



Orlando * Winter Park
Branchline**

GUEST SPEAKER

Maureen Mikel



Maureen Mikel is the Corporate Partnerships Manager at Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Maureen grew up in the Longwood, FL area after her family relocated for warmer weather. Maureen graduated with a B.S. in Communications from the University of Central Florida and started her career in Promotions at Radio Disney in 2011. Through spearheading Radio Disney’s voluntEAR efforts, Maureen discovered her passion for Second Harvest and helping others and made the switch from planning events for the Mouse to planning events to help our neighbors in need at SHFBCF in 2014, which has been her most fulfilling life choice to date. In her free time, Maureen enjoys spending time with family and friends (particularly her two nephews and niece), traveling (especially to visit her family in Italy) and going to see live music. She currently resides in downtown Orlando and struggles daily to not adopt all the stray animals she sees on her commute to the Food Bank. So far she’s keeping it at bay with just two cat-sons, Walter and Oliver.

ty of Central Florida and started her career in Promotions at Radio Disney in 2011. Through spearheading Radio Disney’s voluntEAR efforts, Maureen discovered her passion for Second Harvest and helping others and made the switch from planning events for the Mouse to planning events to help our neighbors in need at SHFBCF in 2014, which has been her most fulfilling life choice to date. In her free time, Maureen enjoys spending time with family and friends (particularly her two nephews and niece), traveling (especially to visit her family in Italy) and going to see live music. She currently resides in downtown Orlando and struggles daily to not adopt all the stray animals she sees on her commute to the Food Bank. So far she’s keeping it at bay with just two cat-sons, Walter and Oliver.



GENERAL MEETING
Saturday
April 9, 2022
Time: 10 to 12 noon
First Congregational Church of W.P.
225 S. Interlachen Avenue, Winter Park

**You asked for it so
the full breakfast is back!**

**COST: \$18 (cash or check only
no credit cards accepted)**
Pay at the door or mail to
**Phyllis Hall, 481 Forest Court
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**
**(The cost covers food, room rental,
set-up, clean-up)**

Reservations required
You must RSVP no later than
Thursday, April 7
Contact Phyllis Hall
phylliscath814@gmail.com
Cell: 407-233-6181

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

April 15 is Income Tax Day, the day the *Titanic* sank, and the day Lincoln died.

It’s better to give than to receive—
it’s deductible.



The IRS had no choice but to simplify the instructions. I understand that last year 32% of the questions were answered, “Huh?”

From the President



It's April. It's tax time. AAUW has been a national voice for economic security for women: in research (e.g., *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*); education (e.g., STEM education, Start Smart); and advocacy (e.g., 2-Minute Activist, Action Fund, Equal Pay Days and

Congressional lobbying). National efforts have focused on legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act to close the gender pay gap, and provisions in the Build Back Better bill that would increase Child Care Credit, implement paid family, sick, and caregiving leaves, reduce student debt, institute further protection against sexual harassment in schools and workplaces and expand opportunities for women in STEM education and jobs.

Our taxes do pay for a number of programs that assist low-income women and children—for example, Medicaid, Supplemental Food and Nutrition Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). However, access limitations, work requirements, too short duration and adequacy of funding levels are issues that limit participation for some of the most needy women and their families. In 2021 there were approximately 10 million households with single parents with children under 18 years of age. About 80% of these were headed by women.

Taxes are a small, but important, part of the complex, gender-biased economic landscape. When the Child Tax Credit, instituted as a response to COVID, ended in December 2021, it added 3.7 million children to the 12 million living below the poverty level in 36 million households. Women account for a much higher number of Americans living below the poverty level—21 million women vs. 16 million men. However, the lowest-income families are excluded by the minimum earnings requirement and may not be paying any income taxes. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable federal tax credit available to people with low to moderate incomes and in 2018, 8.8 million women of color benefited from this tax credit. (www.americanprogressive.org/article/basic-facts-women-poverty)

Tax systems appear to be gender-blind but, in practice,

can hide implicit bias and exacerbate gender inequalities, particularly in times of crises such as job loss during the COVID pandemic. The hidden impacts of taxation are most visible in personal income taxation so that wealth accumulation for women continues to be threatened by labor-force participation patterns and gender gaps in income levels. Women are often considered the 2nd earners and their income is taxed at a higher rate at the same income level than single workers. In the US, this is about a 5% difference.

