



## Orlando \*\*\* Winter Park *THE TWIG*

### JULY 2020—SUMMER EDITION #2



#### From the President



During the last two years, AAUW has focused on economic security for women. AAUW publications have highlighted issues of economic insecurity among age, ethnic and racial groups. This simulation presented by the League of Women Voters as a "Hot Topic" takes a deeper look at systemic racism and economic issues affecting Black communities.

#### Register: Racial Wealth Gap Simulation - 8/12/2020

Please join us for our FREE Hot Topics next month—"Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation"—as we work together to better understand the racial bias in our governmental policies and step into the shoes of people of color as they strive for racial equity. This interactive online session will be delivered and facilitated by *Bread for the World* ([www.bread.org#BlackLivesMatter](http://www.bread.org#BlackLivesMatter)).

The simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth. It is a good first step for people unaware of structural inequality, a support tool for those who want a deeper understanding of structural inequality, and a source of information for experts who want to know the quantifiable economic impact of each policy that has widened today's racial hunger, income, and wealth divides.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*  
President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
Professor Emerita UCF

#### More Zoom meetings . . .

##### Judicial Forum with Seminole County Court Judge candidates

**July 20th 7:30pm-8:30pm**

JOIN US ON ZOOM



Moderator: Shannon Snedaker



##### PRIMARY CANDIDATES FORUM FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 9

Join us on Zoom

**July 27 7:30pm-8:30pm**



**MODERATOR:**  
**Marilyn Crotty**



Our "TWIG" has not lived up to its name. It keeps trying to become a "Branch." Honestly, who knew there would be so much to report during the normally quiet, lazy summer. (We're hoping we can get down to the "Leaf" before long. ed.)

## Open Positions on the Board 2020-2022

Please contact me if you are interested in one of these open appointed positions. A position can be shared as a 'Co'.

Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D. [lsieberman@gmail.com](mailto:lsieberman@gmail.com), 321-231-2007

### AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch: Public Policy Chair (Appointed Officer)

1. Represent AAUW's public policy priorities to elected and appointed officials, AAUW members, the public and the media.
2. Develop programs and events that publicize AAUW public policy priorities.
3. Coordinate with other community organizations in developing programs and events.
4. Periodically, write a column for the *Branchline* to inform the Branch membership of national, state and local activities.
5. Attend or report on State Legislature AAUW Lobby Days held in January.
6. Attend virtual meetings of the FL AAUW Public Policy Chairs.

### AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch: Public Relations/External Communications Chair (Appointed Officer)

1. Oversee and coordinate with other members' Branch communications to the public.
2. Be a member of the Committee on Social Media.
3. Post notices of Branch events.
4. Write or coordinate the publication of articles (e.g., Opinion Editorials, Letters to the Editor) and notices about Branch meetings, events and activities and AAUW priorities.

## GET OUT THE VOTE 2020

### Registration Deadlines

**Primary, Monday, July 20**  
**General Election, Monday, October 5**

### Voting Deadlines

**Primary, Early Voting, August 8-15**  
**Voting Day, August 18**

**General Election, Early Voting:**  
**September 26- October 1**  
**Voting Day, Tuesday, November 3**

### Mail-in-Ballots Sent

**40-33 days before the election day**

### Supervisors of Elections:

**Orange County 407-836-8683**  
**Seminole County 407-585-8683**

### ORANGE COUNTY

407-254-6598

[voter@ocfelections.com](mailto:voter@ocfelections.com)

or mail to:

Bill Cowles—Orange County Supervisor of Elections,  
P.O. Box 562001  
Orlando, FL 32856-2001

### SEMINOLE COUNTY

Chris Anderson, Seminole County Supervisor of Elections,  
Website to Register to Vote Online, Print Forms, Mail-in Ballot, Change Affiliation, Polling Places.

<https://www.voteseminole.org/register-to-vote#gsc.tab=0>

### Call for Committee Members:

Come join these extraordinary committees and make a difference!

#### #1 Committee on Relevance, Diversity and Inclusion

Please contact **Committee Chair, Patricia Nichols**,  
peegeenichols@gmail.com 407-412-6019

What can our Branch do to become more aware of our implicit racial bias and reach out to become more relevant, inclusive and diverse?

