



## Orlando \*\*\* Winter Park Branchline

### MARCH PROGRAM

**Speaker: Anna M. Elias**



Author Anna Elias is a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Production. She is also a member of our AAUW branch.

Anna began her career as Don Johnson's assistant on *Miami Vice* then moved on to major feature films such as *Nell*, *The Rainmaker*, the *Client*, *12 Monkeys*, *A Time to*

*Kill* and *Practical Magic*. She has written and co-written spec films, TV scripts, and award-winning shorts. Anna's passion for justice translates to her work. On the set of John Grisham's *A Time to Kill*, Canton Mississippi had just suffered a great racial hardship and division in a mayoral race. With Anna's encouragement, the movie crew made extra efforts to befriend, buy from, and work with the townspeople, and it served to break down walls of inequality and injustice that had divided the town for decades. This impact was so positive that Dan Rather traveled there to tape a two-part special for *48-Hours*. Anna's desire for fairness and justice are also at the heart of her writing. Her works are varied and entertaining, but always have a seed of social relevance inside.

Anna's debut novel, *The Vessels* is a supernatural thriller, emotionally compelling and complex, conjuring a world in which the living can become Vessels for the spirits of the dead. The *Vessels* program purports to do good by allowing spirits the chance to right the wrongs they committed in life but only have seven days to succeed – and survive. Every spirit has the chance to atone, no matter what hurt or harm they caused in their mortal life. Elias challenges her readers' ideas about forgiveness, an especially timely topic amid today's brutal cancel culture. Emotionally compelling and complex, *The Vessels* reminds readers of the power in their connection to others.

Continued next page . . .

### VIRTUAL LITERARY LUNCHEON

**Saturday**

**March 13, 2021**

**Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Place: Your couch, chair, bed**

**Cost: \$ ??**

The cost of past literary luncheons was \$45. This year, the cost is zero.

However, as this is our major scholarship fundraiser, we hope you will consider donating that same \$45 so we may continue offering scholarships to deserving applicants.

See below for information on where to send your checks.

This event will be brought to you by ZOOM.

For personal one-on-one Zoom instruction, call Maria Bonnet or Linda Fessel.

You will receive your email invitation about one week before the Virtual Literary Luncheon.

DO NOT click on the http address until the morning of the meeting.

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Make your checks out to  
"AAUW Orlando/Winter Park"  
send them to  
Ginny Gillmer  
588 Citrus  
Oviedo, FL 32765

### Book I of *The Vessels* Trilogy and planned TV series

What if you could come back after death to set things right? What if you could help those who've passed get a second chance---but at the risk of your own life?

Four broken strangers volunteer to become the first humans to join the International Vessels Program. They will host spirits who seek to right past wrongs. Disguised inside a homeless shelter in Reno, the program is facilitated by a retired Army officer, a former ER doctor, and a tech-savvy teen who tracks spirits once they've merged with their Vessels through an ancient tribal ritual.

The Vessels only have seven days to succeed and survive. But when the vengeful spirits of a serial killer enters one of them, they learn that not every spirit seeks redemption. Not every vessel will survive.

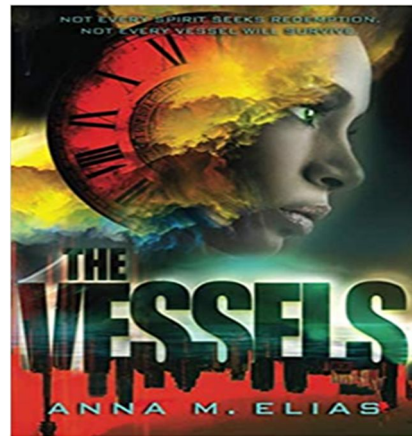
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*Funds raised from this virtual event will maintain our local Branch scholarship funds. Traditionally, ticket sale proceeds from past literary luncheons funded National AAUW educational programs while the proceeds from our 50/50 opportunity and silent auction supported our local Branch scholarships. In order to maintain our Branch scholarship funds, we are asking members to donate, if possible, last year's cost of the literary luncheon which was \$45.00. Please send your check to Ginny Gillmer.*

*Please make every effort to support our Branch's only fundraiser, and demonstrate your personal appreciation for the value of education for women and girls by contributing to this virtual event. All proceeds go to a very worthy cause—maintaining our local scholarship funds and enabling AAUW to continue its mission.*

### Advance Book Sales

Since many of you enjoy reading the book prior to hearing the speaker, you may purchase a signed copy of *The Vessels* directly from the author for \$18. Please send your check to Anna Elias at 315 Isle of Sky Circle, Orlando, FL 32828. *The Vessels* is also available for sale on Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Anna Elias is generously offering our branch 10% of any book sales from her virtual presentation in March. This offer includes online sales as well as direct sales from the author or through purchase at the Writer's Block.