Consumption taxes on childcare and cleaning services may act as disincentives to enter or return to the work force as women decide to perform these functions themselves. Assuming these tasks increase women's burden of unpaid work.

Wishing you many deductibles this year.....

And as comedienne Paula Poundstone said: "The wages of sin are death, but after they take the taxes out, it's more like a tired feeling, really."

Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch
Professor Emerita UCF



"We're rather proud of that jar —
it's blood from a turnip."

APRILIS

The name of this month is thought to come from the Latin *aperire*, "to open," because this is the season when buds, windows, and umbrellas begin to open. During Nero's reign, it was called Neroneus, but as soon as everyone was sure the emperor was dead, the name was changed to April. Otherwise, Brown-ing would have written:

*Oh, to be in England,
Now that Neroneus is there.*

VP Membership



Please welcome our new members

Roswitha von Ehrenkrook
rveglass@hotmail.com
Mary Baldwin Univ., VA, B.S. Mgmt, 1992

Carol Foglesong
carol.foglesong@gmail.com
Sweet Briar College, B.A., Gov't, 1971

Myrna Ossin
archie_ossin@yahoo.com
U. of Wisconsin, Madison (Spanish, Dietetics)
UCF, (Teaching)

Susan Speicher
sspeicher@ix.netcom.com
UCF, M.A., English, 1988
Carnegie-Mellon Univ., B.A. English, 1963

It's time to renew your membership!

Membership renewal dues are \$88:
\$62 National
\$12 State
\$14 Chapter

Make check to AAUW Orlando-Winter Park
Mail to: Phyllis Hall
481 Forest Court
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

If you have already mailed your dues,
please disregard this message.

María Bonnet
V.P. Membership
marpazbonnet@gmail.com



Miracle Bag Day is an annual event that AAUW hosts in December for the girls at PACE Center for Girls Orange. Special events of that day are: craft projects, a delicious

brunch and special presents for each girl packed in "Miracle Bags." During one of the crafts (braiding yarn for key chains) several of the girls talked to the leader and said they would like to have an Art Club. Art however is not part of the PACE curriculum which is packed with academics and personal growth. One of the PACE counsellors volunteered to mentor an art club if they could get the supplies. AAUW to the rescue! Thanks to the generosity of AAUW members, we had money donated for the Miracle Bag Day which was not needed for that day so we were able to purchase the supplies needed for the art club. We look forward to supporting the creative energy of our PACE girls.

PACE receives contribution

Recently, Pace Center for Girls Orange was the recipient of a significant contribution. A fairly new local charitable organization, **Hope for More**, held a fund raising event

in February and the proceeds were designated for PACE. Staff, Board members and some of the girls attended the presentation of the **\$96,000.00 check** on March 22. The event was a non-Gala – no need to dress-up! It held at the BMW car dealer in Winter Park, outside, with food trucks, open bar, music, and the largest display of silent auction items I have ever seen! It was a cold night but it was a BLAST!! I attended with a past AAUW member, my son and his girlfriend, along with over 700 other partiers.

PACE Believing in Girls Annual Breakfast

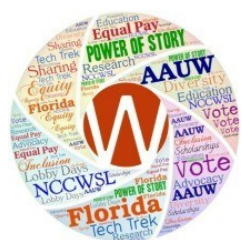
There is still time to reserve a place at the breakfast table. The Annual Breakfast will be held on Thursday, June 9, 8:00 am at the Citrus Club on the top floor of one of downtown Orlando's tallest buildings. The breakfast is always delicious, the program is inspiring and motivating and rewarding and the view outstanding. Tables are for nine and there is room for **you!**

For more information: Karen Buchan, 407-678-1212;
kgb@unknownegg.org.

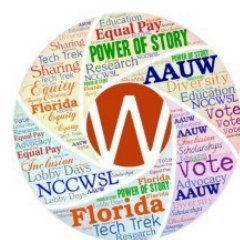
Karen Buchan

The State Convention was originally scheduled to be held right here in Orlando. Like so much else this year, thanks to Covid, the State Convention will now be virtual. Please take every opportunity to attend the meetings scheduled below.

