



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

### FEBRUARY 2023

#### SPEAKER: CARLOS GUILLERMO SMITH



Carlos Guillermo Smith served in the Florida House of Representatives for six consecutive years beginning in 2016, when he made history as Florida's first openly-LGBTQ Latino state lawmaker.

In the aftermath of the Pulse nightclub shooting in his community, Carlos became a national leader on gun safety and the lead sponsor of new legislation restricting assault weapons in his state. Carlos is a respected civil rights leader who has championed open government, housing affordability, and funding for the arts.

In 2021, he led the charge against Florida's dangerous 'Don't Say Gay' law and has become a key critic of Governor Ron DeSantis' administration. Carlos currently works for Equality Florida and lives in Union Park with his husband Jerick Mediavilla, an educator from Puerto Rico.

*Carlos will be reflecting on his six years of public service and the path ahead for Florida.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Judy McDonald if you hear of any member who is ill, having surgery, experienced a loss, etc.  
[murran@bellsouth.net](mailto:murran@bellsouth.net)

#### GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 11, 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 or
2. Send check to the following:

AAUW

P.O. Box 884

Winter Park, FL 32790

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

#### TWO WAYS TO RSVP

1. [winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com](mailto:winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com)
2. Parveen Wahid: 407-677-0571  
[piecee@hotmail.com](mailto:piecee@hotmail.com)

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

## From the President



Dear Branch Members,

February is a month of holidays, nationally declared, such as *Presidents' Day*, and an awareness month: *Black History Month*, *American Heart Month*. There are tradi-

tional days such as:

*Ground Hog's Day*--and days and celebrations linked to religious events such as *Mardi Gras* which occurs on *Shrove Tuesday*, the day before *Ash Wednesday*, and perhaps most generally recognized: *Valentines Day* a day of love and affection (which has been celebrated for

1527 years!) There are also some unusual days, i.e., *Doggy Date Night*, *Pinocchio Day*, *National Football Hangover Day*.

On a more serious note: our AAUW branch is heavily invested in our Scholarship programs, which include:

1. general scholarships for students enrolled in Associates, Bachelors, or Doctoral degree programs;
2. sponsoring attendance at Tech Trek Camp which inspires girls who have an interest in STEM subjects to challenge them and to give them the necessary confidence to succeed; and
3. sponsoring attendance at NCCWSL – National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

(Continued next page)

### OFFICERS

President: Diana Secor  
dianasecoraaauw@gmail.com

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annmburnham@gmail.com

VP Programs: Pat Wilson  
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VP Finance (Co-Director)  
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rovendena@hotmail.com

VP Finance (Co-Director)  
Parveen Wahid  
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Secretary: Linda Fessel  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Branchline Mailer  
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History Chair—TBD

Interest Group Coordinator: TBD

Literary Luncheon Chair  
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PACE Liaison  
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Scholarship Chair  
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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.**

## President's Message (Continued)

Various groups in the branch donate during the year. Our biggest fund raiser is coming up on March 4 – the AAUW SPRING LITERARY LUNCHEON –which features this year, author Geri Throne (*SECRET BATTLES*), special catered luncheon, and our famous “Silent Auction.”

Please plan to come – socialize, have a good time, and most importantly, support our scholarship efforts!

*Diana Secor*

*(All information related to the Literary Luncheon can be found on pages 8-12.)*

## 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.

## VP Membership



**ARE YOU TIRED OF THOSE PEEL-OFF, STICK-ON NAME TAGS? 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 \$3.

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

With pin backer — \$10

With magnet backer — \$13

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

In the search box, type in “Name Badges”

*Ann Burnham*



PACE Center for Girls –Orange  
New Board member  
Roberta Cooper

After serving on the Pace Board for about five years, it was time to select someone new to represent our branch. Roberta Cooper has graciously stepped up to this position and will begin serving in February.

Roberta brings a wealth of volunteer experience and enthusiastic support to PACE. She has supported the Thanksgiving lunch and Miracle Bag/Holiday Brunch for



years and recently began working on the PACE Boutique store. Before retiring, Roberta held positions with Orange County Public Schools that put her in contact with PACE. In her Board application, she related, “PACE has had a special place in my heart since I supported the school as an Exceptional Education Staffing Coordinator for 5 years and then as the District Liaison to Contracted Centers for another 7 ½ years.”

WELCOME, Roberta!

*Karen Buchan*



## Scholarships

The Branch Scholarship application is on the website, and the deadline is March 1. Applications will be reviewed by our committee: Ellen James, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald, and Karen Buchan.

Usually about five are chosen to be awarded scholarships, typically for about \$1000 each. Traditionally, we like to support women and men who are passionate about their college studies and future career choices, are often a bit older, and working to complete a degree that they may have begun years before. In the past, scholarships have been awarded to students studying at all levels – Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral. Please let your friends, neighbors, relatives know about this opportunity.

*Karen Buchan*

## 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 had a busy January collecting donations, completing their preferred reading lists for next year, plus discussing the book of the month, *The Personal Librarian*. For February, most Booklovers are reading *Remember* by Lisa Genova while Booklovers VII are reading *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. Just a reminder, reservations are due in February for the Literary Luncheon that will take place March 4, at the University Club of Winter Park.

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, February 22, 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:** Karen Buchan will be hosting the Dining In luncheon on February 3 at 12 noon. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcroser@hotmail.com.

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** No event has been scheduled for February, but check your email in case we are able to arrange one. 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 February 26 at Hanna Kruczek's home. We will discuss the Great Decisions chapter on *China and America: back to the future?* Hanna Kruczek will moderate the discussion.

For further information, please contact D. Fuentes at tucu662@gmail.com or 407-310-1154.



The Foreign Affairs Group meets at the Alford Inn for their holiday celebration.

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

**Lunching Out:** Check your emails for our upcoming location to eat and greet in February. 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



### Save the Date

March 4, 2023

AAUW Annual Spring  
Literary Luncheon

The University Club  
of Winter Park

Speaker: Geri Throne

Cost: \$55

It's not my age that bothers me. It's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the produce department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Sometimes the universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dummy.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is, once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest.

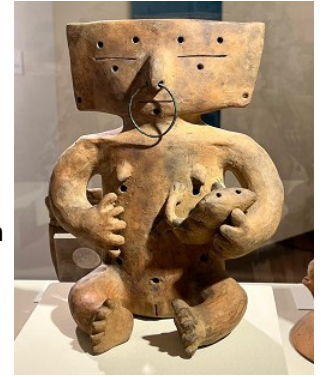


## FROM OUR MEMBERS



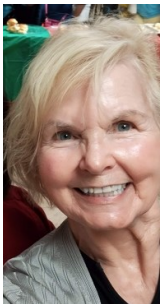
The Orlando Museum of Art received a wonderful donation of art from the ancient Americas from Dr. Luis Alfonso Cabal and Carolyn Cabal.

The photo by Andrea Sutphin Kalis is of the donor Carolyn Cabal shown with gifts. Dr. Cabal was an OB-GYN from Columbia and brought the pieces with him when he moved to the US in 1968. Andrea Sutphin Kalis, a specialist in art of the ancient Americas said, "Most of the works focus on childbirth, mothers nursing, etc., because of his interests." Stop by



and see these additions to the Museum's already important collection. (Submitted by Susan Rosoff)

Submitted by Georgiana Havill



Betzy Ingle and I (with son David) parked at 8 a.m., January 2, in front of a locked Kennedy Space Center gate. We wanted to be sure of a premium view for a 9:55 a.m. launch, especially as David had never seen one and was returning the next day to Tokyo. As often happens, lift-off was canceled.

We still had fun, the best part being the "Chat with An Astronaut" (\$50 add-on fee per person). Limited to thirty people, it included cheap (but good enough for a new year) sparkling wine that was labeled as American champagne—albeit in plastic glasses—with a slightly chewy breakfast burrito, fresh fruit and yogurt.

The thrill: Up-close facetime with John Fabian, a retired mission specialist, almost 84. He was out-of-the-world charming, sharp, and frank with his answers which included one from a child at our table: "Were you scared?" He replied yes, at every takeoff, which included an early *Challenger*. He also told of some other hair-raising moments of risky decision-making and of a time when all the astronauts refused to fly with one particular payload. From one of my questions, we learned that the NASA explorers get no extra pay for space travel—but that cosmonauts do.

Admission tickets were bought from [lajollamom.com/how-to-buy-discount-kennedy-space-center-tickets/](http://lajollamom.com/how-to-buy-discount-kennedy-space-center-tickets/)

### Volunteer of the Year Award: Phyllis Hall

Each year, Audubon Florida recognizes a Volunteer of the Year for their contributions to Audubon and conservation. Phyllis Hall earned the Volunteer of the Year Award both for her dedication to birds and the places they need as well as consistently going above and beyond in her service to conservation. She works with Seminole Audubon Society, and she has also been an active and inspiring mentor for the Conservation Leadership Initiative, shaping the next generation



of environmental movers and shakers. In addition to her role as a CLI mentor, Hall recently joined the volunteers at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. She currently helps with guest relations, education, and now as an afternoon feeder.

***Congratulations Phyllis!***



**And Congratulations to  
Thelma Robinson who is  
celebrating her  
100th birthday!**



On January 24, Exploring Central Florida visited the Black Hammock Bee Farm in Oviedo followed by lunch at the Black Hammock Restaurant (on the banks of Lake Jessup). Our brave explorers even shared a plate of gator bites.



The members don bee suits. One size fits all! Despite cold weather forecasts, the 24th was bright and beautiful.

To my children:  
Never make fun  
of having to  
help me with  
computer stuff.

I taught you how  
to use a spoon.

CHOCOLATE IS CLEARLY  
GOD'S WAY OF TELLING US

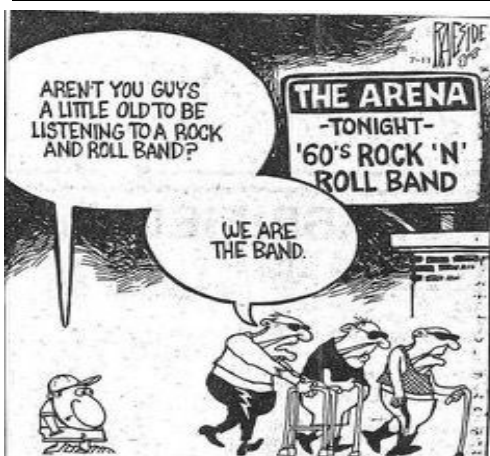
HE LIKES US  
A LITTLE BIT CHUBBY.

IT'S A SHAME NOTHING  
IS BUILT IN THE USA  
ANY MORE. I JUST  
BOUGHT A TV & IT SAID  
"BUILT IN ANTENNA".

I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
WHERE THAT IS.

# FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <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  <b>Black History Month Begins</b>	2    <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg   <b>Groundhog Day</b>	3	4
5	6  <u>3:30</u> B-Lovers VI	7  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	8	9  <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	10	11  <b>GENERAL MEETING</b>
12  <b>Lincoln's B'day</b>	13	14  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V  <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15	16  <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg  <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	17  <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	18
19	20  <b>Presidents Day</b>	21	22  <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite  <b>Washington's B'day</b>	23  <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	24	25
26  <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	27	28				



You know you've  
sunken to new lows  
when you refer to a trip  
to the supermarket as  
'going out'

YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
GETTING OLD WHEN YOU  
BARELY DO ANYTHING  
ALL DAY, BUT STILL  
NEED TO HAVE A NAP  
TO CONTINUE TO DO  
BARELY ANYTHING.



# Twenty-first 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 and seating requests  
on the last 2 pages of this newsletter.**



## Sabor de España

At this year's Annual Literary Luncheon the Dining-In Group will offer a fun and memorable event. "A Taste of Spain" catered dinner will transport you on a savory experience with a menu that celebrates the classic and authentic flavors of the country. You will begin with a delightful medley of small plates or *tapas* (hot and cold appetizers) served with *Sangria Espumosa de Prosecco* which will gently lead you into a hot Andalusian lentil soup and a magnificent *plato principal* with your choice of pork or chicken. In the dreamiest and creamiest way to end this luxurious meal, you will enjoy a classic flan with fresh berries.

This is your opportunity to "travel" to Spain with seven of your amigas! The Dining-In "chefs" will offer the "A Taste of Spain" dinner as a silent auction item. Winning bidder will enjoy an authentic Spanish dinner for eight guests in her home prepared by the Dining-In "chefs." And that's not all! Your own private butler, Louie, will elegantly serve your guests. Don't miss your chance to bid on this delightful and delectable experience.



*The Dining-In Group of eight discriminating foodies have been cooking together for over nine years and have traveled to Italy to enjoy hands-on cooking classes at Casa Gregorio, just south of Rome. Catered and exquisitely served, "A Taste of Spain" will be a truly memorable experience.*

*Please note:*

*Opening bid for the "A Taste of Spain" for 8 persons and butler service begins at \$400.*

*Winning bid includes delivery of the "A Taste of Spain" dinner for 8 persons with butler service.*

*Only last-minute preparations and finishing touches will be done in the hostess's home.*

*The hostess will provide linens, china, glassware, cutlery and other table service items.*

*Beverages will be provided by the hostess unless indicated in the menu.*

*Unfortunately, special diets cannot be accommodated.*

*The "A Taste of Spain" dinner will be provided at the convenience of the hostess, but please, no holiday weekends.*

*See the menu next page*

# *Sabor de España!*

## **TAPAS**

*Servido con Sangria Espumosa de Prosecco*

Pimientos de piquillo rellenos , Patatas Brava, Albondigas Pequeñas, Plato de Charcutería con: queso manchego, olivos, uvas, rebanadas de naranja, almendras Maticas .... *(petite stuffed peppers, crisp roasted potatoes, petite meatballs, Charcuterie platter with manchego cheese, olives, grapes, orange slices and savory almonds)*

## **SOPAS**

Sopa de Lentejas Andalusia

*(Lentil Soup)*

## **PLATO PRINCIPAL**

*(Main Dish)*

ESTOFADO CATALÁN

Costillas Cortas de Cerdo

*(braised pork short ribs with olives)*

OR

POLLO MARBELLA

Pollo Marinado con Cirudas y

Albaricoques

*(marinated roast chicken with  
prunes and apricots)*

## **ACOMPANAMIENTO**

POLENTA SUAVE CON MANCHEGO

*(creamy polenta with cheese)*

ENSALADA DE ESPINACAS

*(spinach salad with pine nuts and beets)*

## **PAN ESPAÑOL CRUJIENTE**

*(crusty Spanish bread)*

## **POSTRE**

FLAN CON BAYAS FRESCAS Y GALLETAS DE ALMENDRAS

*(Flan with fresh berries and almond cookies)*

# 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 with check(s) 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](mailto:tomsuet@aol.com) (407-773-9350)

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



# **AAUW Orlando/Winter Park**

## **Twenty-first 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 \_\_\_\_\_