



Orlando *** Winter Park
BRANCHLINE

WANTED

American Association of University Women

welcomes you to its annual

MEMBERS & GUESTS CELEBRATION

September 9, 2023, from 2-4 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Winter Park
255 S. Interlachen Avenue, Winter Park

***Refreshments, Socializing,
Information on our interest groups
and monthly programs***

Invite your neighbors and friends!

Members: \$5 + Snacks

No cost for Guests and Visitors

RSVP by Tuesday, September 5

Ann Burnham, V.P. Membership

annmburnham@gmail.com or 407-506-2221 or

Parveen Wahid@ 407-677-0571 or

winterparkAAUWreservations@gmail.com



REMINDERS FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 9



BRING \$5

To cover the rental of the room plus set up and clean up of tables and chairs.



Pay my dues by September 16 to be included in the printed directory..



Bring some snacks (sweet or savory) to share. Finger foods preferred. We are paying Drew for drinks ONLY, so any snacks must be our responsibility.



Don't forget to bring my AAUW Name Tag



HAVE FUN
WELCOME GUESTS
AND
MINGLE, MINGLE, MINGLE



P/U cat food on the way

From the President



As September approaches, I recall the quote: September is the month of new beginnings and fresh starts. September traditionally leads us into the fall months when the weather gets cooler, children go back to school, organizations begin new activities, and we feel more energetic that summer is passing.

Our AAUW Group Leaders have been working on our activities and preparing for the coming year. These include groups such as Booklovers, Dining Groups, Discussion Groups and Excursions, and our Literary Luncheon.

AAUW is active in serving our community with its involvement with PACE School for Girls, awarding Scholarships, and participating in girls advancement with STEM studies and Tech Trek scholarships.

Our year is starting off with our AAUW annual celebration for our members to socialize with each other and to introduce friends and acquaintances, both to our members and some of our Interest groups.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9, from 2 -4 for our gathering (look for more information in the Branchline).

Looking forward to see you.

Diana Secor
President, AAUW
Orlando/Winter Park Branch

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The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from a nonpartisan but equity-focused viewpoint? Would you like to be able to ask your own questions of experts regarding these issues? Then be sure to attend as many AAUW Florida Issue Forums this year as you can. All sessions will start at 6:00 PM and last for an hour. The series is open to AAUW members and guests.

TITLE	DATE	SPEAKERS	RSVP
Reproductive Rights	Sept. 14, 2023	Moné Holder, Florida Rising	Click here to register for this session
Title IX and Dress Codes in Schools	Oct. 5, 2023	Nancy Tray, Change the Dress Code Movement, St Johns County	Click here to register for this session
Gender Studies and DEI Initiatives at Colleges	Nov. 2 2023	Dr. Elizabeth Brown, Past President of the United Faculty of Florida, University of North Florida	Click here to register for this session
Florida 2024 Legislative Preview	Nov.16, 2023	Dr. Pat DeWitt, AAUW Co-Public Policy Director and Public Policy Committee Members	Click here to register for this session
Public Education and Book Bans	Jan. 11, 2024	Dr. Martin Dunn, Professor Emeritus at Florida International University and Miami Center for Racial Justice	Click here to register for this session
Gender Pay Gap and Economic Security	March 7, 2024	Dr. Mary Gatta, AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director and Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers	Click here to register for this session
Voting Rights	April 18, 2024	Debbie Chandler, Co-President, League of Women's Voters. Florida	Click here to register for this session

You will need to RSVP for each session individually. Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session. If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, Co-Public Policy Director, AAUW Florida at gatta.mary@gmail.com

For information contact:

Bea Holt - AAUW Florida President: aauwflbholt@gmail.com

Mary Gatta, Ph.D. - Co-Director for Public Policy: gatta.mary@gmail.com

Pat DeWitt, Ph.D. - Co-Director for Public Policy_ aauwflde Witt@gmail.com

Submitted by Dr. Leslie S. Lieberman

From Our Members

Here's what you missed at our May meeting . . .



Guest Speaker: Coralie Claeyssen-Gleyzon, curator/interim head of collections & Exhibitions at OMA



Karen Buchan introduces four of the seven scholarship winners. From L-R: Eliana Jacobs, Anamaria Unzueta, Andrea Cruz, Haley Thomas, Karen Buchan



On behalf of the AAUW-FL, Georgiana Havill presents a certificate to a very surprised Leslie Lieberman in recognition and thanks for her significant contributions to the mission of AAUW.

Some more May events



On May 2, ECF climbed aboard two "trams" which took us on a tour of the Orlando Wetlands in Christmas. This was ECF's second visit to the wetlands. If you've never been there, it's well worth it.



If this guy looks like he's wearing a toilet, you're not wrong. He was the mascot at the "If Your Pipes Could Talk" event on May 6. The program was arranged through an AAUW-FL Funded Project Grant.

Fortunately, no one tried to flush him!



Just when you thought the future couldn't get any crazier, someone came up with a drone-carrying toilet. Sure, there's no towels, toilet paper or sink, but after all, Drone wasn't built in a day.



More From Our Members



Smiling Booklovers X gathered May 11 for their end-of-year discussion and lunch at Dubsdread Tap Room. From L-R: Georgiana Havill, Nancy Napier, Myra Gaziano, Emily Bader, Suzy Kerr, Pat Wilson, Roberta Cooper, Eileen Garrison, Cynthia Pesch.



Cooking Globally has had lively and delicious gatherings all summer. See Cooking Globally on page 10 if you would like to get involved with this delectable group.



In recognition for your years of service and outstanding commitment to AAUW through your involvement with STEM, Tech Trek, NCCWSL, the Branch Directory and Thousands of BLASTS!

July 2023

12 members gathered at PFChang's to express their best wishes to Hanna as she prepares to move to Atlanta.

Hanna has worn many hats over the years to keep our branch running smoothly. Now that she is departing, the Board has its work cut out to fill those hats with other heads. This will not be an easy task.

[Editor's Note: Susan Rogers has graciously taken on Tech Trek.]

Scholarships



Valencia College Foundation AAUW Endowed Scholarship

Some years ago our AAUW Branch endowed a scholarship at Valencia College which allows us to annually disburse the income from the endowment. This summer the Scholarship Committee reviewed 12 applications provided by Valencia, all students who meet our criteria. Undoubtedly, each woman was deserving and passionate about her college courses.

The committee chose to award a \$500 scholarship for the Fall 2023 term to three women:

Leisa is pursuing an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Business with a concentration in Human Resources. Leisa wrote, "I was determined that my life would be easier than what I saw growing up and realized that education was the key to unlocking many doors from a young age."

Diping is pursuing an A.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. She related, "Overall, my experience of going back to school after being a stay-

at-home mom for many years had a profound impact on my personal and professional development. It taught me valuable skills, opened new career opportunities, and helped me achieve my goals while still balancing my responsibilities as a mother."

Lajonda is pursuing an A.S. degree in Human Resources Management with the ultimate goal of a Bachelor's in Organizational Leadership. Lajonda participates in a work study program in Valencia's VA office and hopes to transition to position as a VA Certifying Official. She wrote, "I have continuously pushed myself to excel in everything I do, and it has paid off tremendously."

Each of these women are a bit older and overcoming challenges from being widowed with very young children, dropping out of high school and later earning a GED, and being out of school and the workforce for almost 20 years. Leisa, Diping and Lajonda all reported the desire to be a good role model for their children.

THANK YOU to the committee members: Barbara Knapp, Sue McDonald, Sherry Kragler and Suzanne Schneider. Your dedication and time are always greatly appreciated!

Karen Buchan
Scholarship Chair

IN MEMORY OF ELLEN JAMES



Ellen had my highest regard from my encounters with her at the AAUW brunches and also at her annual booklovers season-kick-offs at her place. I'd come home with a jar of her homemade preserves (given to all of us individual leaders) and regaling anyone in earshot about her exquisite table settings and delightful food. Her age (age 95-96?) was an afterthought for those privileged to know her. Her swiftness and sparkling eyes were just the immediately obvious signs of her lively intellect--apparently to the end. She seemed without parallel.

Georgiana Havill

"When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight."

Kahlil Gibran

The sudden passing of long-time member Ellen James has left us shocked and momentarily speechless. We would like to continue with tributes to Ellen in our next issue. Please send us your thoughts and memories . ed.



Thanks to Booklovers, PACE was able to start back to school with additional English Literature books as well as full classroom sets of books on Critical Thinking, Debate, Journalism and Career Planning. These are all required subjects for which PACE had no books. Because of Booklovers generosity, AAUW has once again been able to improve the curriculum for our PACE girls.

Thanks to all who have continued to support the PACE food pantry. AAUW started the food pantry several years before the pandemic and it continues to be needed today.

As we gather again in September, we at AAUW begin planning for our two major events with PACE, Thanksgiving Lunch and Miracle Bag Day. Thanksgiving Lunch will

be held on November 16, one week before Thanksgiving. Miracle Bag Day is scheduled for December 20. These events have been held for many years thanks to the support of our AAUW members. We ask for your support this year again knowing that we all believe in girls and want to help them succeed.

Since November 16 will be here in the blink of an eye, we'll have a Thanksgiving Lunch sign up sheet at the PACE table on September 9 so you can let us know what you'd like to contribute to our Thanksgiving Lunch. We hope you will also plan to volunteer on November 16 to serve PACE girls and their families - it's a wonderful experience!

Your PACE Team: Pat Stamm, Karen Gillet, Karen Buchan, Roberta Cooper, Barbara Knapp, Sue McDonald, Anne Landrum



On June 8, from 7:30—9 a.m., PACE held its annual Believing in Girls Breakfast. It was held at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Pictured are the attendees:

Back Row: Diana Secor, Karen Buchan, Linda Hammersla

Front Row: Dr. Leslie Lieberman, Roberta Cooper, and Carol Gort, long-time PACE supporter and friend of Karen Buchan's



VP Membership

AAUW membership is open to anyone with an associate (or equivalent, e.g., RN) degree or higher from an accredited educational facility. Any guest attending our September 9 event may decide to join "on the spot." They will receive a 50% discount on the \$72 National portion of their dues.

