



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

### APRIL



#### Speaker:

**Professor Howard Vincent Kurtz**

#### **Ingenuie to Icon: The Fashion of Marjorie Merriweather Post— Millionairess and Collector**

A little more than 100 years ago at the age of 27, Marjorie Merriweather Post took ownership of the \$20 million Post cereal company making her the wealth-

iest woman in the world! Colorful socialite (4 husbands), astute businesswoman, and ardent philanthropist, Post also had a passion for collections of Sevres porcelain, French Louis XIV furnishings, and decorative arts from Imperial Russia.

Her exquisite sense of fashion is revealed by more than 200 dresses and 300 fashion accessories, including custom-made hats, purses, shoes and jewelry curated in the Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens that was her Washington, DC, residence. Professor Kurtz was the associate curator of costumes and textiles at the Hillwood Museum. Professor Kurtz will discuss Post's iconic wardrobe that spans seven decades from 1903-1973.

**His book is *Ingenuie to Icon: 70 Years of Fashion from the Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post***

Howard Vincent Kurtz is a Professor Emeritus of the School of Theater at George Mason University, where he taught costume design, fashion history, and patternmaking for twenty-five years. At GMU he received awards of excellence in teaching, research and mentorship.

Professor Kurtz is a multiple award-winning theatrical costumer and honored with the prestigious Helen Hayes Outstanding Costume Design Award. He is a member of the United Scenic Artist Costume Division, United State Institute of Theatre Technology and a Fellow of the Costume Society of America.



#### SATURDAY BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time: 9:30 to 11:30

First Congregational Church of W.P.

**COST: \$20**

#### HOW 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

(allow 5 days delivery time)

Make check payable to

AAUW-Orlando/Winter Park

RSVP BY WED., APRIL 10

USE THE NEW RESERVATION EMAIL:

[AAUWreserve@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWreserve@gmail.com)

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

# From the President



Dear Branch Members:

Time to welcome Spring . Our Branch has some good news this month: the number of members has risen to 135 and we are looking forward to the coming year. Our Literary Luncheon, held this year at the Winter Park Racquet

Club, was a great success with 120 attendees. As you all know, this is our fund raiser for Scholarships, and this year we will add \$5000 plus to this fund.

Our summer hiatus will begin in June with suspension of some of our regular meetings and begin again In September. However, many of our activity groups do not take the summer off. Check with our group leaders – listed in this Branchline for any changes in schedule.

**DUES:** keep in mind that dues are NOT to be paid directly to National AAUW. Disregard any communication you may receive from them. Check this Branchline for dues payment information.

AAUW National has a very important By-Law change coming up for a vote of the members which will affect all branches. In short, the AAUW Board of Directors and the AAUW Governing Committee are recommending that AAUW open membership to any individual who supports AAUW’s important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

**This will be the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership.**

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### OFFICERS

President: Diana Secor  
dianasecoraaauw@gmail.com

VP Membership: Ann Burnham  
annmburnham@gmail.com

VP Programs: Dr. Leslie S. Lieberman  
lslieberman@gmail.com

VP Finance: Parveen Wahid  
piecee@hotmail.com

Secretary: Linda Fessel  
Lfessel@Comcast.net

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Booklovers Coordinator  
Missy Baker  
bakerworks@gmail.com

Branchline Editor  
Linda Fessel  
Lfessel@Comcast.net

Bylaws and Parliamentarian  
Barbara Knapp  
bcknapp1949@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary  
Judy McDonald  
murransouth.net

Director for Development  
Rosemary Vendena  
Rovendena@hotmail.com

Literary Luncheon Chair  
Myra Gaziano  
gazianomyra@yahoo.com

Membership Directory  
Ann Burnham  
annmburnham@gmail.com  
Linda Fessel  
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Anne Landrum  
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Karen Gillett  
karen555g@hotmail.com  
Roberta Cooper  
rdeecooper@gmail.com

Print Media  
Georgiana Havill  
g@havill.org

Scholarship Chair  
Karen Buchan  
kgb@unknownegg.org

STEM coordinator  
TBA

Tech Trek  
TBA

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

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

## From the President

Continued From Page 2

Some observations regarding the month of April: there are 38 monthly observances this month, ranging from Autism Awareness Month, Jazz Appreciation Month, National Alcohol Awareness Month, National Soft Pretzel Month, and National BLT Sandwich Month.

