



Orlando * Winter Park**
BRANCHLINE

MARCH PROGRAM

THE 19TH ANNUAL SPRING LITERARY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interlachen Country Club

2245 Interlachen Ct, Winter Park, FL 32792

**Author and Diplomat,
Ambassador Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas**

Will discuss her memoir

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

"Diversifying Diplomacy, the memoir of Harriet Elam-Thomas, is more than just a personal history, more than just a 'her-story.' It is the timely narrative of an African-American woman weaned in black Boston on family pride and ambition, liberated through education, inspired by civil rights battles, and mentored to the top by fellow travelers and battle-scarred elders. Hers is a great American story. It is fact, not fiction. It's real."



[Milton Coleman, retired senior editor of the *Washington Post*]

It's not too late to register. The form is on page 10. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to hear and speak to an ambassador. The cost also includes a delicious lunch and a silent auction with many wonderful items to bid on.

From the President



Dear Members,
Kudos! for our Branch's organizing team (Barbara Knapp, Rosemary Vendena, Ginny Gillmer, Phyllis Hall) and all who attended the extraordinary February 15 "The Heart of the Matter is Voting" joint venture with the League of Women Voters Orange County and the Central Florida Black

Women's Congress. Approximately 125 attendees enjoyed a short musical performance, soliloquies by early suffragists, a terrific slide narration of the suffrage movement by Martha Haynie and tasty hors-d'oeuvres and sweets. We even realized a small profit.

Of course, this month, March, is officially Women's History Month and has been celebrated in the US since 1987. International Women's Day, March 8 this year, has an even longer history. There are many activities in Central Florida, and UCF has a full schedule of events. Our annual Literary Luncheon is March 7 with an excellent speaker—Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas. This is our primary scholarship fund-raiser and we will have a special presentation of the Ambassador's scholarship.

Finally, I wanted to share with you some notes from the January 28 AAUW Convening Series Webinar. The slides and video are on the national website: aauw.org. AAUW is in the process of hiring 2 people for public relations: one focusing on federal agencies and the other on grassroots organizing. These add to the staff of 45 people and an annual budget of \$16M. AAUW is actively seeking corporate as well as individual support. For example, Coca-Cola gave \$500,000 to expand Start Smart/Work Smart to minority-serving and women's institutions, and money is being sought to develop similar materials for non-college educated women.

The Five-Star Program is continuing to be adopted by more branches to report their activities. AAUW wants to hear from members about "What moment in time has made you most proud to be a member of AAUW?" They want "your story" and these will be posted on the website.

AAUW continues to work with other women's organizations and will be present at the 64th UN Commission of the Status of Women's meeting in March.

The theme for the 2020 election is "Every Voice Heard—Every Vote Counted."

The 2020 Gender Agenda, as noted previously in this column, focuses on economic security issues: ERA and rescinding the deadline, pay equity, paid family leave, reduction in student debt, maintenance of social security and congressional bills that insure these rights. In this election year, members are encouraged to ask candidates about these issues.

As the primary/caucus season heats up and tensions rise, it is also good to remember that March is also National Celery Month, Irish American Month, National Bubble Week (2nd week in the month) as well as 87 daily holidays including Peace Corps Day (1), Caregiver Appreciation Day (3), Employee Appreciation Day (6), Girl Scouts Day (12), Freedom of Information Day (16), Goddess of Fertility Day (18), International Earth Day (20), National Mom and Pop Business Owner's Day (29), and Take a Walk in the Park Day (30).

So... happy celebrations,

Leslie

Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch

We are pleased to announce the 2020 stipend recipients for the Branch's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL): Lynn-Caelle Valere, Alyssa Heiden, Luciana Costa Barros De Olivei .'



It was December 27, so there were no gifts of myrrh or frankincense. Instead I received something infinitely more valuable: parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme—all spread out in multiple containers—enough to feed us for a dinner, often enough for two meals. And when provisions got low, more meals would arrive.

So how do I thank so many ladies who brought food, games, flowers, and provided lifts to doctors' offices and AAUW activities? Well, I can't because there were so many of you. I'm afraid I would leave someone out. So please accept this heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE who made my post-surgery days a lot easier. Jim and I will be forever grateful to my AAUW sisters.