2022 Convention/Annual Meeting



The Power of Story



April 1, 2, 3
Schedule

Friday, April 1

5:15 pm to 6:30 pm	Keynote Speaker: Michael Butler, PhD <i>Kenan Distinguished Professor of History, Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL</i> “Myth, Memory, and the Power of Story” – How the Lost Cause story of the Confederacy has been perpetuated. <i>Comments:</i> Jonnie Perry, AAUW FL Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee chair.
4:30 pm to 5 pm	Zoom Sign-in Sign-in. Social time Music.
5 pm	Introduction Patricia DeWitt, President, AAUW Florida

Saturday, April 2

10 am to 11 am	Mary Hickey, AAUW <i>Senior Director of Communications, AAUW</i> “Telling the AAUW Story” – Followed by a Q&A session on how to use story telling to effectively communicate an organization’s work .
11:10 am to 12:10 pm	Natalie, Underberg-Goode, PhD <i>Professor, Nicholson School of Communication and Media, University of Central Florida</i> “The Stories We Tell: Personal Narratives, Organizational Tales, and Digital Storytelling” – Personal narratives telling the organizational story of AAUW Florida.

Sunday, April 3

10 am to 10:45 am	Mary Gatta, PhD <i>Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers</i> “The Power of Story in Qualitative Research.”
11 am to 12:30 pm	Annual Meeting Presiding Officer: Patricia DeWitt, <i>President, AAUW Florida</i> Conduct state business. Meet candidates for state office. Town Hall

Interest Groups

Make sure to keep Linda Fessel informed as to what your interest group is planning so she can share your current and future events with everyone through the Branchline. Lfessel@Comcast.net

Booklovers

Most Booklovers are reading *Agent Zigzag* by Ben McIntyre and Booklovers VII are reading *The Swerve* by Steven Greenblatt. The book ballot has been circulated and the new list for next year will come out soon. Many thanks to Martha Williamson and her committee for her tenacious work in getting it together. Interested in joining a Booklovers Group? Contact Ellen James, Booklovers Coordinator, at Ellenjames54@gmail.com

Booklovers IV meets April 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m. at the Lake Mary Library. They will discuss *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

Booklovers VI will meet on April 11 at 3:30.

Booklovers Lite: Booklovers Lite meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 1 p.m. The reading list is independent from those of the other book groups. Booklovers Lite will meet on April 27 at 1 p.m. to discuss *The Widows of Malabar Hills*. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com

Couples Dining Party (Formerly Dining Couples) For more information, contact Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703.

Dining In: Meets April 1 at noon at the home of Adrienne Katz. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcrozen@hotmail.com.

Dining Out (at night): Dining Out is looking for a new leader. Contact President Leslie Lieberman if you would like to chair or co-chair this group.

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): On Tuesday, April 26, Exploring Central Florida tours a hidden gem in the nearby town of DeBary. We'll step back into the 1870's as we approach historic DeBary Hall. Following the tour, we'll head to the Swamp House Riverfront Grill on the St. Johns River. More details will be sent to those who RSVP. If you would like to take part in this tour,

Please contact Karen Gillett before April 18

karen555g@hotmail.com
407-252-3169

Foreign Affairs: The Foreign Affairs Group will meet on Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. We will discuss "Outer Space." KarenDeo will moderate the discussion. For more information, contact D. Fuentes at tucu662@gmail.com. or 407-310-1154.

Foreign Films: Foreign Films is looking for a new leader. Contact President Leslie Lieberman if you would like to chair this group. lsieberman@gmail.com

Global Dining: See box below. For more information, contact Adrienne Katz at katzaid@yahoo.com

Lunching Out: Save the date. Lunching out will meet at 11:30 on Friday, April 29. The group will be sent more information about the location of our next non-chain eatery as soon as arrangements are finalized. Contact Linda to be added to the list: Lfessel@Comcast.net

Are you ready to resurrect Global Dining, aka "International Cooking," and "Cooking Globally?"

I'm ready if you are! We have set Wednesday, April 20 at 5 p.m. as our RE-START date at Club 24, at 1824 Summerfield Rd. Please respond as soon as you receive this message!

At our gathering, we can determine if this is a convenient day and time for most of you. We also can take an email vote if there's a day of the week that is better. I'll send driving directions if you need them.

We'll ease back into our themed cooking by asking to bring one of "YOUR Favorite Things to Cook." Since we'll still be in the holiday season for Easter and Passover, you could bring a family favorite for your holiday meals, or any dish that you enjoy making. Please bring your recipes to share.

I am making either Bananas Foster or Cherries Jubilee-or both! Please tell me your preference, and I'll go with the majority.

We all know how much we longed for fun activities outside of our own homes (for over two years!) Here's your opportunity to expand your cooking repertoire and enjoy the company of like-minded friends.

Please respond to let me know "if you're IN!" If you have other AAUW friends to include, feel free to forward this message and add their names. (Photo next page)

Cordially, Adrienne Katz Katz

FROM OUR MEMBERS



After a long hiatus, Cooking Globally is getting ready to fire up the burners once more. Which International foods will they select this year? If you'd like to share in the upcoming culinary extravaganzas, contact Adrienne Katz at katzaid@yahoo.com to join the party.



The Mahjongg Group celebrated Geri Ossana's 87th birthday. New centenarian Pearl Steele looks on with the rest of the Mahjonggers.



Thanks to Covid, this group of six finally got to Dubsdread to celebrate four belated birthdays:



Orlando/Winter Park Branch Policy Regarding COVID-19 (12/7/21)

1. You must be vaccinated to attend any Orlando/Winter Park Branch activity.
2. Virtual options (Zoom) for activities will be made available when feasible.
3. Masks must be worn at all times at activities with the exceptions of: a) when people are eating and drinking and b) all group members agree it is safe to unmask (e.g., outdoor activities with social distancing).
4. This policy will be reviewed and changes may be made by the Board as new information or circumstances regarding COVID-19 become available.

A Special Thank You!

The 20th Annual Literary luncheon with guest speaker Kristin Harmel was a great success! Our fabulous Branch raised an estimated \$7,000 (*please note this figure may change*) 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 volunteers who made the event a success:

- Virginia Gillmer** for handling the reservations and seating arrangements with new check-in procedures,
- Georgiana Havill** for the event advertisement and publicity,
- Rosemary Vendena** for coordinating the silent auction along with the 50/50 drawing; her team included **Mary Himes, Tae Harper** and **Joycelyn Duprez,**
- Lynda Hinckley** designed and made the beautiful book bundle centerpieces,
- Linda Fessel** printed and laid-out the programs and fliers as well as updated the website and the Branchline with literary luncheon information,
- Hanna Kruzcek** provided numerous and timely email blasts,
- Virginia Gillmer** and her team of cashiers that included

- Susan Turo, Diana Secor** and **Ann Burnham, Barbara Buchele** and **Karen Buchan** for greeting and seating our guests,
- Nancy Napier, Dee Fuentes** and **Susan Turo** for selling wine tickets,
- Barbara Buchele, Nancy Napier, Karen Buchan, Roberta Cooper** and **Dee Fuentes** for collecting money for the centerpieces, and
- Branch Interest Groups** and **individual members** for donating fabulous baskets for the silent auction; and special kudos to **Pearl Steele** who donated amazing artifacts from her world travels that brought in \$945 and the **Dining-In Group** for the two Royal Tea bid items totaling \$900.

Also, a big thank you to the many members who worked behind the scenes on the day of the luncheon and kept things moving—you were invaluable. And most importantly, thank you to all of our members who attended and supported the event bringing guests and potential members. A special thank you to **Martha Williamson** for her efforts in coordinating a bus from the Mayflower filled with numerous guests. It could not have been a success without all of your support! THANK YOU!

Myra Gaziano, Literary Luncheon Chair



Pres. Leslie S. Lieberman introduces



Lit. Luncheon Chair. Myra Gaziano



who introduces speaker, Kristin Harmel



Former Literary Luncheon Speakers (L) Anna Elias (2021) and (R) Ambassador Harriet Lee Elam-Thomas (2020) with Kristin Harmel



It was a full house (150) at Interlachen Country Club

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <u>12 Noon</u> Dining In	2
3	4	5 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	6 <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	7 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	8	9 <u>10 a.m. to 12</u> GENERAL MEETING
10	11 <u>3:30 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	12	13	14 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	15 <u>10:30</u> B-Lovers IV Good Friday Passover be- gins	16
17 Easter	18	19 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V	20 <u>5 p.m.</u> Global Dining	21 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	22 Earth Day	23
24 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	25	26 <u>All day</u> Exploring Central FL	27 <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite	28 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	29 <u>11:30</u> Lunching Out	30

I GO IN, AND WHEN I COME OUT I'M AT THE VET ... THEN I GO BACK IN, AND WHEN I COME OUT I'M HOME...



COULD IT BE? A WORMHOLE!



DAILYSQAT.COM

Circuses struggling to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics