



Orlando *** Winter Park BRANCHLINE

JANUARY 2023

SPEAKER: LINDA CHAPIN



Linda Chapin will tell you that she got her start in business and civic work as a volunteer. She went on to work in banking before running for public office, where she served as Orange County's first elected Mayor. Following her two terms, she taught at the University of Central Florida for a decade. She and her husband, attorney Bruce Chapin, are the parents of four children and grandparents of five. She continues to be active on several boards in Central Florida.

She and her husband, attorney Bruce Chapin, are the parents of four children and grandparents of five. She continues to be active on several boards in Central Florida.



Save the Date

March 4, 2023

**AAUW Annual Spring
Literary Luncheon**

**The University Club
of Winter Park**

Speaker: Geri Throne

Cost: \$55

See last 2 pages for flyer and reservation form.

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Time: 10 to 12 noon

**First Congregational Church of W.P.
225 S. Interlachen Avenue, Winter Park**

The Board has made some changes to the
payment and RSVP procedures for our
General Meetings.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY.

COST: \$20

TWO WAYS TO PAY

1. Cash or check at the door
2. Send check to the following:

AAUW

P.O. Box 884

Winter Park, FL 32790

RSVP by Wednesday, January 11.

TWO WAYS TO RSVP

1. winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com
2. Parveen Wahid: piecee@hotmail.com

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

From the President



Dear Friends

With the start of a new year, we look forward to new beginnings, in our own personal lives and those of our family, friends, and neighbors.

During the last year, as the Covid-19 pandemic receded, many of us resumed normal, or near-normal, activities that had been held in abeyance.

Our Literary Luncheon in March 2022 was certainly a highlight event for our Chapter. The PACE Thanksgiving dinner was a great success as were our Christmas Mira-

cle Bag gifts. The Scholarship committee also presented our scholarships to a deserving group.

This coming year, we have an excellent line-up of programs for our monthly brunch meetings, held at the First Congregational Church in Winter Park. Our brunch, catered by Drew, is always excellent, and it is a great time to socialize with your friends at AAUW.

Don't forget to check your monthly Branchline for coming events, programs, and activity groups, and mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

Sending to you all the hope that the New Year brings you the good things you are wishing for!

Diana Secor

OFFICERS

President: Diana Secor
dianasecoraaauw@gmail.com

VP Membership: Ann Burnham
annmburnham@gmail.com

VP Programs: Pat Wilson
wavespw@gmail.com

VP Finance (Co-Director)
Rosemary Vendena
rovendena@hotmail.com

VP Finance (Co-Director)
Parveen Wahid
piecee@hotmail.com

Secretary: Linda Fessel
Lfessel@Comcast.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Booklovers Coordinator
Ellen James
James3@bellsouth.net

Branch Directory
Dr. Hanna Kruczek
hkrucek@gmail.com

Branchline Editor
Branchline Mailer
Linda Fessel
Lfessel@Comcast.net

Bylaws and Parliamentarian
Barbara Knapp
bcknapp1949@gmail.com

College/University Partner Rep.
Dr. Leslie Lieberman
lsieberman@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary
Judy McDonald
murrn@bellsouth.net

Director for Development
Rosemary Vendena
rovendena@hotmail.com

Electronic Communications
Dr. Hanna Kruczek
hkrucek@gmail.com

History Chair—TBD

Interest Group Coordinator: TBD

Literary Luncheon Chair
Myra Gaziano
gazianomyra@yahoo.com

PACE Liaison
Roberta Cooper
rdeecooper@gmail.com

Print Media
Georgiana Havill
g@havill.org

Scholarship Chair
Karen Buchan
kgb@unknownegg.org

STEM coordinator
Dr. Hanna Kruczek
hkrucek@gmail.com

Website
Linda Fessel
Lfessel@Comcast.net
Maria Bonnet
marpazbonnet@gmail.com

Dr. Leslie Lieberman will continue on the Board, not only as President Emerita, but also as our liaison with the National AAUW and other organizations external to our Branch.

REMINDER:

Our General Meeting brunch is now \$20. The former \$18 charge is no longer sufficient to cover the room rental, food, set-up and clean-up.

VP Membership

Welcome to our new member:



Susan Levine
SLL5F@virginia.edu
Russell Sage College, B.A. Psych, 1970
Boston Univ., M.Elem. Ed., 1971
Santa Clara U., Certified Paralegal,
1982

Ann Burnham
annmburnham@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

AAUW Florida Lobby Days in 2023 will take place on March 13-14. Refer to the October, 2022 *FloriVision* newsletter for more information.



Rosemary Vendena has asked that the following be shared with our membership:

"For anyone wishing to make a memorial donation in Ken's name, our sons have selected PACE Center-Orange and our Valencia Scholarship Fund as the best representatives of Ken's lifetime commitment to education.

"There will be no formal funeral. We are planning a celebration of his life in the new year to accommodate the school schedules of our grandchildren in Denmark and family and friends in Denver to come if they wish.

"A live stream of the memorial event will be available, and we will publish the link for those who wish to join that way."



"One of the best days of the year!" This comment sums up the Miracle Bag Day that AAUW put on for the girls at PACE Center on December 15. The day started with crafts – ornament making, card making, and key-chain braiding. (Amazingly, these teenage girls were quiet and focused as they used their creativity in making their crafts!)



Then the girls moved on to a splendid brunch put on by AAUW volunteers, which they clearly loved since they kept coming back for more.

The final event of the day was the distribution of the Miracle Bags. Each girl had chosen her own main present from Amazon. Along with that gift, bags were filled with

other items like nail polish, dry shampoo, hair brushes, lipstick and beautiful soft long scarves.

Thank you to all who made the event possible. Your generous financial support enabled us to purchase the gifts and support the day. For some girls, this will be their only holiday present. Others have little experience in getting something that they really want. Many thanks to all those who came to PACE



to help with the crafts and brunch. You made the day so special.

If you were not able to join us this year, put it on your schedule for next year. It truly is one of the best days of the year for the girls, the staff, and the AAUW volunteers.

Pat Stamm
Karen Gillett
Roberta Cooper

Anne Landrum
Karen Buchan
Sue McDonald

Barbara Knapp



Remember when you could refer to your knees as left and right instead of good and bad? Ah, good times eh!

So it turns out that being an adult is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

As I watch this generation try to re-write history, one thing I'm sure of—it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Interest Groups

We need an Interest Group Chair to act as liaison between the groups and the Branchline editor. This is not a difficult or time-consuming job. Got an idea for a new interest group? Let Linda publicize it in the Branchline. Lfessel@Comcast.net

Booklovers: Booklovers wish everyone a very Happy New Year. In January, all groups begin reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

January will be busy as we put together our recommendations for books for the 2023-24 reading year. In addition, January is the month that we collect donations for project needs of Booklovers. Some of us will begin reading *Secret Battles* by Geri Throne, our speaker for the Literary Luncheon in March.

Ellen James, Booklovers Coordinator
Ellenjames54@gmail.com

Booklovers Lite: Booklovers Lite meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Marbeya Club Condominiums. The reading list is independent from those of the other book groups. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, when we will discuss *Her Smile*, by Carla Kelly (Karen Deo's sister!). If you are interested in joining this group, contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com

Dining In: Dining in does not meet in January. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcrosen@hotmail.com.

Dining Out (at night): Dining Out is still looking for a new leader. Contact Linda Fessel at Lfessel@Comcast.net if you would like to chair or co-chair this group.

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): On Tues. January 24, ECF will have a tour of the Black Hammock Bee Farms in Oviedo followed by lunch. If you would like to join ECF, please contact Linda to get on the email contact list at Lfessel@Comcast.net.

Foreign Affairs: The Foreign Affairs Group will meet on January 22, 2023, at 2 p.m. at D. Fuentes' home. They will discuss the 2022 *Great Decisions* chapter on "Foreign Policy, Economic Power and US Industrial Policy." Mary Himes will moderate the discussion. For further information, please contact D. Fuentes at tucu662@gmail.com or 407-310-1154.

Global Cooking/Dining: No information was available regarding a meeting in January.

Lunching Out: Check your emails for our upcoming location to eat and greet in January. Contact Linda to be added to the Lunching Out contact list: Lfessel@Comcast.net

MahJongg: meets on Thursdays at Club 24 in Winter Park from 1-4 p.m. Want to learn the game? We will teach you. For more information, contact Linda Fessel: Lfessel@Comcast.net or Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

CALENDARS

In 2022, we collected just over 200 calendars most of which I distributed to assisted housing sites in the Winter Park area. This year for the first time, I helped fill Miracle Bags at the Pace Center with gifts purchased for the girls. The young student I sponsored asked for art supplies which were purchased for her. Since one of the donated calendars featured art treasures, I set it aside for my Pace girl and added it to her bag. I got to thinking that other students might enjoy having a calendar as well. Because of your generosity, we had enough calendars to add one to each of the 54 Miracle Bags as well as to give one to each of the 16 staff members. Thanks to the AAUW sisters who donated calendars as well as to those (Diana Secor, Myra Gaziano, Karen Buchan, Nancy Flaherty, and others) who gathered them up at various meetings and saw to it that the calendars got to me. Another successful year!



Lynda Hinckley



I miss the 90s
when bread was
still good for you,
and no one knew
what kale was.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Georgiana Havill, a two-year member, writes about her gratitude to AAUW and how the organization (and its people) could also mean as much to others if just given the opportunity to learn about it. [ed.]

Let's Share Our Rich AAUW Experiences!

Like most organizations that are fulfilling their missions, all of them still need constant transfusions of fresh energy to keep them vibrant. AAUW is no different. From my own experience, it has helped to weave my life into the fabric of my new community in Winter Park.

So let's work harder to spread the joy and generate self-discovery with others and make concerted efforts to reach out to those around us and invite them to come see what we're all about.

Personally, for me, it's become about AAUW's involvement with PACE, plus its ten book groups. There's something (or two, or three) for the people you already know who are searching for a way to connect and to make their lives more meaningful in a changing world. So, reach out, grab a hand and lead them to one of our monthly meetings for a speaker, camaraderie, and to break bread (and my favorite—Drew's egg-strata.)

Below, my end-of-year thoughts to Book Lovers X. Though we were missing three, the eight remaining at Dubsdread marked another year of sharing book likes (or not!). The setting, weather, and our servers were charmed. It was with delight that as I surveyed the per-



sonalities around the table, I saw a garden of blooms, distinctly varied and yet, embodying a wealth of common ground. We talked about everything—river tours where one was bused instead, authors, and oddly, Erik Larson's oeuvre. Now I realize what links our group far better than its monthly meetings. It's that we've shared the same adventures and hours of mind travels with our reading.

I know I am not alone at enjoying our similarities and differences, and unity in living larger lives through our discussions.

Wishing all of you and your families, a beautiful new year of peace and hope,

Georgiana 'mike' Havill



Book Lovers X Holiday Lunch Dec 14, at Dubsdread

If you missed the December holiday program, you missed one of the best holiday performances to date. (Okay, maybe we're just a little biased.) Below (left), Linda Fessel introduced Voices of Valencia directed by Professor James Jones. Then below (right), she surprised everyone by taking a seat to sing along with the chorus.



MORE FROM OUR MEMBERS/MISCELLANEOUS



I was sworn in this month by Judge Reckseidler as part of the first all female board of Seminole County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, sworn by a female Judge.

I will take office in January, so until Jan 2, I am officially considered Supervisor Elect. Supervisors advise communities and land owners on best practices for land and water conservation, connect funding opportunities to stakeholders and help with invasive species reduction.

Pat Wilson
Supervisor Elect

INTRODUCING A NEW FEATURE: PET PEEVES

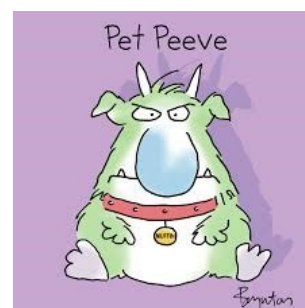
It's hard to single out just one pet peeve, but here's one of my favorites—possibly one of yours too.

When I was in grade school, getting a star for good work was every kid's goal. But in the 21st century, getting a gold star has gone high tech, and we all have become potential providers of gold stars.

In the past month, I have been asked to rate: my PCP, my optometrist, my orthopedist, my dental hygienist, the tech who sprays for bugs, the mechanic who serviced my car, a chorus performance, my cable provider, my bank, my insurance company, Orlando Health, Amazon, and the waiting room at Hyundai (for real!)

There are lots more I could add, but I have to stop here because I just got a request from Publix to evaluate the teenager who bagged my groceries.

What are your pet peeves? Please share with the rest of us. You'll feel better for doing it. [ed.]



ARE YOU TIRED OF THOSE PEEL-OFF, STICK-ON NAME TAGS? NOW YOU CAN GET A REAL AAUW NAME BADGE THAT WON'T FALL OFF.

Durable (and wipeable) plastic, this 3" by 1.5" name badge comes standard with a pin clasp, but can be ordered with a magnetic clasp for an extra \$2.50.

Note: Customized name badges arrive in approximately 7-10 business days via US Mail. Shipping is free for this item.

With pin backer — \$9 With magnet backer — \$11.50

<https://aauw.source4.com/b2c/Sites/AAUWMember/Home.asp>

In the search box, type in "Name Badges"

**MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I
SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE
HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID
MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS
LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED.
I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED.
SIRI LAUGHED.**

21st Annual Spring Literary Luncheon

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

University Club of Winter Park

841 North Park Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

All reservations, including payment, **MUST** be received by February 24, 2023.

Please mail this form with checks payable to “AAUW Orlando-Winter Park” to:

AAUW

P.O. Box 884

Winter Park, FL 32790



Geri Throne is a journalist, freelance writer and author of *Secret Battles*, her first novel. A native of New Jersey, she studied journalism at Syracuse University. Most of her career was spent at the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper as an investigative reporter,

editor, and editorial writer before turning to creative writing and fiction. Her writing accomplishments include a first-place national award from the Education Writers Association for her editorial series on voucher schools and a first-place short story fiction award from the Florida First Coast Writers.

During her later years at the *Orlando Sentinel*, Throne became interested in writing a book set in World War II when her father gave her a box full of wartime letters and journals. Not until after he died did she open the journals describing dangerous near-misses and heart-breaking losses in gripping detail. Yet letters to his wife rarely mentioned those events. Wondering what scars her father brought home from the war, she subsequently wrote a nonfiction account of his war time experiences for the *Sentinel's Florida Magazine*.

Throne's book, *Secret Battles*, stays as close as possible to her father's Ninth Infantry Division's role in the war while using her imagination to create the novel and its unforgettable non-historic characters. Through her parents' letters, Throne shares the intimate struggle in *Secret Battles* of two people writing to keep hope and love alive during dark years in their lives.

Throne lives in Winter Park with her husband Ron and Coco, the wonder dog. She loves traveling, camping, boating and the sea.

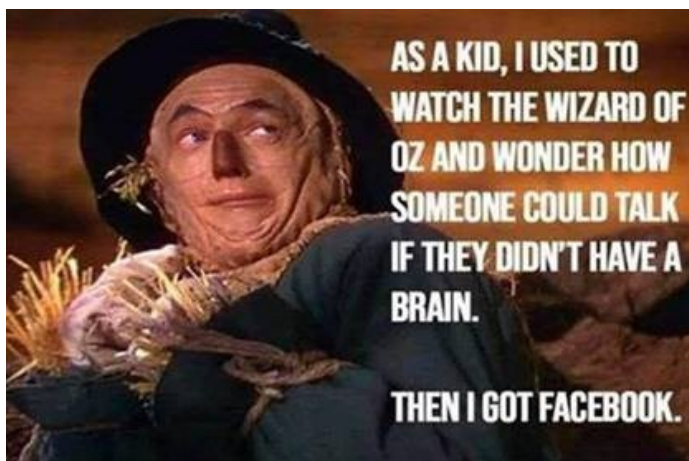
Secret Battles can be purchased from Amazon for \$12.99.



See Flyer with Reservation Form on the last page of this newsletter.

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	4 <u>10 a.m.</u> Board Mtg. <u>9:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	5 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	6	7
8	9 <u>3:30</u> B-Lovers VI	10 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V	11	12 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	13	14 GENERAL MEETING
15	16 MLK b'day	17	18	19 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	20 <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	21
22 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	23	24 <u>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</u> Exploring C.F.	25 <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite	26 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	27	28
29	30	31				



21st Annual Spring Literary Luncheon

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

University Club of Winter Park

841 North Park Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

SPEAKER: Geri Throne

COST: \$55



Geri Throne is an award-winning journalist, freelance writer, and author of *Secret Battles*. Now retired, Throne had a career as a reporter, editor, and editorial writer at the *Orlando Sentinel* newspaper before turning to creative writing and fiction. Geri Throne will speak on her truly riveting debut novel *Secret Battles*, a work of historical fiction inspired by actual events. Separated by thousands of miles during World War II, a young husband and wife, Walt and Nora Baran, struggle to keep their slender thread of connection alive amid unforeseen hardships. Throne has taken a slice of history and brought it to life. Her characters are wonderfully developed and unforgettable, revealing their intimate struggle to keep love alive in a war-torn world. Filled with fierce emotions and challenging action, the novel draws the reader in and holds the attention from the first page to the last.

Reservation Form

Name (Clearly print first and last name) _____

Telephone/Cell _____ E-mail _____

Please Reserve: ____ seats @ \$55 Total: \$ ____ Number of Vegetarian Entrees: ____

All reservations, including payment, MUST be received by February 24, 2023.

Please mail this form and checks payable to "AAUW Orlando-Winter Park" to:

AAUW P.O. Box 884 Winter Park, FL 32790

Use reverse side of this form to list everyone you prefer included at your table.

Questions? Contact Susan Turo at tomsuet@aol.com (407-773-9350)

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

AAUW Orlando/Winter Park

20th Annual Spring Literary Luncheon

Please **Clearly PRINT** the names of all individuals you wish to be seated at your table. Sorry, sometimes we cannot accommodate all requests, but we do our best!

Only 8 persons are allowed at each table per the facility fire regulations and COVID accommodations.

Please include payment for all individuals listed below.

You may send individual checks OR one check for the whole table.

Remember reservations must be received by Saturday, Feb 25.

If you or anyone is feeling ill, please email or phone last minute regrets to Susan Turo: tomsuet@aol.com (407-773-9350). Sorry, we cannot provide refunds due to advance reservation requirements.

NAMES and PHONE NUMBERS of persons requesting to sit at the same table :

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____