VP Membership



VP Finance



A REMINDER from Maria Bonnet, V.P. Membership and Phyllis Hall, V.P. Finance:

It's Not Too Early to Renew Your Membership

Checks should be given to Phyllis Hall in person OR
Send your check to her @
Phyllis Hall
481 Forest Court
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

Scholarship



The Scholarship Committee met on February 21 to review and evaluate the Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas Scholarship applications. This is a one-time \$1000 scholarship in the name of our esteemed speaker to be awarded at the annual Literary Luncheon.

All ten applicants are such amazing, motivated, smart, caring women! All but one are pursuing degrees at UCF; one is at Valencia College.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the committee which worked so diligently to choose the top candidate: Judy Chatelain, Ellen James, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald.

Karen Buchan



Hey, Remember this guy?

Gabriel Preisser won a Grammy Award in the best opera recording category as part of the team behind "Fantastic Mr. Fox," a 1998 opera by Tobias Picker based on a Roald Dahl story.

Preisser had to suppress his own excitement when he heard the news. He was performing in the opera "Silent

Night" in Salt Lake City on Sunday — and it wasn't a typical performance. A fellow singer in the show had fallen

ill, and with three hours' notice, Preisser was working to cover that role as well as his own. "I'm backstage trying to learn the music for the role I'm taking over — and trying to see if I'm winning a Grammy," he said.

He had performed "Fantastic Mr. Fox" for Opera San Antonio after auditioning for composer Picker. "I remember getting the score and realizing it was very challenging music," Preisser said. "Tobias's music is beautiful, but it's complex." Preisser played nasty Farmer Bean. "It was so much fun to go into that really cartoonist, twirling-my-mustache villainy," he said. When the opportunity arose to make an album, Preisser jumped at the chance. "We were all just excited to do a recording," Preisser said. "Who knew it would get a Grammy?"

The Rest of the Story

Last year Booklovers read *Devil in the Grove* by Gilbert King.

In a fitting tribute for Black History Month, Gov. Ron DeSantis and relatives of the Groveland Four were on hand Friday for the dedication of a memorial in Tavares to the four black men wrongfully accused of raping a 17-year-old white girl in 1949.



Interest Groups



MARCH

Christine Porter will host a tea on July 9, 2020, at 2 p.m. to determine the Exploring Central Florida outings for next year and to identify event leaders. More information will be given prior to July 9.

Joan Liberman

Interest Group Chair
libermanjoan@gmail.com

Booklovers: Booklovers have several choices in March. Most Booklovers are reading *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. However, Booklovers IV are reading *Educated* by Tara Westover, and Booklovers VII are reading *The Wild Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys. Discussions will be dynamic. We have three more months of reading. If you wish to join a Booklovers group, please contact Ellen James, Booklovers Coordinator, to join in the fun. (ellenjames54@gmail.com)

Booklovers Lite (aka Booklovers III): Meets at Marbeya Condominiums on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Booklovers Lite will be meeting on March 25th at 1 p.m. to discuss *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Interested in joining us? Contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com.

Cooking Globally: Cooking Globally does not meet this month. For more information, contact Chair, Adrienne Katz at katzaid@yahoo.com. Come share your culinary skills and try different foods!

Couples Dining Party (Formerly Dining Couples)

We meet the third Saturday of each month at the home of one of our members. Last month, Myra and Phil Gaziano hosted a St. Valentine's Day dinner party. Fresh roses and tulips, a Valentine's heart balloon and a French theme were highlighted. We toasted the day with Phil's Chocolate Cherry martinis, French appetizers au Roquefort cheese puff pastry, walnut pate on sweet pepper spears and tartelettes. Our French dinner started with Salade Nicoise, French Baguettes, Salmon Oscar with crab, asparagus and orzo followed by an elegant dessert: flaming Cherries Jubilee over smooth creamy vanilla Ice Cream. Over coffee and tea we shared our romantic memories of our 1st sweetheart dates. It was a fun evening. We welcome anyone who wants to join us.

Our next Couples Dining Party will be on March 21, and features a St. Patrick's Day Irish theme at the home of Don

and Nancy Napier at 6 p.m. Please call for more information and/or to attend by contacting Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703 or Robbi Willenkin at 407 960 4151. Please leave your name and telephone number, where and when you can be reached, and we will return your call. Our party dining group looks forward to welcoming you to join us.