#### Background:

AAUW has recently been criticized for its history and current priorities that emphasize issues most salient and beneficial to White women because we are largely an organization of White, middle class, college degreed women. We continue to see gender as the limitation with little regard for advocacy acknowledging the intersectionality of race, ethnicity and gender. Yes, all women have benefited from some areas championed by AAUW; for example, all women can no longer be legally fired for getting pregnant (1978). However, the emphasis on salary negotiation in Start Smart and Get Smart programs has ignored the realities that the majority of Black women and other women of color are employed in jobs that do not allow for personal negotiations. An emphasis on Living Wage legislation would have a greater influence on their economic welfare. Available on the [aauw-fl@aauw.net](mailto:aauw-fl@aauw.net): Summary: *Working Black Women in Florida and Economic Insecurity: A Story of Gender and Racial Inequality*. Full Report can be found on the Women's Economic Security page under the Advocacy tab.

The following is helpful from the AAUW Nashville Branch:

**Listening:** Many Black and Brown people are in enormous despair. Listen when they speak—without expecting them to work for the benefit of your learning.

**Learning:** Start with the recent Washington Post article by 2016–17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. Also consider Racism 101: Understanding Race and Racism and review this resource list that compiles other anti-racist articles,

books, movies and podcasts.

**Speaking Up:** After you listen and learn, talk about these issues to members of your community—both in public forums and private conversations—and call out racism when you see it. Some of AAUW's mission areas that disproportionately affect Black women and their families are student-loan debt, pay inequity and the lack of a livable minimum wage—all part of AAUW's 2020 Gender Agenda you can speak out about.

#### #2 Committee on Social Media

Please contact **Committee Co-Chairs: Hanna Kruczek, Ph.D.**, [hkruczek@gmail.com](mailto:hkruczek@gmail.com), 407-290-9479 or **Elizabeth Powers-Byrd**, [epowrsbyrd@aol.com](mailto:epowrsbyrd@aol.com), 856-906-7571

What should our Branch do regarding social media to become more visible, promulgate our public policy issues (e.g., economic security, Get Out The Vote, protect Title IX, leadership) that would attract individuals to our programs and increase our membership?

#### Background:

I realized after two Zoom meeting on social media, a few results from our survey, and a number of conversations that the issues are complex and can be costly. Should we have a social media presence at all? Should we have our own or just send material to AAUW-FL to post on their sites? Which platforms—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tik Tok, LinkedIn, etc.? Who is our audience? What is the content? How frequently do we post? Who is in charge for content (some from AAUW national and FL), posting and monitoring replies, monitoring use = our reach to assess a return on our investment? How much are we willing to pay for professional help? What hashtags and links are most successful? Can we get influencers who already have followers? Can we get people to do things and complete tasks (questionnaires, register to vote, become a member)? Should we have virtual events? And so many more issues! Both FL AAUW and National AAUW are willing to help Branches with social media.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*

President AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
Professor Emerita UCF

The questions posed last month regarding our branch's communications in the 21st century did not garner many responses. We are repeating the questions with the hope that more of you will take the time to respond. Thank you to the few who did.

1. How important do you feel it is that our Branch should have an up-to-date presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. It does take a commitment to keep the content current, and we may need to hire someone to do this. AAUW National and AAUW-FL are already established on social media.  
A. Very Important/Important B. Not Important C. Not sure
2. How important is it that our Branch members partner with other groups such as the League of Women Voters to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) with voter registration and education?  
A. Very Important/Important B. Not Important C. Not sure
3. How important is it that we work toward increasing diversity in our Branch? One suggestion was to have a panel of past and current minority members discuss ways to be more welcoming and inclusive. Other activities have also been suggested.  
A. Very Important/Important B. Not Important C. Not sure
4. The reality is that we may not be able to meet face-to-face for many months. If this happens, how desirable would it be to have speakers, panels, and the monthly business meeting on

ZOOM on our usual Saturday morning schedule? An alternative is email and website posting of important Branch business. The Branchline would continue to be published.

A. Very Important/Important B. Not Important C. Not sure

5. In addition to, or as a replacement for, a Zoom meeting, should we videotape our speakers (with their permission) along with business meetings and have those available for viewing anytime on youtube? How desirable is this option? An alternative is email and website posting of important Branch business. The Branchline would continue to be published.