Submitted by Myra Gaziano



The Vessels on a Times Square Marquee

### What critics are saying:

"Elias has crafted a serial killer thriller novel like nothing I've ever read before—a high quality, unputdownable novel. I would highly recommend *The Vessels* to any supernatural thriller fan looking for their next captivating read." - **Readers' Favorite**

"...a blend of murder mystery, spiritual travelogue, and thought-provoking thriller...fast-paced, emotionally compelling and hard to put down." - **Midwest Book Review**

"This unique novel mixes social commentary, Native American mysticism, the power of love and forgiveness, and ghostly spirits. This Gothic speculative tale will appeal to science fiction and horror fans alike." - **Booklist**

## From the President



Dear Branch Members,  
The editor asked me to truncate the column yet implant some seeds of information that can blossom into fruitful actions. So, March = Women's History Month + International Women's Day.

A little more—It is the month when we formally celebrate women's contributions to history, culture and society. Its origins are in California in 1978; then-President Jimmy Carter declared a week-long celebration in 1980 and, six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to a month. It has been observed annually since 1987.

Please check newspapers and social media sites for events, and do not forget our annual celebration of women authors on March 13 via Zoom from 10-11:30 a.m. Anna Elias, author of *The Vessels*, will be our speaker at this Virtual Literary Luncheon and Scholarship Fund-Raising event.

Women's History Month focuses on US women, but there is also International Women's Day, March 8, a day that is celebrated around the world. After four years of political policies fostering social isolation, America has once again embraced its role in a number of multinational groups and activities. Let's join this celebration focused on contemporary and future social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It is a call-to-action for accelerating gender equality and equity. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2021 is *Choose To Challenge*. "A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes change." Women are asked to point out acts of inequality, lobby appropriate groups, establish strategic collaborations and fund

female-focused non-profits to achieve gender parity. You might want to wear purple because it signifies justice and dignity." The International Women's Day (IWD) website ([www.internationalwomensday.org](http://www.internationalwomensday.org)) provides:

- ◆ a searchable IWD events database
- ◆ a platform for collaborative purpose-driven missions
- ◆ a hub showcasing the work of women creatives
- ◆ a speakers register for IWD event managers
- ◆ a women-owned business IWD supplier directory
- ◆ a fundraising channel for female-focused charities (100% direct to charity)

AAUW is a force for change that celebrates individual and collective action for equity.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
Professor Emerita UCF

See more from Leslie next page . . .



## Scholarships

The deadline is March 1! So far I have received 12 scholarship applications, almost all from UCF students enrolled in various areas of science. Our committee will be reviewing these during March and notifying all appli-

cants around April 1.

The application is on our website and applications can be emailed to Karen Buchan ([kbg@unknownegg.org](mailto:kbg@unknownegg.org)).

*Karen Buchan*

## Florida Poly celebrates International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Feb. 12, 2021 Erica Johnson

*[Our Branch is partnering with FL Polytechnic University (FPU). Following is a PR write-up on my contribution to the daylong conference—International Day of Women and Girls in Science.]*

The possibilities for girls and women who choose to pursue careers in science were on full display on Thursday, Feb. 11, at a daylong virtual event celebrating International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Florida Polytechnic University.

Educators, industry professionals, and STEM advocates led interactive online sessions for a live audience of interested high school and University students and others from across the community.

“I argue that women need to be absolutely intrepid, fearless, and going boldly where few women have gone before, much like Goldilocks going into the house of bears,” said **event speaker Dr. Leslie Sue Lieberman**, president of the Orlando and Winter Park Branch of the American Association of University Women and professor emerita at the University of Central Florida.

The event, which was hosted by THRIVE, featured nine speaker sessions discussing topics such as engaging girls in STEM, why there are no famous women engineers, and a roundtable discussion with Florida Poly students. Lieberman discussed the historic and often unseen con-

tributions of women in engineering, as well as the effects of bias in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

“I think we’re moving the needle in a variety of different ways,” Lieberman said. “These implicit biases are becoming more well-known and people can guard against them once they become conscious issues.”

Lakecia Gunter, vice president and general manager of IOT global and strategic engagement at Microsoft, spoke about her career path, progressing to her current position as a Fortune 50 business and tech executive and number 11 on Business Insider’s Top 26 Most Powerful Women Engineers list.

Gunter encouraged women and girls interested in pursuing a STEM path to use all the resources available to them to position themselves for professional success.

“Look for anything that gives you an opportunity to test your skills,” she said. “There’s always research competitions and opportunities to maybe do a prototype for an idea. Don’t be afraid to put your name in the hat, because the more exposure you have, the more competitive you will be and the more comfortable you will be coming into the workforce.”