Current Issues: Meets monthly on the 3rd Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Marcy Kysilka: Kysilka@bellsouth.net

Dining Couples: (See Couples Dining Party)

Dining In: Normally meets monthly on the first Friday. This month they will meet on the second Friday: March 13 at noon at the home of Ginny Gillmer. Contact Jane Rosen for more information about this group: 321-295-7689 or mjcrosen@hotmail.com.

Dining Out (at night): Dining Out meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 at China Garden: 118 South Semoran, Winter Park. RSVP to Susan by noon on Monday, March 16. (407-637-6857) or shoke5581@gmail.com

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): ECF is going to Ft. Christmas on Thursday, March 12. More details will be sent to those who sign up. Contact Linda Fessel, Leader (LFESSEL@embarqmail.com). To be added to the contact list, please contact Temp. Chair Linda Fessel at lfessel@embarqmail.com.

Foreign Affairs: Foreign Affairs meets at members' homes on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. Our next meeting will be on March 22 at Parveen Wahid's home. We will discuss "India and Pakistan." Parveen will moderate the discussion. For more information contact D. Fuentes, chair. Tucu662@gmail.com

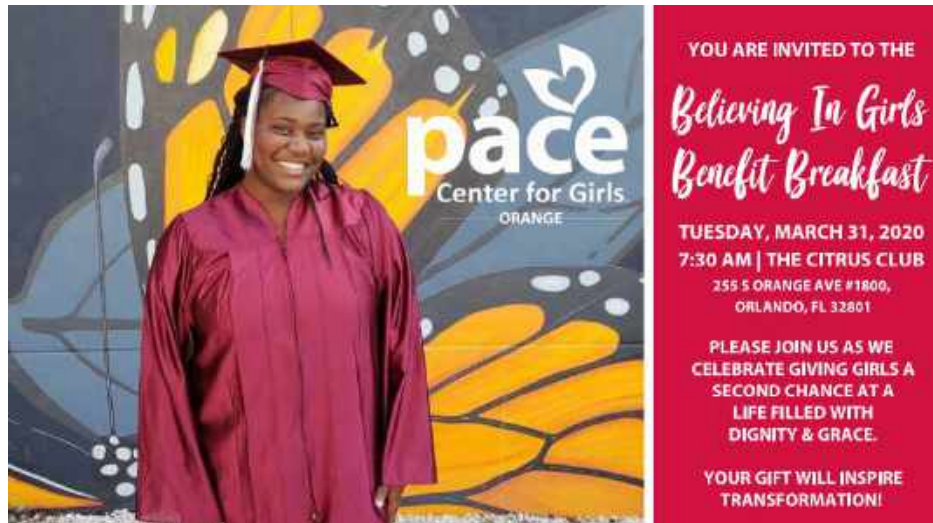
Foreign Films: Will be on sabbatical for the next several months.

Lunching Out: Our next lunching out (TBA) will be on Monday, March 9, 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

MahJongg: MahJonggers will meet on Thursday, **March 5, 12, 19 and 26**. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact

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

PACE



Citrus Club! March 31, 2020! Meet the young ladies! Hear their stories! Complimentary breakfast! Yes, this is the “Believing in Girls” PACE annual fundraiser!

Table Captains Karen Buchan, 407-427-3501, kgm@unknownegg.org; Barbara Knapp, 407-620-7357, bcknapp1949@gmail.com; and Pat Stamm, 407-971-0565, patsnpans@yahoo.com, eagerly await your reservation to fill their table for 10.

Call now! Lets have AAUW up front and visible supporting all the great work this organization is able to do!

If you cannot attend (and we know it is very early in the morning!) please consider sending your donation to one of the table captains. We appreciate your support.

Barbara Knapp

After our Booklovers read Michelle Obama’s memoir *Becoming*, they thought it would be a good book for the girls at PACE. Several women donated their copies of the book to PACE. Along with the book, there is a *Becoming* Journal with inspiring questions and quotes to help girls discover their own story. Thank you to Booklovers who donated 15 copies of the Journal to PACE which were truly welcomed and appreciated by teachers and girls alike.

