



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

### Twenty-Second Annual Spring Literary Luncheon

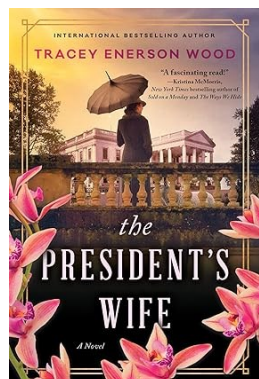
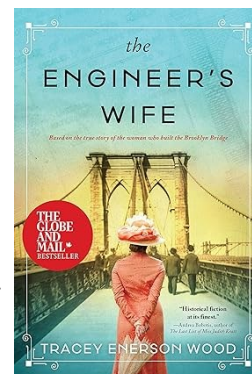
Saturday, March 9, 2024  
10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Winter Park Racquet Club  
2111 Via Tuscany  
Winter Park, FL 32789



Tracey Enerson Wood is an International and *USA Today* bestselling author who wrote *The Engineer's Wife*, *The War Nurse*, and *The President's Wife*. Tracey focuses on finding amazing women in history whose stories need to be brought to life. Based on a true story about the exceptional woman who was tasked to build the Brooklyn Bridge, *The Engineer's Wife* was released in 2020 and is well-researched with great attention to detail. This important work of historical fiction brings to life the strength and resolve of a nineteenth-century woman, Emily Warren Roebling, who completes the building of the Brooklyn Bridge yet is overshadowed by men and overlooked by history books.

Tracey Enerson Wood was drawn to write her latest novel which she will discuss at the literary luncheon, *The President's Wife*. The book shines the light on the brilliant and fascinating woman who made it her mission to protect her sick husband—and her country—at all costs. The book is a vivid reimagining of the Wilsons' timeless love story and the birth of their political partnership, as well as a timely and compelling look at the life of a woman who was thrust into something extraordinary—and proved she could more than handle the challenge. Of all the women in power in our history, Wood believes the unelected Edith Wilson has come closest to the position of President.



Wood has always had a writing bug. While working as a Registered Nurse, starting her own Interior Design company, raising two children, and bouncing around the world as a military wife, she indulged in her passion as a playwright, screenwriter and novelist. Her screenplays include *Strike Three* and *Roebling's Bridge*. Other passions include food and cooking and honoring military heroes. Her co-authored anthology/cookbook, *Homefront Cooking: Recipes, Wit, and Wisdom from American Veterans and Their Loved Ones*, was released in May 2018, and all author profits are donated to organizations that support veterans. Wood is a New Jersey native who now lives with her family in Florida.

## From the President



March has arrived! Always welcome as it includes the first Day of Spring and Daylight Savings Time. This month has about 38 National Observances ranging from the serious such as Awareness of Developmental Disabilities, American Red Cross, and Dolphin Awareness to Adopt A Rescued Guinea Pig,

and Celery!

Of special notice to AAUW members is **National Women's History Month**, and I would like to touch briefly on this theme. I have noted below thoughts from the National Women's History Alliance.

The National Women's History Alliance's Month's theme

for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions.

Today, equity, diversity, and inclusion are powerful driving forces that are having a wide-ranging impact on our country. As members of families, civic and community groups, businesses and legislative bodies, women are in the forefront of reevaluating the status quo. They are looking anew at what harmful social policies and behaviors exist and, often subtly, determine our future.

In response, women in communities across the nation are helping to develop innovative programs and projects within corporations, the military, federal agencies and educational organizations to address these injustices.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Contact Judy McDonald if you hear of any member who is ill, having surgery, experienced a loss, etc.

## VP Membership



In order to protect our members' privacy, addresses and phone numbers can be found in our members' directory on the website under Members Only. These options are only available to members with a password.

Contact Linda Fessel, Maria Bonnet or Ann Burnham (see their contact information on page 2 of the newsletter) to get the password.

Welcome To Our New Member

Judith Benoist  
judlu@MSN.com

Ohio State University, BA, Journalism, 1963  
Sorbonne University, Paris, France (1964-65)  
Rollins College, MA English  
Retired Language Arts Teacher in O.C. schools

*Ann Burnham*  
V.P. Membership  
annmburnham@gmail.com

## From Our Members



The Dining In Group celebrates a certain day a little in advance. Can you tell which day it is? [Thanks to Lynda Hinckley for submitting the photo.]

## VP Finance

**IMPORTANT  
MESSAGES  
FROM  
PARVEEN**

### REMINDER:

If you receive a request for dues, and the request comes from National, treat it like spam. **DO NOT SEND THEM ANY MONEY!**

Ignore their pleas, threats, admonishments, coercions or intimidations.

**Our branch is the sole collector of your dues!!.**

And when it is our turn to ask, please don't make us plead, threaten, admonish, coerce, or intimidate.

Dues remain the same: (\$98) The breakdown is as follows:

National	\$72
State	\$12
Branch	\$14

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Dues need to be paid from May 1 up to our first meeting on September 14. Members who pay after September 14 will not be listed in the 2024-25 directory. You may, of course, pay your dues before May 1.

Make your check payable to :

AAUW Orlando/Winter Park  
and mail to:  
AAUW  
P.O. Box 884  
Winter Park, FL 32790

Thanks for your cooperation.

*Parveen Wahid*  
V.P. Finance  
piecee@hotmail.com

## Interest Groups

Got an idea for a new interest group? Let Linda publicize it in the Branchline. [Lfessel@Comcast.net](mailto:Lfessel@Comcast.net)  
Any thoughts about creating "Banned Booklovers"?

### **Booklovers:**

In honor of Ellen James

March promotes camaraderie with the Literary Luncheon. Booklovers will join other AAUW members and guests and celebrate again the beauty of a reading life.

This month Booklovers also celebrate the life of our beloved past coordinator Ellen James. In Ellen's honor Booklovers donated \$600 from our recent dues collection to our branch's Rialis Scholarship Fund.

The results of lexicography deepen our reading experience. In March many Booklovers groups will read Simon Winchester's *The Professor and the Madman* which shares the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. Perhaps, like me, you'll have a dictionary close at hand.

*If you are interested in learning more about our wonderful Booklovers groups, please contact me, Missy Baker, Booklovers Coordinator, [bakerworks@gmail.com](mailto:bakerworks@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, March 27, from 1-3 p.m. We will be discussing *Dead Man's Island* by Carolyn Hart. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Karen Deo at [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)

**Dining In:** Dining in will meet at the home of Leslie Lieberman on March 1. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or [mjcrozen@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcrozen@hotmail.com).

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** ECF is looking into some possible locations and will contact you as soon as arrangements are made. If you would like to join ECF, please contact Linda to get on the email contact list at [Lfessel@Comcast.net](mailto:Lfessel@Comcast.net).

**Foreign Affairs:** The foreign Affairs interest group will be discussing *Invisible Indonesia* (Chapter 6 in our 2024 *Great Decisions* book.) Jackie Hughes will be presenting this on Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. Location to be determined. Check with Mary Himes for more information: [m.waltzhimes@gmail.com](mailto:m.waltzhimes@gmail.com)

**Global Dining aka International Cooking** Global Dining will meet on Tuesday, March 19, at 11:30 in Club 24 (1824 Summerfield, Winter Park.) Our theme will be Spanish Foods. I am making caldo gallega, a white bean and ham soup (this is a Spanish recipe). I know we also will have paella. Some I've suggested are the most popular Cuban dishes (I am from Miami.) If all else fails, buy a prepared dish from an ethnic restaurant or grocery. Suggestions to make (or purchase): fried sweet plantains, maraquitos, black beans and rice, ropa vieja, papas rellenas, Spanish rice, flan, arroz con pollo or lechon . . . well, you get the idea! The number of diners varies from 4 to 20, so please bring enough to share. Leftovers are a side benefit of our gatherings, besides great conversation! You are welcome to bring a friend to join the fun. Please contact Adrienne Katz Katz (321-695-4445), or [katzaid@yahoo.com](mailto:katzaid@yahoo.com)) to let her know you're coming.

**Lunching Out:** Lunching Out will be meeting on Monday, March 18 at 11:30 a.m. Check your emails for more information. Contact Linda to be added to the Lunching Out contact list: [Lfessel@Comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:Lfessel@Comcast.net) or Karen Deo: [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)

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## From Myra

2024 Literary Luncheon Update

Thanks to all of you, this year's luncheon is a FULL HOUSE! Our speaker, Tracey Enerson Wood, will talk briefly on her debut novel, *The Engineer's Wife*, and lead her presentation into *The President's Wife*. Tracey is excited to introduce her upcoming book, *Katherine, the Wright Sister!* (sister of the famous inventors of the airplane, Orville and Wilbur Wright). The book will be released September 10. Also, *The President's Wife* will be available in paperback on April 2.

- ◆ Please remember to wear your AAUW nametag to the luncheon;
- ◆ If anyone preferred a vegetarian entrée but forgot to indicate it on the Reservation Form, please contact Ann Burnham);
- ◆ The speaker will need help with her Power Point. If anyone with this skill is able to help, contact Myra Gaziano.



## From the President

(Continued from page 2)

*"It takes courage for women to advocate for practical goals like equity, diversity and inclusion when established forces aim to misinterpret, exploit or discredit them."*

March has designations for every day of the month – and is worth checking out. However, my favorite is: March 21 "National French Bread Day" Yours?

Our Branchline is full of interesting information on our Chapter activities for our members, including, this month our important Scholarship fund-raiser: our Literary Lunch.

Have a great month.

*Diana Secor, President*  
AAUW, Orlando/Winter Park Branch

By Adrienne Katz Katz

Every woman today who has—in her own name—a job, a career, a bank account, a credit card, a lease, a license, a car, a mortgage, a diploma or a pension has these because she is standing on the shoulders of millions of women who fought for those privileges.

Women's inventions and contributions have affected ALL of us—our personal health, everyday devices, the Space Program, entertainment-- even the Brooklyn Bridge. Teaching about accomplishments of women in our own families and those from other backgrounds leads to higher self-esteem among girls and greater respect for women among boys and men.

We're celebrating Women's History Month throughout March. We are commemorating the achievements of women since the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote in 1920. The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment was commemorated nationally.

We have learned that even hard-fought rights can be taken away if we do not continue pushing forward! It is critical that women vote for representatives (at all levels of government) who will support our own (and our families') best interests!

Keep learning about women's accomplishments, vote wisely and teach your children well!

*One of the most committed supporters of and for women is member Adrienne Katz Katz. Thank you Adrienne for this contribution to Women's History Month. Ed.*

***Celebrating women's history month, let's take a look back at some of the key inventions by women that changed the world:***

**Circular saw — Inventor: Tabitha Babbitt — Year: 1812**

Babbitt lived in the Shaker community and worked as a weaver. She noticed people having difficulty cutting wood with a pit saw. This type of saw required 2 people to use it, and it only cut wood in a single direction. To provide a solution to the problem she attached a circular blade to a spinning wheel which resulted in the invention of the circular saw.

**Dishwasher — Inventor: Josephine Cochran — Year: 1872**

Cochran came up with the invention to use water pressure, instead of scrubbers that were used back then, to clean dishes. Although there were other prototypes, Cochran's design was the most effective one from the rest.

**Life raft — Inventor: Maria Beasley — Year: 1882**

Maria Beasley was a serial inventor who was already credited with the barrel-hopping machine patent. She later designed a life raft with guard rails that was foldable and fireproof. The life rafts created based on her design were used on the Titanic, and saved over 700 lives.

**Fire escape — Inventor: Anna Connelly — Year: 1887**

Connelly invented an external metal staircase which acted as the first fire escape and saved lives from deadly fires. Moreover, her invention resulted in the modification of the New York City building codes, and required residential buildings to have a secondary means of escape for emergencies.

**Medical syringe — Inventor: Letitia Geer — Year: 1899**

Medical practitioners were using syringes that required the use of both hands to administer injections. Geer invented the one-handed syringe that is used by all medical practitioners today.

**Windshield wiper — Inventor: Mary Anderson — 1903**

Anderson was refused by manufacturers when she tried to sell her new windshield cleaning device. However, it was only after 10 years, and after her patent expired, that a similar device became a standard on cars.

**Bullet-proof fiber — Stephanie Kwolek — Year: 1966**

DuPont researcher Stephanie Kwolek, while searching for a lightweight and strong plastic for use in car tires discovered what is now known as Kevlar. This fiber has found numerous applications in canoes, bridge cables and frying pans. Most importantly, it is credited with saving countless lives in the form of bullet-proof vests.

# MARCH 2024

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>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	7 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	8	9 <u>10:30 a.m.-</u> <u>2 p.m.</u>  <b>22nd Literary Luncheon</b>  <b>Winter Park Racquet Club</b>
10 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	11	12 <u>3 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	13	14 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg  <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	15	16
17  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18 <u>11:30</u> Lunching Out	19 <u>11:30</u> Cooking Globally  <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	20	21 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	22	23
24  <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	25	26	27  <u>10 a.m.</u> Brd. Mtg.  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers Lite	28  <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	29	30    31  <b>Easter</b>

Information on the auction item from the Dining-In Group can be found on the last two pages.

March, called *Martius* by the Romans, got its name from Mars, the god of war. It was considered a propitious time to start fighting, provided you out-numbered the enemy. March was the first month of the year until 46 B.C. when Julius Caesar, who had to do something to get his mind off Cleopatra, started messing around with the calendar. It continued to be the beginning of the legal year in England until 1752, the English not wishing to make a change hastily.

## A Culinary Visit to Eastern Europe



At this year's Annual Literary Luncheon, the Dining-In Group will offer an unforgettable culinary visit to Eastern Europe. The winning bidder will enjoy a fabulous dinner for seven guests in your home prepared by the Dining-In "chefs." And that's not all! Your own private butler will elegantly serve your guests for a night to remember. Don't miss your chance to bid on this delicious opportunity.

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

### **Please note:**

- ♦ The opening bid for "A Culinary Visit to Eastern Europe" for 8 persons and butler service begins at \$450.
- ♦ Winning bid includes delivery of "A Culinary Visit to Eastern Europe" 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, 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 "Culinary Visit to Eastern Europe" dinner will be provided at the convenience of the hostess, but please, no holiday weekends.

# A CULINARY VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE

## *MENU*

### *APPETIZERS*

Marinated pickled eggs served with baby sugar beets; Kielbasa bites;  
handmade potato and prune pieroghi served with caramelized onions  
Brown bread – Sparkling Wine

### *SOUP*

Bread Crumb Soup with Spinach

### *SALAD*

Sliced cucumbers and radishes in a dill vinaigrette over mixed greens

### *MAIN ENTRÉE*

Chicken Paprikash .....or .....Beef Stroganoff  
Served on buttered noodles  
Roasted root vegetables a la Polonaise and  
Hungarian artisan bread

### *DESSERT*

Rustic plum tart  
Russian tea cakes  
Hungarian kiffels