A. Very Important/Important B. Not Important C. Not sure

6. Other Comments? \_\_\_\_\_

*Send an email to Leslie with just 5 letters—one for each question— plus any other comments you wish to make.*

321-231-2007 lsieberman@gmail.com

Are you a Zoomer (Zoomarian, Zoomite) yet? If not, you need to read the following and join the fun.

Booklovers discussions, planning meetings, board meetings, and so much more. I must admit to being a bit reluctant at first, thinking that perhaps the Internet visits wouldn't be as interactive or enjoyable as meeting in person. How wrong I was!

All over the world, people are using Zoom as a way to connect with others who have something to share with one

another. I love being able to participate while in the comfort of my home. With the travel time so short and the dress code very casual, what's not to like?!

The platform is designed for easy use by individuals who are not tech geniuses or have not used their technology this way before. So, if you can talk on the phone, you can use Zoom on your tablet, computer, or cell phone.

Hope to see you soon on Zoom!

*Anne Coppenhaver*

### Zoom easy directions

1. Register for the meeting you want from your gmail or text messages.
2. You will receive a link.
3. When you click the "Join Zoom Meeting" link, an online browser window will open and you will be prompted to download and launch Zoom. Follow these prompts and allow Zoom to run on your computer. (You only need to do this the first time. Once you've downloaded Zoom, you do not have to do it again.)
4. Enter your name in the pop-up box and click "Join Meeting."
5. You can join with or without video depending on the meeting and if you want people to see you. Bad hair day? Click "Join WITHOUT Video" if you do not want people to see you.

6. Next, an audio box will appear. Select "Join with Computer Audio."
7. Often you are asked to turn off your video and mute your microphone so that your audio does not echo over the main speaker. In the bottom left corner of your screen are the microphone and camera icons.
8. If you experience any issues, you usually can go to the Chat icon on the bottom of your Zoom window to ask for help. The Chat feature is used for Questions & Answers.
9. Still feeling timid? Use your browser to search for YouTube Zoom Tutorials. There are hundreds.
10. Click "Leave" when the meeting is over.

Still having trouble? Contact **Anne Coppenhaver**: [ccoppenhaver@me.com](mailto:ccoppenhaver@me.com) or (832-704-2854) and we'll find an AAUW helper to walk/talk you through it.



We asked you to comment on how you were dealing (or not dealing) with the current crisis. Here are some of the responses we received.

*Have you ever been lonely  
With nothing to do but dream?  
When you want someone to talk to,  
Argue, chitchat, plan or scheme.*

*If you ever were lonely,  
With never a care at all,  
Then be thankful for the blessing  
That's within your very call.*

*For when you are lonely,  
With many a moment to spare  
You'll meet the one inside you,  
You didn't know was there.*

[My husband, Richard Poole, wrote this poem as a young man whilst living alone in a fishing shack, looking after salmon traps in Alaska. Appropriate for those in isolation in these times.

(Christine Brown)]

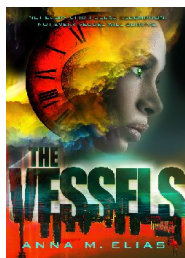
Well, I'm having a little 'whine' with my pandemic today. My life seems to constantly revolve around food management. Food is no longer a source of yummy joy in my life, but more like a never-ending 'in-box'! So tired of spending hours tediously shopping online for food, dealing with bags arriving on the doorstep, sometimes at inconvenient times with stuff packed poorly/shopper errors (who puts raw meat in same bag with apples?!). Then have to disinfect everything or wrap in plastic wrap or foil or take out of packages and put in new containers, etc. Then still have to prepare food and cook and clean up. And takeout is same problem. Have to go out and maneuver with other humans to pickup food, carefully remove food and dispose of multiple containers, reheat food in oven hopefully without ruining it (microwave isn't really reliable for killing Covid germs) and always some cleanup - not like the good old

## Tidbits From the Email Bag

days of carefree in-restaurant dining. Not to mention the still time consuming search for elusive disinfectants, gloves, masks, etc.

[Insert crazed scream here!]  
Wait, I think I've had TOO much 'whine' now! Time to go back to counting my blessings! We have plenty of food and total strangers will bring us more on demand for a mere tip. Guess life is pretty good after all! Think I'll make some popcorn. Yum!

Anon.



[It is my pleasure to add Anna Elias to the list of published authors from our Branch. We wish her the best with *the Vessels* and all future literary endeavors. ed.]

"I am a relatively new member, thanks to neighbor and friend Rosemary Vendena, and I have some exciting news to share.

"My debut fiction novel, just published on Tuesday, July 14, through Vesuvian Media Group. The book is relevant and timely with themes of unconditional love, forgiveness, acceptance and breaking down barriers that divide us.

"I worked for many years in production on TV Shows like *Miami Vice* and *In the Heat of the Night*, and on studio films like *Nell*, *A Time to Kill* and *My Dog Skip*. I've since been writing spec and paid scripts. This is my first novel.

*The Vessels* is a Sci-Fi Supernatural Thriller, currently on a virtual blog tour, and has received some positive reviews from Midwest Book Review and more. Here is a link to share online: <https://books2read.com/TheVessels>."

Up until a few days ago, I could still say that I didn't know anyone who had Covid-19. It brought some level of comfort knowing that I was well within the category of 6 degrees of separation. That changed upon learning of the death of Florence Crawford from Covid-19. Florence had been a member of our branch for several years and was a frequent participant in the Foreign Film group.

### Florence E. Crawford



Florence E. Crawford, of Lake Mary, FL, passed away due to Corona Virus at Advent Health Hospice, Orlando, FL, on July 11, 2020.

She enjoyed a successful career as an Air Force officer and as a dedicated teacher, retiring from Teague Middle School, Altamonte Springs, FL. Florence was an artist, teacher, mentor and friend

to many. She received her BA degree from Monmouth College, W. Long Branch, NJ and following retirement from the USAF, she earned her master's degree while living in Tennessee.

Born in New York City, NY, on November 30, 1943, Florence is predeceased by her parents, Robert J. Dalton Sr. and Florence E. Dalton, her husband, Lt. Richard LaQuerre (USAF), and her husband, Maj. Robin M. (Bob) Crawford (USAF, Ret.).

Together, Florence and Bob raised their four children, Robin, Joseph, Anne, and James at various Air Force locations and after retirement, in Cookeville, TN. She is survived by her children and nine grandchildren as well as her sisters, Veronica Barrett, Longwood, FL, Leslie Hopper, Menands, NY, and Robert J. Dalton, Jr., Tinton Falls, NJ, her dear aunt, Marjorie Regan and her special uncle, John (Jack) Ervin. Additionally, she is survived by many, many loving cousins and friends in both New Jersey and Florida. Some who were especially kind were Mary Regan Benson, Anne Regan Fanelli, Kathy Regan, Anita Nelson, Colleen Roses, Fred Bates, Briane Zadlock, and dear friend Carolyn Halvorsen.

Services are Private. Arrangements under the direction of DeGusipe Funeral Home, Maitland, FL [www.degusipe.com](http://www.degusipe.com)

Please sign guestbook on [www.orlandosentinel.com/obituaries](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/obituaries)



It's called **reading**.  
It's how people install new software into their brains.



## VP Membership

Ladies,

These past several months have proven a boon to those who harbor the procrastination gene—or IDIOT (“I’ll do it—okay—tomorrow”)—the new mantra for millions of us. But there is one item you need to move from your procrastination list to your “I’d better do this now” list.

It’s hard to believe that we are now in July which means that AAUW’s new fiscal year has already begun. Those members who do not renew will have their names removed from National’s database as well as our own. But before that happens, Phyllis Hall, our Finance Director, has agreed to continue accepting late dues. So push

yourself away from that Netflix program (it’ll still be there tomorrow!) and don’t procrastinate any longer.

Please send a check for \$85 to:

AAUW Orlando/Winter Park  
Phyllis Hall  
481 Forest Court  
Altamonte Springs, 32714.

Even though we are not able to see each other in person and most of our interest groups have been put on hold or moved to Zoom, remember that what we believe in and the goals we fight for are as important as ever.

Thank you to all the members who have already sent in their dues.

**Maria Bonnet**

V.P. Membership



## PACE REPORT

*Karen Buchan*

### COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT



In response to the Covid-19 global health crisis, 21 Pace centers across the state were able to transition nearly

**2,000 GIRLS** **100%** innovative learning



**1,700+**  
laptops deployed

**96%**  
attended  
academic classes

**80%**  
received weekly counseling,  
case management and therapy

**251 families**  
received deliveries of  
food, water, cleaning  
and hygiene supplies

more than  
**900** donors stepped up to help  
our girls during this historic  
challenge – **Thank you!**



### 87 Girls Served

87 at-risk girls and their families received free wrap-around counseling and academic support.



### 5,000 Counseling Hours

Girls received counseling services from trained mental health professionals to help them heal and grow.



### 15,000 Educational Hours

Girls received personalized academic support from certified teachers trained in trauma-informed, strengths-based and gender-responsive methods.



### 60% of Families Accessed the Pace Food Pantry

The Pace food pantry is entirely community supported. Due to the pandemic, Pace experienced a rise in need from our families. Thank you for making sure our girls and their families never went to bed hungry.



### 40% of Girls Accessed Technology Support

Due to Covid-19, 40% of our girls were left disconnected. With your help, technology resources were provided for all Pace families in need to support online learning and keep students connected to their counselors when they needed them most.



### 81% of Pace Girls Improved Academically

Small class sizes and trained caring teachers supported by mental health professionals gave girls an opportunity to get back on track in the classroom at a higher rate than the national average.



### 6 Girls Graduated!

6 resilient Pace girls accomplished their goals and graduated high school!





History Repeats itself. This poem, written in 1869, was reprinted during the 1919 pandemic . . . and again 100 years later.

### This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.



After completing her term, Joan Liberman has stepped down as Interest Group Chair. **Anne Coppenhaver** has agreed to take on the position, so when your group has something to report, let Anne know.

### EXPLORING CENTRAL FLORIDA

met via Zoom on Thursday, July 9, at 2 p.m. to discuss future excursions. Those in attendance have chosen a nice variety of venues to explore.

You must contact Christine if you want to remain on the ECF contact list for 2020-2021. Please confirm your continued interest by emailing or phoning Christine Porter.

248-504-9879

portercl7166@gmail.com.

We have a number of local outdoor social distancing options to choose from for the next year in addition to some exciting possibilities once it is safe to resume "normal" life.

Maggie Kinst reports that **Booklovers V** has been meeting via Zoom since March and decided to get together on **July 21** to discuss the *Giver of Stars*.

**Booklovers Lite** will discuss John Grisham's *The Guardians* at their second Zoom discussion on **Wednesday, July 22 at 1 p.m.**

From "We Are Our Mothers' Daughters," by Cokie Roberts, Revised and Expanded Edition, 2009. "Consumer Advocate" Chapter, p. 262.

President Johnson created the Consumer Affairs Bureau and named Esther Peterson the first director. "As soon as the President announced her job, the letters from irate customers started pouring in at the rate of about a hundred and fifty a day. But she found that there was no real commitment to the cause in the White House, that she had no staff and no budget. So what did she do? Called on women to volunteer to help her – the League of Women Voters, the Consumers League, and the **American Association of University Women** – to sort through the mail by subject matter. And then she took on the tough topics of food labels and packaging."

[Booklovers read this book several years ago. Submitted by Karen Buchan who spotted the reference to AAUW.]

### CALENDAR

Mon., July 20, 7:30—8:30 p.m.—Seminole County Court Judge Candidates (ZOOM)

Mon., July 20 —Primary registration deadline

Tues., July 21—Booklovers V (ZOOM)

Wed., July 22-- Booklovers Lite 1 p.m. (ZOOM)

Mon., July 27, 7:30 —8:30 p.m.—Forum for State Senate Candidates; 9th District (ZOOM)

Wed. July 29—Seminole County Commissioners, Districts 1,3,5

Mon. August 3 —Schol Board Members, District 3

Mon., August 10—Board Meeting 1-3 p.m.

All members are invited to attend (ZOOM)

Sat. Aug. 8 to Sat. Aug. 15—early voting for Primary

Wed., August 12 — Racial Wealth Gap Simulation

**Tuesday, August 18 —Primary Election In Florida**

**Contact the League of Women Voters Seminole County**  
**lwwseminole@lwwseminole.org** for registration and invitation to Zoom forums.

It's anyone's guess if we'll be able to meet in the fall. But your program committee would still like to bring in speakers. This Zooming thing has suddenly opened up the whole world to us. We don't need to find speakers in our own backyard. If you know someone who could speak to us via Zoom (from any zip code or time zone), please contact Program Chair Karen Gillett. They could pick their own day, date, and time but would have to provide their own coffee.