Anne Landrum

“It’s not about being perfect. It’s not about where you get yourself in the end. There’s power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there’s grace in being willing to know and hear others. This, for me, is how we become.” —Michelle Obama

If anyone would like a tour of the PACE facility sometime before March 31, please phone, text or email Barbara Knapp (see box above), and she will try to set it up. One member has already signed up. Thank You!

Margaret Knight was working in a cotton mill in the mid-1850s when part of a machine snapped loose and injured a coworker. Shaken, she invented a protective cover for the machine and soon it was everywhere. But Knight was only 12, was too young to file for a patent and didn’t get a penny for it. Two decades later, she in-

vented a machine that folded and glued flat-bottomed paper bags. She filed for a patent, only to find that a colleague had stolen her idea. Knight took him to court and won. It was the first of nearly two dozen patents she would be awarded.

The Heart of the Matter is Voting

February 15, 2020
Rio Pinar Country Club

A passionate audience of 125 cheered suffragist icons Susan B. Anthony (Betsy Fulmer) and Sojourner Truth (Dr. Mary Lawrence) on February 15 – Susan's 200th birthday – at a joyous and inspiring event, **"The Heart of the Matter Is Voting."** The event also celebrated the 100th birthday of the national League of Women Voters, on Feb. 14. The program was presented by the LWVOC in partnership with the Orlando/Winter Park Branch of the American Association of University Women, and the Central Florida International Congress of Black Women. The Citrus Singers Girl Scouts Chorus led off the program, which featured a stirring presentation by **Martha Haynie** on "Winning the Vote for Women" and "Fighting for Votes for All."



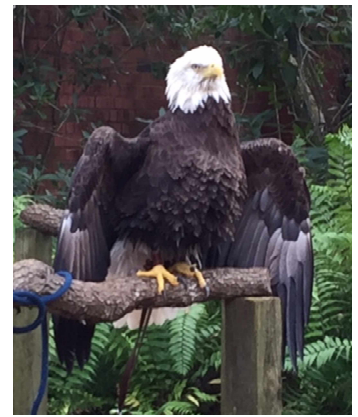
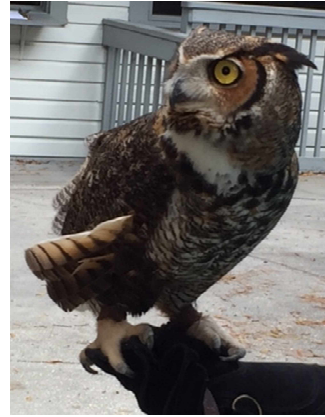
Above left: Dr. Mary Lawrence, Regenia Miller-(Cent.FL Intl Congress of Black Women); Dr. Leslie Lieberman (AAUW); Dr. Gloria Pickar-Co President, (LWVOC); Betsy Fulmer, League member. Above (right): Martha Haynie, Joan Erwin,



Our photographer couldn't resist a photo with Sojourner Truth and Susan B. Anthony.

From Our Members

On February 13, Exploring Central Florida went to the birds—the Birds of Prey, in Maitland, that is. What a fabulous learning experience. Lunch followed at the Eden Bar at the Enzian Theater.





Hanna has sent us many pictures of her travels with husband Jerry. We think these take the cake! Seriously. The hotel in Doha, Qatar pulled out all the stops to give Hanna a birthday she will never forget.



While Hanna was celebrating her birthday on a camel, Sherry Levy's husband Foster celebrated his 92nd at Outback with the Dining Out group.

Sadly, there was a cloud over the celebration as it was learned that night that Ed Levine, had passed away. Ed and his wife Lydia Dante had been regulars with Dining Out. Ed also had the distinction of being the one and only male member of our branch. He shall be missed. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Lydia.

Celebrating Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month—Take Pride

By Adrienne E. Katz Katz

Every woman today who has, in her own name, a job, a bank account, a credit card, a lease, a license, a car, a mortgage, a diploma or a pension has these because she is standing on the shoulders of millions of women who fought for those privileges.

We're celebrating Women's History Month throughout March, commemorating the achievements of women since the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote in 1920. The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment will be commemorated nationally.