Weekly named observances include: Be Kind to Spiders Week, National Administrative Professionals Week, and National Library Week.

There are 180 named days in April! Of course, we begin with April 1 – April Fools Day. No – we are not naming them all!! We do have National Pillow Fight Day, National Ferret Day, and, of course, loads of “food days,” – Burritos, Deep Dish Pizza, Twinkies, Beer, Baked Ham, to name a few.

And let’s remember to acknowledge animal days: hamsters, dogs, dolphins, bats. And perhaps useful days such as: Volunteer Recognition Day, Library Day, Walking Day, and Childrens’ Book Day.

Question: Why are people so tired April 1st? Because they just finished a 31-day March!



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

## Scholarships

It is so heartwarming to announce that this year we will be awarding five - \$1500 scholarships!

A huge THANK YOU to the Booklovers Groups for their \$600 contribution to the Branch Scholarship Fund. This generous contribution was made as a special remembrance of Ellen James, long-time Booklovers Chair and also long-time member of the Scholarship Committee.

The five outstanding women will be invited to our May meeting. More information about each recipient will be in the May Branchline – but for now just a little about them:

Clarissandra attends UCF and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Trinidee is working on her M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Stetson University in Deland. Shivani is also at UCF pursuing a Ph.D. in Securities Studies/Intelligence & National Security. Daniella is working on her B.S. in Molecular & Cellular Biology/Chemistry at UCF. Yana is completing her B.S. in Health Sciences at Stetson and has been accepted into the Masters in Public Health program at Rollins College this Fall.

A BIG THANKS to the Scholarship Committee: Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald and Suzanne Schneider!!!

*Karen Buchan*

### Voting for new officers will take place on Saturday, April 13.

**Vice President for Membership: Irene Pruzan** has been a member of AAUW Orlando/Winter Park branch since 2000, where she did PR and created the branch’s first website. As a member of the University Club of Winter Park, Irene was on the Membership, Program, and PR committees. She served for twelve years on the Board of the Florida Flute Association as Program Chair for the annual convention, Vice President, President and Board Chair, as well as 5 years on the National Flute Association’s Pedagogy Committee.

**Co-VP Finance Director: Collette Davis** has been a member of AAUW for more than 10 years. She has served the Branch in the capacity of Secretary for the Saturday meetings; and although not yet elected, she has recently attended Board meetings to learn about the Branch finances and the proposed budget. She will join Co-Finance Director Parveen Wahid.

We are grateful to the following officers who have agreed to serve a second 2-year term:

**President, Diana Secor**  
**Secretary, Linda Fessel**

**Leslie S. Lieberman, Ph.D.**  
**Chair, Nominating Committee**

## VP Membership



**PLEASE  
WELCOME  
OUR  
NEW  
MEMBERS**

Mary Ann Feldheim  
Kent State U., BSN, Nursing, 1979  
Kent State U., MSN, Nursing, 1984  
FAU, Ph.D., Pediatric Admin., 1998

Deborah Hartline  
IONHAR@aol.com  
Indiana University of PA, BS Medical Technology, 1979

Renee (Dee) Morgan  
winterparkdee@gmail.com  
Miami U. of Ohio, BS Education 1978  
UCF, Masters Education, 1988

Diane Murray  
murrayd@msn.com  
Xavier University, BS Psych., 1990  
Duquesne University, MA, Psych, 1991  
Saybrook Graduate School, Ph.D., Psych, 2002

Deborah (Debbie) Pope  
dtpope2000@gmail.com  
St. Thomas Aquinas College, BS Education, 1967  
FTU/UCF Masters Education, 1974

Aquila Shaw  
aquilashaw4@gmail.com  
Valencia Community College, LPN, Nursing, 1971

Mary H. Young  
Mary.meme.young@gmail.com  
Mississippi College., BS Education, 1971

Addresses and phone numbers can be found on the website under Members Only. Contact Linda Fessel, Maria Bonnet or Ann Burnham (see their contact information on page 2 of the newsletter) to get the password.

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

## VP Finance



This notice has appeared before, but it is important enough to bear repeating. And a few changes were made regarding payment of dues.

### 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, i.e., July 1, 2024—June 30, 2025. Any payments received for dues and new memberships collected March through June will cover that fiscal year. Dues are payable in June. The directory is scheduled to be assembled over the summer, and we must have a record of your payment in order for you to be an official member and be included in the Directory.

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

### **Booklovers:**

Welcome spring!

If the slopes or sands did not lure you from your comfortable couch this spring break, you may instead appreciate traveling via April's book selection to the New York of 1938. Booklovers will read Amor Towles' premier novel, *Rules of Civility*.

In April Booklovers will learn the results of our book selection process. Aided by the publishing skills of Linda Fessel, Martha Williamson again guided the creation of an enticing list, this year numbering 52 books. From these titles the top 8 vote-recipients will comprise our 2024-25 selections. Many thanks to Martha, Linda, and Maria Bonnet, our official tabulator, as well as to the legions of Booklovers whose suggestions made this ballot possible.

*If you are interested in learning more about our wonderful Booklovers groups, please contact me, Missy Baker, Booklovers Coordinator, bakerworks@gmail.com.*

**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. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 24, from 1-3 p.m. We will be discussing *Murder Simply Brewed*, by Vanetta Chapman along with *Dead Man's Island* by Carolyn Hart. Contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com for more information.

**Dining In:** Dining in will meet at the home of Adrienne Katz on April 5. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcroser@hotmail.com.

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** One of the most interesting and fun tours we have ever taken was to the Orange County Landfill. No kidding. If you'd like to revisit that pre-covid tour or want to see it for the first time, you must RSVP as soon as possible as seats are limited, so first come, first to smell the garbage (kidding!). The tour will be on Tuesday, April 30. If you are not currently on the ECF contact list, you need to do so in order to get all the information you will need for this tour. To RSVP and/or get on the email list, contact Linda at LFessel@Comcast.net. Or fessel.linda@gmail.com

**Foreign Affairs:** The foreign Affairs interest group will be discussing "*Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st cen-*

*ture?*" (Chapter 6 in our 2024 *Great Decisions* book.) Parveen Wahid will be presenting this on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at her home. Check with Mary Himes for more information: m.waltzhimes@gmail.com

**Global Dining aka International Cooking** I open the doors at 11:30--we eat around noon. Club 24 is located at 1824 Summerfield, Winter Park.

Our April theme will be POLISH FOODS and/or Easter favorites!

There are lots of recipes online, but if all else fails, buy a prepared dish from an ethnic restaurant or grocery.

Blueberries are in season, so a Blueberry Mazerka would be a great dessert for someone to bring!

Our diners vary from 4 to 20, so please bring enough to share. Leftovers are a side benefit of our gatherings, besides great conversation!

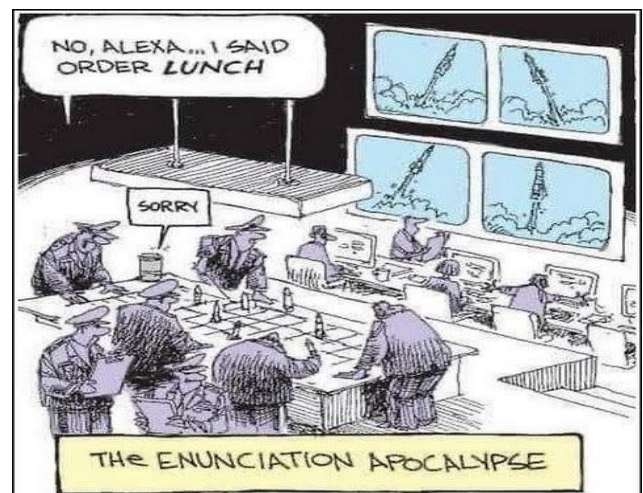
Call Adrienne Katz Katz (321-695-4445) to discuss your choices and to let me know you're coming.

You are welcome to bring a friend to join the fun!

Hugs from Adrienne Katz Katz (321-695-4445), or (katzaid@yahoo.com)

**Lunching Out:** Lunching Out will be meeting on Wednesday, April 17, at 11:30 a.m. We will re-visit one of our perennial favorites. Check your emails for more information. 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





*The 22nd Annual Literary Luncheon with guest author, Tracey Enerson Wood, was a success thanks to all of you. Our fabulous Branch raised nearly \$5,000 (please note this figure may change) on the luncheon, silent auction, flowers, and 50/50 drawing.*

*It was truly a pleasure to work with such a wonderful team! A very special thank you to our amazing volunteers who made this event a great success:*

*Ann Burnham and Diana Secor for handling the reservation and seating arrangements,  
Karen Buchan, Maria Bonnet, Susan Turo, Nancy Flaherty and Barb Buchele for graciously greeting and seating our guests,*

*Georgiana Havill for the event advertisement and publicity,*

*Mary Himes and her 50/50 team that included Tae Harper and Anna Beck,*

*Emily Bader and Cynthia Pesch designed and made the beautiful floral table centerpieces,*

*Linda Fessel printed and laid out the programs and fliers as well as updated the website and Branchline with literary luncheon information,*

*Rosemary Vendena for coordinating the silent auction, along with her team Susan Turo and Sandy Goldstein,*

*Parveen Wahid and Diana Secor who were cash-*

*iers for the silent auction,*

*Branch Interest Groups and Individual Members for donating fabulous baskets and items for the silent auction,*

*The Dining-in Group for their silent auction bid item "A Culinary Visit to Eastern Europe." There were three winning bids that raised over \$2,000,*

*Martha Williamson for her efforts in coordinating 24 guests from the Mayflower,*

*Parveen Wahid for disbursing tokens and collecting money for wine,*

*Valerie Hyatt for passing the mic during Q and A, Lynda Hinckley and Georgiana Havill for collecting the money for the table centerpieces, and*

*Ann Burnham for setting up the membership table and disbursing membership information that resulted in 6 new members.*

*Also a big thank you to the many members who worked behind the scenes on the day of the luncheon—you were invaluable. This event truly takes a village of volunteers! And most importantly, thank you to all of our members who attended and supported the event, bringing guests and potential members. It could not have been a success without all of your support! Thank you!*

*Myra Gaziano, Literary Luncheon Chair*



*Author Tracey Enerson Wood with Myra Gaziano holding Wood's coauthored cookbook: *Homefront Cooking ...Recipes, Wit and Wisdom from American Veterans and their Loved Ones.**

*All author's profits are donated to organizations that support veterans.*

THE 22ND LITERARY LUNCHEON AT THE WINTER PARK RACQUET CLUB MARCH 13, 2024  
OUR GUEST SPEAKER WAS TRACEY ENERSON WOOD.





More pictures from the  
Literary Luncheon





# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	3 <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	4 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	5 <u>12 noon</u> Dining-In	6
7	8 	9 <u>3 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	10	11 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	12	13 <b><u>9:30—11</u></b> <b>General Meeting</b>
14	15	16 <u>11:30</u> Global Cooking <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	17 <u>11:30</u> Lunching Out	18 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	19	20
21	22 <b>Earth Day</b> <b>Passover Begins</b>	23	24 <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Brd. Mtg. <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers Lite	25 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	26	27
28 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	29	30 <u>10-a.m. -3 p.m.</u> ECF				

## Practical Advice:

If all the toilets in your house are occupied and you are waiting for one to be free, switch off the wi-fi.

## DATING IN 2022:

