



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

### DECEMBER

#### VOICES OF VALENCIA

Under the direction of Mr. James Jones



For over two decades, the Voices of Valencia (VOV) have performed all over Central Florida. Made up of college students, faculty, and members of the community, we have performed from bookstores and malls, to private events and theme parks, bringing our sound to all audiences with pride and preparation. We have recorded three albums of our own and worked with Derric Johnson on our own show: *"NOEL: Night of Everlasting Light."*

We also performed at Epcot Candlelight Processional, SeaWorld Holidays, and Universal Studios. Voices of Valencia have also performed at Blue Jacket Park Opening, Casselberry Tree Lighting, as well as a joint concert with the Bach Festival Chorus. Voices of Valencia has spun off a few other groups like Valencia Chorale, a *cappella* Valencia and others.

If you would like to join VOV, we are open to all voices with all skillsets and/or if you would like to book VOV, please contact James C. Jones. We believe in "Music for Everyone," and we would love to have you sing with us or bring our sound to you.

#### GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, December 10, 2022

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**

#### FOR THIS MONTH ONLY

**Pay cash or check at the door**

**RSVP by Wednesday, December 7.**

#### TWO WAYS TO RSVP

1. [winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com](mailto:winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com)
2. text your reservation to 407-929-3735

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

## From the President



Dear Friends

Our AAUW branch, as usual, contributes its good will during this holiday season with its PACE Thanksgiving, PACE girls "Miracle Bags" and our donations to vari-

ous causes.

More importantly, to quote from the *Selected Letters* of George Edward Woodberry:

*The Holidays are welcome to me partly because they are such rallying points for the affections which get so much thrust aside in the business and preoccupations of daily life.*

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a new year that brings you all good things!

*Diana Secor*



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*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 monthly costs.**

## VP Membership



Welcome to our new member:

Deborah Parkinson  
parkinsondebby@yahoo.com  
BA, Rutgers, poly sci  
MA, College of N.J., Edu., 1973

*Ann Burnham*

VP Membership

annmburnham@gmail.com



### HOLIDAY PARTY FOR PACE CENTER

December 15, 2022

Our big holiday event has evolved over the years and is such fun for the girls! We will provide 3 separate crafts for each girl to make, a delicious brunch, and a Miracle Bag for every girl. Our AAUW members sign up at any time in November and very early December to provide an item for one girl, up to the value of \$30. The girl selects what she would really like from an Amazon catalog; our committee matches you with one particular girl and then orders that gift for you to give to your girl. The gift is shipped directly to PACE. Our committee fills the bag

with your name, the gift the girl wished for, and other smaller items to make it a special holiday for every girl. It's such a special event –and all members are invited to come and enjoy the time with the PACE girls and with our members who are able to attend. If you can make a miracle happen for one PACE student, please donate \$30 (cash or check made out to Karen Gillett), and we will assign you the name of your student as soon as they have made their wish. The PACE Committee will collect donations at the November meeting, or you can mail to Karen Gillett, 555 Karen Avenue, Altamonte Springs 32701 as early as possible since the party is being held earlier in December this year and gifts must be ordered and shipped.

Please put the morning of December 15 on your calendar. It will put you in the spirit of the holiday!



**Save the Date**

**March 4, 2023**

**AAUW Annual Spring Literary Luncheon**

**The University Club of Winter Park**

**Speaker: Geri Throne**



## 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:** are celebrating the holidays with luncheons/gatherings in various places during December. No book has been scheduled. However, many may choose to begin reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict, our January book. Readers may wish to "fast forward" to March when we meet at the University Club for our Literary Luncheon. At that time, we will welcome Geri Throne who will present her book, *Secret Battles*. In the meantime, Happy Holidays to all.

Reminder that our book suggestions for next year will be due in December. If you have read the book or books that you are recommending, that may assist your group in determining which books to submit for inclusion on the ballot.

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, 1100 Lake Howell Rd., Casselberry, 32707. The reading list is independent from those of the other book groups. Booklovers Lite will not meet in November or December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com

**Dining In:** Dining in will meet at noon on December 9. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcrozen@hotmail.com.

**Dining-In Couples:** Due to the Pandemic, this group has only met a few times—sometimes in members' homes and sometimes in restaurants. Please contact Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703 to state your preferred venue: in homes? or in restaurants?

**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):** ECF will not meet during December. Check your emails for news of an upcoming tour in January. If you would like to be part of ECF, please contact Linda to get on the email contact list at Lfessel@Comcast.net.

**Foreign Affairs:** No information was available as to where this group will meet in December. 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 December.

**Lunching Out:** Lunching Out will not meet during December. Check your emails for our upcoming location to eat and greet in January. Contact Linda to be added to the 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

### LAST CHANCE



As in years past, Lynda Hinckley will be collecting 2023 calendars, so bring yours to the December general meeting. She would like to deliver all by mid-December. As in prior years, all calendars will go to people living in assisted housing in Orlando and Winter Park. Let's encourage socialization, provide needed colorful calendars to those who might not be able to afford to purchase one, and let's save the landfills!

Thanks!

Lynda Hinckley



## EXPLORING CENTRAL FLORIDA

On Monday, November 21, Exploring Central Florida took a tour of Full Sail. We were whisked from building to building in comfortable “buggies.” The two-hour tour will long remain one of our favorites on ECF.



## FROM THE PACE THANKSGIVING

On Thursday, November 17, our branch once again cooked and served a marvelous Thanksgiving dinner to the students, staff, and visitors of PACE. As always, the food was spectacular and plentiful. What an amazing tradition to be a part of. Special thanks to the Goodwins who have always donated the drinks.



## MISCELLANEOUS

Most of us could not believe that Pearl would one day move away, but she took the plunge before her 101st birthday.

If you want to visit her, she's about 2-3 hours away—depending on how fast you drive, and how anxious you are to see her.

### Directions

3455 Morton Drive  
Penney Farms, FL 32079

Turn into main entrance: Poling Blvd  
Turn LEFT on Morton Drive. First building.  
3455 Morton Drive  
Cottage 101C

(For directions only—**Not** her mailing address!)



her mailing address is:  
PO Box 336  
Penney Farms, FL  
32079

Her phone number has  
switched to her new  
Jitterbug cell phone:  
407-644-3549

Use her mailing address if you want to send her a birthday card for her 101st birthday on December 14. But you better do it quickly. Our inveterate traveler is planning another trip for her 101st. She will stop off in Hawaii to visit old friends, then on to Australia and New Zealand.



The Mahjonggers put aside their tiles to wish Pearl well on her future days at Penney Farms.



It was difficult to choose a few photos to publish because Pearl was involved in so many activities. To say she will be missed is a gross understatement. Pearl has been and continues to be a role model for so many of us. We wish her fun days and good health in her future travels and in her new home at Penney Farms. Let's not say good-bye, but *hasta la vista*. Two hours is not so far away . . .

## MORE MISCELLANEOUS



Did you attend the 17th Annual Spring Literary Luncheon? If you did, you heard our member Holly Mandelkern speak about her first published book: *Beneath White Stars: Holocaust Profiles in Poetry*. Holly is a poet, Holocaust educator, and lecturer. To that impressive list of achievements, she can now add record producer!

The following is an excerpt from *J Life Magazine* by Jill Duff-Hoppes with quotes from Holly.

*For the project, Holly turned her poems into ballads and folk songs by collaborating with many talented musicians and singers – some local, some from across the United States and other countries. Holly's book, Beneath White Stars: Holocaust Profiles in Poetry, is a collection of more than 40 of her historically accurate, narrative poems. Her poetry tells the moving stories of brave Holocaust victims, survivors, rescuers, and resisters.*

"The past few years have been an exciting journey for me serving as the producer and lyricist, adapting 17 poems from my book into songs. I had the privilege of working with more than 20 amazing musicians who brought to life these songs of courage and resistance. One of the reasons I produced this album is that I am hoping teachers and educators will use these songs when teaching about the Holocaust. Through music, I'm hoping that even more people will hear about the lives of the individuals in my book."

*In addition to being an award-winning, published poet, Holly is a lecturer, educator, and lifelong lover of music. She earned a degree in European history from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a master's degree in library science from Florida State University. Holly taught teachers and students about Jewish resistance during the Holocaust for more than 20 years. She was inspired to study and teach about the Holocaust because of the experiences of her father, Herman Lodinger, who fought in World War II and was a prisoner of war in a labor camp with other Allied soldiers. He passed away in 2017, the same year Holly's book was published*



We are so proud of this unique accomplishment from one of our sisters. [ed.]

## More from Holly:

I am honored that three songs from my album "Beneath White Stars" are part of the radio program "Songs for Holocaust Education Month" presented by [Mike Regenstreif](#).

The songs featured are:

"No Art"

Vocals Meghan Hone / Piano Julian Bond / Violin Gustavo Eiriz

"Kissing the Wall"

Vocals and Guitar Brendan Nolan / Fiddle Colin Farrell / Backing Vocals Michelle Amato

"Mr. Sugihara's Eyes"

Vocals, Guitar, and Mandolin Dave Curley

# DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	2	3
4	5 <u>3:30</u> B-Lovers VI	6 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	7 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers VIII <u>11:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers II <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	8 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	9 <u>12 noon</u> Dining-In	10 <b>GENERAL MEETING</b>
11	12	13 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V	14 <u>11:30 a.m.</u> B-Lovers Lite Firebird	15 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	16 <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	17
18 <b>Hannukah</b>	19	20	21 <b>Hello Winter</b>	22 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	23	24
25 <b>Christmas</b>	26 <b>Kwanza</b>	27	28	29 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>

The calendar above may not accurately reflect current information for most interest groups. As many groups have changed the date and/or time for their holiday luncheons, please contact a member of the group to obtain any new location, time, date, etc.



As another year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to the Branchline in 2022. We hope you will continue to support your newsletter in 2023.

From the entire Branchline staff, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season no matter what or with whom you are celebrating. But given the seemingly never-ending scourge of colds, flu, epidemics, pandemics and the re-

cent tripledemic, we earnestly wish you a healthy 2023.



And a final note from humorist Dave Barry (written 20 years ago, but could have been written last week).

"...the year ends on a somewhat disturbing note. But this does not prevent the nation from pausing, on the eve of 2023 to gather with friends, drink champagne, blow into cardboard horns, to sing "Auld Lang Syne," to reflect on the year gone past, and above all, to realize, a little too late, that those cardboard horns are manufactured abroad and would make a perfect vehicle for spreading chemical or biological warfare agents. But Happy New Year anyway."