



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

**LOCAL SENIOR Shopping Hours**

<b>Publix</b> Tues. & Wed. 7 - 8 am	<b>Walmart</b> Tues. first hour of business	<b>TARGET</b> Wed. 8 - 9 am
<b>Winn/Dixie</b> Mon. - Fri. 8 - 9 am	<b>COSTCO</b> Tues. & Thurs. 9 - 10 am	<b>DOLLAR GENERAL</b> Daily, First Hour of Business
<b>BIG LOTS!</b> Daily, First Hour of Business	<b>WHOLE FOODS</b> Daily 8 - 9 am	<b>THE FRESH MARKET</b> Mon. - Fri. 8 - 9 am



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**Uber Eats**



*Everybody knows that pestilences have a way of recurring in the world; yet somehow we find it hard to believe in ones that crash down on our heads from a blue sky. (Albert Camus)*

## From the President



Dear Branch Members,  
 Congratulations to Myra Gaziano and her Literary Luncheon and Silent Auction Committee and all of us who attended for making this our MOST financially successful and greatly enjoyed event. More details appear in this *Branchline*.

We will not have a General Meeting this month and the May meeting is pending based on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because April is the month in which we hold elections, I urge you to please vote on the slate of officers or suggest others, so that we can accomplish this by email or mail balloting.

I know that March, not April, is Women's History Month; but since I am writing this in March, I thought I would include pioneering women bacteriologists who made significant contributions to earlier epidemics and infectious diseases in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I choose bacteriology rather than virology or the contemporary designation 'microbiology' as there are now numerous women scientists in this area.

Ida Albertina Bengtson (1881–1952) was the first woman hired to work in the United States Public Health Service's Hygienic Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health. She helped discover that the source of the 1917 tetanus outbreak running rampant across the US could be traced back to a batch of contaminated vaccine scarifiers, the tool used to scratch the skin when performing some types of vaccinations. Bengtson's most significant scientific achievement was identifying *Clostridium botulinum*, the cause of botulism. The Latin word for sausage is bot-

ulus and "Sausage poisoning" was a common problem in 18th- and 19th-century Germany. The bacterium thrives in an anaerobic (no oxygen) environment which is why setting standards for commercial and home canning of uncontaminated foods is so important. In 1924-31 she investigated the trachoma, a cause of the blindness epidemic in Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. She worked on gas gangrene toxins and anti-toxins and typhus which she contracted but recovered and wrote a classic chapter on Rickettsia, a family of bacteria carried by ticks, lice, and other bugs, that causes typhus and Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever.

Measles researcher Jean Alice Broadhurst (1873- 1954) developed a method in 1917 of detecting the measles virus before the appearance of the characteristic rash. She did not identify the cause of measles as a virus since it was not isolated until 1954. A third set of researchers: bacteriologist Pearl Louella Kendrick (1890 -1980), Grace Eldering, public health scientist and Loney Gordon, African-American chemist who developed the first vaccine for whooping cough (pertussis) and ran the first large-scale controlled clinical trial for the pertussis vaccine. Kendrick was instrumental in establishing US standards for vaccines.

So, here we are in the midst of another pandemic with many groups working on containment, cures and vaccines. I am wishing all of our members, their families and friends safe, virus-free holiday celebrations of Easter and Passover . . . although some families may be celebrating virtually by SKYPE, Facetime, Facebook, What'sApp or other means—extreme but very safe social distancing.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
 Professor Emerita UCF

*Congratulations to our Branch's recipients of this year's AAUW Florida Named Gifts based on contributions to AAUW in 2019. These are:*

*Linda Fessel for multiple contributions as webmistress, Branchline Editor, interest group Chair or Co-chair: Foreign Films, Lunching Out, Mahjong, and Exploring Central Florida;*

*Jocelyn Duprez for financial contributions and for the development (with Charlotte Coppenhaver) and presentation of the comprehensive guidelines for soliciting gifts for the silent auction; and*

*Barbara Joan Zeitz for financial contributions and diversifying community contacts. Since the Florida Convention was canceled, our recipients will receive their certificates in the mail from Ellen Roche, AAUW-FI Director of Finance.*



## VP Membership

Maria Bonnet



### 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

**Your membership must be renewed by June.**

## VP Finance

Phyllis Hall



BUT, if you renew before the May meeting, you will be eligible to receive a  
**FREE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP.**

As part of the Shape the Future program, our branch has earned 3 free National memberships. If you are one of the 3 lucky winners, the Finance Director will send you a check for \$59 as reimbursement. (You would only be paying state dues of \$12 and chapter dues of \$14.)

### But Wait! There's more!

National AAUW has announced a limited time promotion for **NEW MEMBERS** who join between April 2020 and May 2021.

National is waiving their portion of the membership dues (\$59).  
New members would only pay state dues (\$12) and chapter dues (\$14).

## Scholarship



The presentation of the Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas Scholarship was very moving with Karen reading an essay by Barbara Mukonyo followed by the recipient's thank you/ acceptance speech.

A PACE Next Step Grant for \$1,500 was awarded to Eden Etienne, a PACE graduate.

Karen is currently collecting applications for our regular

Branch Scholarships. The Committee will determine the amount of the awards and the number of scholarships once the application period closes.

The Scholarship Committee will be communicating by email to select the Branch Scholarship recipients. We have received nine applications and the committee members have been reading and evaluating them. As we normally do, each applicant will be notified by April 1.