[Submitted by Dr. Leslie Sue Lieberman]



FOR THE SECOND PART OF THIS QUARANTINE DO WE HAVE TO STAY WITH THE SAME FAMILY OR THEY'RE GOING TO RELOCATE US? ASKING FOR A FRIEND

If these last months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet, particularly among politicians and bureaucrats.

## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS -- ORANGE

Many thanks to AAUW Booklovers from the girls at PACE. Ms. Clayton, the English teacher, asked us for some current books that appeal to and intrigue teen-age girls. She gave us a list of 21 books and Booklovers approved the purchase of them all. Some interesting titles are *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, *You Should See Me in a Crown*, *Monster*, and *Sisters of Isis*. All these books should interest the girls and tempt them into reading for pleasure. Booklovers has a long history of providing books for PACE; thanks for doing it once again.

THANK YOU!

*Pat Stamm and Anne Landrum*



### SAVE THE DATE

PACE Center for Girls – Orange  
Believing in Girls Annual Breakfast  
Tuesday, March 30, 2021  
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Citrus Club-Downtown Orlando

Note: This breakfast was canceled last year. It is PACE's major fund-raiser.

Please plan to attend if you feel comfortable; there will be social distancing at the tables. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ATTEND.

If you cannot be there in person, please consider making a contribution. They should be made out to PACE Center for Girls, Inc. – Orange and can be sent to me.

I have already received some generous contributions; it is not too late to make yours. Every dollar helps a girl in need reach her full potential and become a successful woman!

Contact Karen Buchan for more information or to make a reservation.

AAUW is a \$1,000 "Create Partnerships" breakfast sponsor and there will be an AAUW table.

For the girls, *Karen Buchan*  
AAUW Representative to the  
PACE Orange Board of Directors

## VP Membership



*Maria Bonnet*



*Elizabeth Powers-Byrd*

It's time to renew our memberships! Here is the info and where to send the check since we can't hand it to Phyllis in person right now.

### Here's the info for renewals for this year:

**\$88** (National \$62; State \$12; Chapter \$14)  
**\$26** **Life members** (\$12 state; \$14 chapter)

### Deadline June 30!!

Make check to: "AAUW-Orlando/Winter Park"

#### Mail check to:

Phyllis Hall  
481 Forest Court  
Altamonte Springs 32714

**\$57** **New Member**

If someone joins as a result of attending a meeting, they get 50% off the National dues so their initial dues would be: **\$57** (\$31 National; \$12 state; \$14 chapter)

# Interest Groups



Contact Anne Coppenhaver if you have any questions about our interest groups. Her contact information is 832-704-2854 (cell) or ccoppenhaver@me.com

*Anne Coppenhaver*

Interest Group Chair

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### Booklovers:

Will March come in like a lamb or a lion? What's most important is that it's coming in and we are reading about Florida. Most groups are reading *A Florida State of Mind* by James D. Wright. Booklovers VII will read *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout.

The new Book Ballot is out and has a list of many enticing reads. Booklover Groups will be discussing it in their March meetings, so please take time to print it out and decide what you would like to read. Please choose one book from each genre: fiction, autobiography/biography/memoir, nonfiction, classics, and historical fiction. Vote for a minimum of eleven books and a maximum of as many as you wish. Instructions for completing the ballot are printed in the ballot. Happy Selections. Please get them in on time.

*Ellen James*

Booklovers Coordinator

**Cooking Globally:** Will not meet until it is safe to do so. For more information, contact Adrienne Katz at katzaid@yahoo.com

**Couples Dining Party** (Formerly Dining Couples) will not meet until it is safe to do so. For more information, contact Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703.

**Current Issues:** Has not been meeting. If you have any questions about this group, contact Marcy Kysilka at kysilka@bellsouth.net or 321-972-5315

**Dining In:** The Dining In group will meet on Zoom on March 5 at 12 p.m. The hostess will be Ginny Gillmer. The theme will be "bean recipes." Contact Jane Rosen for information about this group: 321-295-7689 or mjcrossen@hotmail.com.

**Dining Out (at night):** Dining Out will not meet until it is safe to do so.

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** ECP visits the azaleas in Winter Park on Thursday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m. See details on the calendar page. To be added to the contact list, please contact co-chairs Linda Fessel (407-376-9410) at lfessel@embarqmail.com. or Christine Porter (248-504-9879) at portercl7166@gmail.com. You MUST contact Linda or Christine to get on the new list.

**Foreign Affairs:** The Foreign Affairs group will meet, via Zoom, on March 28 at 2 p.m. The topic of our discussion will be: "Brexit and the European Union." Hanna Kruczek will moderate the discussion. For more information, contact D. Fuentes at tucu662@gmail.com or 407-310-1154

**Foreign Films:** Foreign Films will not meet until it is safe to do so. For more information about place, time, and location (or to be added to the email list), contact Linda Fessel at LFessel@embarqmail.com

**Lunching Out:** Will not meet until it is safe to do so. For more information about place, time, and location (or to be added to the email list), contact Linda Fessel at LFessel@embarqmail.com

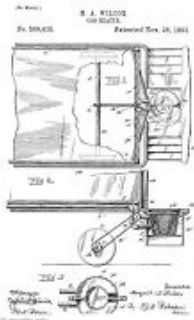
**MahJongg:** For more information, contact Linda Fessel: LFessel@embarqmail.com or Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

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## Women's History Year

Every year we discover more and more names of women who deserve to be remembered during Women's History Month. With so many women to be honored, and limited space in which to do it, we decided that women should be celebrated for more than one month out of the year. So the Branchline will present a few each month in a section entitled *Women's History Year*.



### The Car Heater

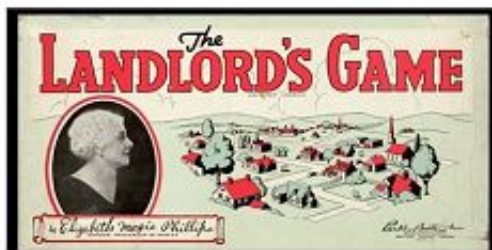
**Margaret A Wilcox** invented the car heater in 1893!

It made driving easy in foggy and frigid weather by keeping windows mist free and also maintained the car interior at chosen temperatures, making the driving experience more comfortable and safer.

Margaret also invented a combined clothes and dishwasher.

[*Now that we'd like to see! ed.*]

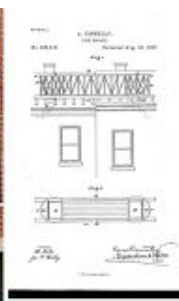
### Monopoly



This popular board game was designed by **Elizabeth Magie** in 1904, originally called the Landlord's Game.

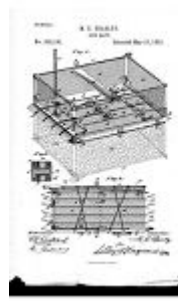
The purpose of this game was to expose the injustices of unchecked capitalism. Her game was ripped off by Charles Darrow who sold it to Parker Brother's 30 years later. However Parker Brothers later paid Elizabeth \$500 for her game. Gee, thanks!

### The Fire Escape



In 1887, in an effort to prevent the deaths of many living in multi-story buildings, **Anna Connelly** patented the exterior fire escape. This invention was actually a fire escape bridge that was surrounded by railings and with openings at the ends. Connelly's innovative idea allowed for the safe escape from one building to the next in the event there was a fire.

### The Life Raft



**Maria Beasley**: One of Beasley's inventions that surely impacted her own life and others was her barrel making machine, which was patented in 1878 as her first patented invention. Her barrel making machine earned her "an unprecedented payday of over \$20,000 a year," which would translate to well over \$450,000 today. Beasley's design for the life raft was patented in 1882 and would save many lives.

# MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII <b>ZOOM</b> <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX <b>ZOOM</b> <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II <b>ZOOM</b> <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII <b>ZOOM</b>	4	5 <u>12 noon</u> Dining In <b>ZOOM</b>	6
7	8 International Women's Day	9 <u>3 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI <b>ZOOM</b>	10 <u>1:30—3</u> Board Meeting <b>ZOOM</b>	11 <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Exploring Central FL * <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X <b>ZOOM</b>	12	13 <u>10 a.m.</u> <b>VIRTUAL LITERARY LUNCHEON</b>
14 Spring Ahead For Daylight Saving Time	15	16 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V <b>ZOOM</b>	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18	19 <u>10:30</u> B-Lovers IV <b>ZOOM</b>	20
21	22	23	24 <u>1 p.m.</u> Booklovers III ("Lite")	25	26	27 Passover begins at sundown
28 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs <b>ZOOM</b> Palm Sunday	29	30	31			



**\* Exploring Central Florida (Event 2)**

**March 11, 2021 10:30 a.m.**

**Kraft Azalea Garden, Winter Park**

Come join us at the Kraft Azalea Garden at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 11. The azaleas should be beautiful this time of year. The garden is located at 365 Alabama Drive in Winter Park.

This 5.22-acre public garden is located on the shore of Lake Maitland and is open year-round from 8 a.m. until dusk. Lakefront, secluded, and unique, Kraft Azalea is Winter

Park's secret garden! This beautiful park is shaded by enormous cypress trees that add to the old Florida charm of the property. The park features the Exedra, pictured above. Bring your cameras and a picnic lunch if you choose. Let's follow CDC guidelines: even if you have been vaccinated, wear masks and maintain social distancing. Please RSVP to

Christine Porter (248- 504-9879) at [portercl7166@gmail.com](mailto:portercl7166@gmail.com). or

Linda Fessel (407-376-9410) at [LFESSEL@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFESSEL@embarqmail.com)