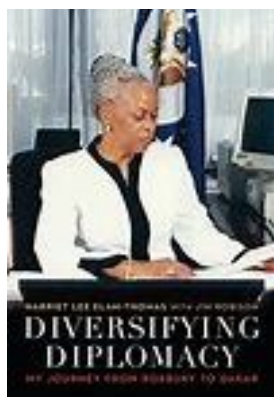
Please gather your old (gently used) or new blankets AND coats. They will go to the Health Care Center for the Homeless. Bring them to the next general meeting on December 14. They need to be in good shape and, please, no afghans.

Someone will collect them at the general meeting. Thank you.

### Calendars

Don't forget to bring any new 2020 calendars to the December general meeting. Desk and pocket calendars as well as wall calendars are welcome. Member Lynda Hinckley distributes the calendars to persons of meager means in and around the Winter Park area.

Thank you for this small contribution which typically involves no cost to members and is so valuable to those in need. It also reduces trash in our landfills.



### AAUW Orlando-Winter Park Branch Literary Luncheon

March 7, 2020, at the Interlachen Country Club


Speaker: Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas

Book: *Diversifying Diplomacy: My Journey from Roxbury to Dakar*

*Diversifying Diplomacy* tells the story of Harriet Elam-Thomas, a young black woman who beat the odds and challenged the status quo, distinguishing herself with a diplomatic career at a time when few colleagues were women of color. Her amazing memoir is a firsthand account of her decades-long career in the US Department of State's Foreign Service, recounting her experiences of making US foreign policy, culture, and values understood abroad. Elam-Thomas served as ambassador to Senegal and retired with the rank of career minister after forty-two years as a diplomat. In *Diversifying Diplomacy*, Elam-Thomas is confronted by some of the world's heftier problems and helps to ensure that new shepherds of honesty and authenticity will follow in her international footsteps for generations to come.

*Diversifying Diplomacy* is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

# DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	4 <u>11 a.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers VIII</b>  <u>11:30 a.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers IX</b>  <u>11:30 p.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers II</b>  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	5 <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	6 <u>12 noon</u> Dining in  <u>1 p.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers X</b>	7
8	9 <u>11:30</u> <b>Foreign Affairs</b>	10 <u>12:15 p.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers VI</b>	11	12 <u>All Day</u> Exploring Central Fl. BOK Tower  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	13	14 <u>9 -11 a.m.</u> <b>General Meeting</b>
15		17 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V  <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Dining Out	18	19 <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	20 Holiday Party at PACE  <u>11:30 a.m.</u> <b>B-Lovers IV</b>	21
22  <b>Hannukah</b>	23	24	25  <b>Christmas</b>	26  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	27	28
29	30	31  <b>New Year's Eve</b>	January 1 			

**The groups in RED will be meeting this month at a different time and/or day.**

We strive to get all the days and times in the correct boxes. Sometimes we miss the mark. If we've misplaced your event or scheduled you for the wrong time, or day, please let us know so we can correct the mistake going forward.