*Karen Buchan*

### IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR OUR NEW OFFICERS. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

As of March 31, the slate of nominees is as follows:

President: Leslie Sue Lieberman

V.P. Finance: Phyllis Hall

Co-V.P. Membership: Maria Bonnet

Co-V.P. Membership: Elizabeth Powers-Byrd

These are two-year positions which run from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022.

Nominations for these positions are still open. Just contact the nominating committee chair to get your name on the ballot. **We will vote at the April general meeting or by email if circumstances warrant.** The new officers will be installed at the May general meeting.

Nominating Committee Chair: Susan Hoke  
(407-637-6857) or shoke5581@gmail.com

19TH LITERARY LUNCHEON: SPEAKER AMBASSADOR HARRIET LEE ELAM-THOMAS



Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Luncheon with guest speaker Ambassador Harriet L. Elam-Thomas was a great success! With the support of our Branch and friends, Interlachen Country Club was filled with 114 guests helping us raise over \$5,000 on the luncheon, silent auction and 50/50 drawing.

It was truly a pleasure to work with such an organized and detail-oriented team. A very special thank you to our amazing committee chairs:

Diana Secor along with Virginia Gillmer and Lynda Hinckley for handling the reservations and seating arrangements, Nancy Megill and Adrienne Katz for public relations, Rosemary Vendena along with Jocelyn Deprez, Anne Coppenhaver and Maria Bonnet for coordinating

the fabulous silent auction and 50/50 drawing, Phyllis Hall and Virginia Gillmer for keeping track of the money and the logistics of check-out, Lynda Hinckley for designing and creating the beautiful table centerpieces, Linda Fessel for the wonderful lay-out and printing of the programs and flyers, Christine Brown for assisting our speaker's book sales, and Hanna Kruzcek for the numerous and timely email blasts.

Also, a big thank you to the invaluable members who worked behind the scenes on the day of the luncheon and kept things moving: Ann Burnham, Delia Fuentes, Eileen Garrison, Nancy Napier, Joan Liberman, Barbara Buchele, Christine Porter and Susan Turo.

And most importantly, thank you to all of our members who attended the event bringing guests and potential members. It could not have been a success without all of your support! THANK YOU!

*Myra Gaziano*  
Literary Luncheon Chair



Scholarship chair, Karen Buchan, introduces Barbara Mukonyo, recipient of the \$1000 Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas Scholarship award.

Ann Funk, former AAUW member and personal friend of the speaker, makes the introduction.



This was our most successful silent auction ever—due in large part to the Dining-In Group's offer of a catered four-course French dinner for 8. With opening bid set at \$400, bidding was enthusiastic. Result? Two winners for \$600 each!

# Interest Groups



APRIL

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 choose event leaders. More information will be given prior to July 9.

*Joan Liberman*

Interest Group Chair  
libermanjoan@gmail.com

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL INTEREST GROUPS WILL NOT BE MEETING UNTIL THERE IS NO LONGER A THREAT FROM THE COVID-19 VIRUS.**

**Booklovers:** Many Booklovers took a breather this month because of the virus. With the new ruling, we may not meet again in April! However, at least one group has figured out how to have a discussion using Zoom or Skype. If you are interested, call Anne Coppenhaver, Booklovers VIII, for more information. In the meantime, whether you meet or not, greet Spring and reading. This month there are many selections. Many are reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. However, Booklovers I will read *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, Booklovers IV is reading *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, and Booklovers VII is reading *The Address* by Fiona Davis. Enjoy your quiet time while reading a book. 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 was scheduled to discuss *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Interested in joining us? Contact Karen Deo at [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com).

**Cooking Globally:** For more information, contact Chair, Adrienne Katz at [katzaid@yahoo.com](mailto:katzaid@yahoo.com). Come share your culinary skills and try different foods!

**Couples Dining Party (Formerly Dining Couples)**  
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.

**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](mailto:Kysilka@bellsouth.net).

**Dining In:** Normally meets monthly on the first Friday. 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 the third Tuesday. For more information about this group, contact Susan Hoke at (407-637-6857) or [shoke5581@gmail.com](mailto:shoke5581@gmail.com)

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** ECF tour of the Indian Temple in April has been canceled due to the spread of the Corona virus. To be added to the contact list, please contact Temp. Chair Linda Fessel at [lfessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:lfessel@embarqmail.com).

**Foreign Affairs:** Foreign Affairs meets at members' homes on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. For more information contact D. Fuentes, chair. [Tucu662@gmail.com](mailto:Tucu662@gmail.com)

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

**Lunching Out:** 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)

**MahJongg:** MahJonggers meet on Thursday, at 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse at Westminster Tower. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact Linda Fessel: [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com) or Karen Deo: [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)



Linda Dunlap shared this beautiful Winter Park tabebuia on Facebook—a reminder that even in the midst of the current darkness, people are eager to bring some brightness back into our lives to lift our spirits.



# APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>11 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII (Zoom)  <u>11:30 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	2  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	3	4
5  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	6  <u>11:30</u> Lunching Out	7  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	8  <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX  <b>Passover</b>	9  <u>11 a.m.</u> Exploring Central Fl.  <u>1 p.m.</u>	10  <b>Good Friday</b>	11
12  <b>Easter</b>	13  <u>10-1</u> Current Issues	14  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V	15	16  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	17  <u>10:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	18
19  <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	20	21	22  <b>Earth Day</b>	23  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	24  <b>Arbor Day</b>	25
26	27	28	29	30  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg		

As of March 27, all branch activities and interest groups have been canceled. Although highly unlikely, there is always a small chance that some groups which meet towards the end of the month might be able to meet.