Those who came before us — since the 1800s, our foremothers marched, spoke out to hostile crowds and hearings, lobbied and suffered physical and verbal abuse. They had their sanity questioned, were jailed, starved and force-fed while manacled. They sacrificed their comfortable and secure lives so that we might be closer to equality for all. Some never lived to see their goal achieved, but passed the torch to younger women to continue their efforts.

Since the 1960s, several women stand out in the forefront of the legislative battles: U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug proposed that Women's Equality Day be celebrated nationally. Rep. Patsy Mink wrote the legislation for Title IX. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, as a law professor, prepared the cases for the Supreme Court to apply Title IX. Gloria Steinem, Rep. Shirley Chisholm and Betty Frieden all contributed to educating the voters to the importance of women's equality.

Recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life – science, community, government, literature, art, sports, medicine – has a huge impact on the development of self-respect and new opportunities for girls and young women.

Women have received remarkably little recognition for their inventions and discoveries that affect our everyday lives: the recent movie "Hidden Figures" is only one example. **Hedy Lamar**, a beautiful actress in the 1940s, patented the technology used in cell phones!



Ever heard of the APGAR score for evaluating newborn babies? Dr. Virginia Apgar developed that! **Dr. Patricia Bath**, a Black Ophthalmologist, patented a surgical procedure for cataracts.

We've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women in our country. For the first time, a female was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives — Nancy Pelosi in 2007 and again in 2019. And women were major contenders in presidential elections — Hillary Clinton for president and Sarah Palin for vice president in 2008. A record number of women ran for and won political positions at all levels of government. We have three women on the U.S. Supreme Court — Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Rosa Sotomayer, and Elena Kagen.



Equality for all, however, will not come in a fancy box with a neatly tied bow. Rather, the process toward equality continues to be messy and protracted. Similar to riding a bicycle, unless forward progress toward equality is continued, the bicycle will fall over.

We have not yet achieved the goal of equality for all. But if/when we do, we will have to continue to teach our daughters and all students that rights are not offered, but are hard won and can be withdrawn. Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." This has never been more appropriate.

Earning the right to vote obviously does not mark the end of our journey. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders of all backgrounds that women can achieve equality in the workplace and political power to implement fair legislative policy that benefits the most citizens. So, let us celebrate what we have accomplished, honor those who have worked for our betterment, and keep moving forward until we gain equality for all.

Thanks to Adrienne Katz for this insightful contribution.

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <u>11 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII <u>11:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX <u>11:30 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	5 <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	6	7 <u>11 a.m.—2 p.m.</u> LITERARY LUNCH INTERLACHEN COUNTRY CLUB
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	9 <u>11:30</u> Lunching Out	10 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	11	12 <u>11 a.m.</u> Exploring Central Fl. <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	13 <u>12 noon</u> Dining In	14
15	16 <u>10-1</u> Current Issues	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 <u>10:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	21 <u>6 p.m.</u> Couples Dining Party
22 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	23	24	25 <u>1-3</u> Booklovers Lite	26 <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	27	28
29	30	31				

Reservation Form

Reservations must be received by Monday, March 2, 2020

Name: (clearly print first and last name) _____

Phone or email address: _____

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$45 Total \$ _____

_____ Number of vegetarian entrées

Use reverse side to list others to be seated at your table—up to 8 persons total
(Please PRINT first and last name plus contact phone or email.)

Mail Reservation Form with check payable to: "AAUW-Orlando-WP"
to Diana Secor at 4153 Leafy Glade Place, Casselberry, FL 32707

Questions: dianasecoraaauw@gmail.com/cell phone 407-929-3735

I am unable to attend but would like to donate \$ _____ to AAUW

ORLANDO-FL.AAUW.NET

Changes to the Reservation Form

The **Reservation Form** for the 19th Annual Literary Luncheon has been revised from last year. It was designed to clarify the reservation process. Part of the confusion last year came from reservations made from, for example, a book or dining group of 10 persons, all wanting to sit together. The group assumed that they would be seated together; however, the tables at Interlachen Country Club seat only 8 persons. The new **Reservation Form** should help resolve this problem. If a group of 8 persons wants to be seated together, please list each person (first and last name clearly printed) in your group along with a phone number or email address. Thanking everyone in advance for your help in making the reservations go smoothly.