And who do you plan to bring on September 9 as your

Plus One?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Karen Madsen
msclassical.mads@gmail.com
University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana 1967
Bachelor of Music, Music History major

When speaking with a new or prospective member, encourage them to read our Branchline newsletters which are available on our branch's website. Each Branchline issue contains contact information for our Interest Groups. Involvement in an Interest Group is key to making new friends in AAUW.

Our website address is:
Orlando-FL.AAUW.net

[In order to keep our contact information private and for members only, all members' addresses and phone numbers can be located in the "Members Only" section of our Website

Contact Ann Burnham, Linda Fessel, or Maria Bonnet if you do not have the password.]

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

VP Co-Finance



National Dues have been increased this year. State and local dues remain the same. Here's the breakdown

National:	\$ 72
State:	12
Branch:	<u>14</u>
Total	\$ 98

Make checks payable to AAUW—Orlando/Winter Park and mail to:

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

DUES MUST BE PAID BY SEPTEMBER 16 FOR INCLUSION IN THE PRINTED DIRECTORY.

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

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: In August, Booklovers donated \$923 to the PACE Center for Girls. Because member Anne Landrum initiated the purchase during the summer, textbooks covering English literature, career planning, critical thinking and more were in the classrooms for the start of the school year.

Martha Williamson first organized a Booklovers group in 1996. From that time forward, our goal is to promote community spirit and intellectual growth. The recent donation to PACE illustrates our commitment.

In those 27 years, Booklovers grew to 9 groups with approximately 80 members. Booklovers is at the heart of our AAUW branch.

In September, Booklovers I, II, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X will discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Are you interested in learning more about the Booklovers groups? Stop by our display at the Members and Guests Celebration on September 9.

This reading season, I follow in the footsteps of the inestimable Ellen James as coordinator of the Orlando/Winter Park AAUW Booklovers. I wish you all gratifying and challenging reading.

Missy Baker
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, September 27. We will discuss *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Rayborn. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Karen Deo at Karen.deo@gmail.com

Dining In: Sherry Levy will be hosting the Dining In luncheon on September 1, at 12 p.m. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcrozen@hotmail.com.

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): ECF will not be meeting until the temperature becomes less debilitating for outdoor events. 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 not be meeting this month. Members of this group will be reorganizing in search of a new leader. (Wishing Dee Fuentes all the best as she takes up a new residence in Illinois. ed.)

Global Dining aka International Cooking:

GLOBAL DINING (aka International Cooking) will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at Club 24, 11:30 a.m. (1824 Summerfield, in Winter Park.)

Tuesday, September 19, is our next gathering, and the cuisine of FRANCE will be our focus. Adrienne Katz Katz (katzaid@yahoo.com, cell 321-695-4445) welcomes your participation. Bring a guest, too!

Please research your favorite recipes to let us know what you'd like to bring: appetizers, soups, salads, entrees, side dishes, breads and desserts. We don't mind overlapping within categories -- the more choices the better!

We have had lively and delicious gatherings all summer (see photo on page 6).

Adrienne Katz Katz
(katzaid@yahoo.com, cell 321-695-4445)

Lunching Out: Check your emails for specific information regarding date and place of our next gathering. 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

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

The gender wage gap is now the smallest it's been since it started being tracked in 1979

Published Fri, Jul 21 2023 2:18 PM EDT

Morgan Smith@thewordsmithm

Submitted by Dr. Leslie S. Lieberman

The future seemed bleak for working women after two decades of little progress in closing the pay gap and a pandemic-induced recession.

But the U.S. might be a small step closer to achieving equality for women in the workplace — or at least in their paychecks.

The difference in earnings between full-time working women and men is now the narrowest on record, according to an [Axios analysis](#) of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which [was published](#) earlier this week.

Full-time working women had median weekly earnings of \$1,001 last quarter, about 84% of the \$1,181 median for men. It's the smallest the gap has been since 1979, the first year for which earnings data is available. That year, women's median earnings were 62% of men's.

A persistently tight labor market has afforded more women the opportunity to switch jobs and negotiate for better pay, says Julia Pollak, the chief economist at ZipRecruiter.

After pandemic disruptions, women are entering the workforce at a higher clip [than ever before](#). As Pollak calls out, "The she-recession that lingered throughout 2022 appears to be turning into a she-boom."

As skill-based hiring becomes increasingly popular, Pollak adds, women have better chances of landing jobs in tech, finance and other high-paying industries that they might not have been eligible for five years ago.

"All of these small changes, getting rid of degree requirements, taking candidates with three years of experience instead of five, reduces discrimination in hiring and directly benefits women," Pollak notes.

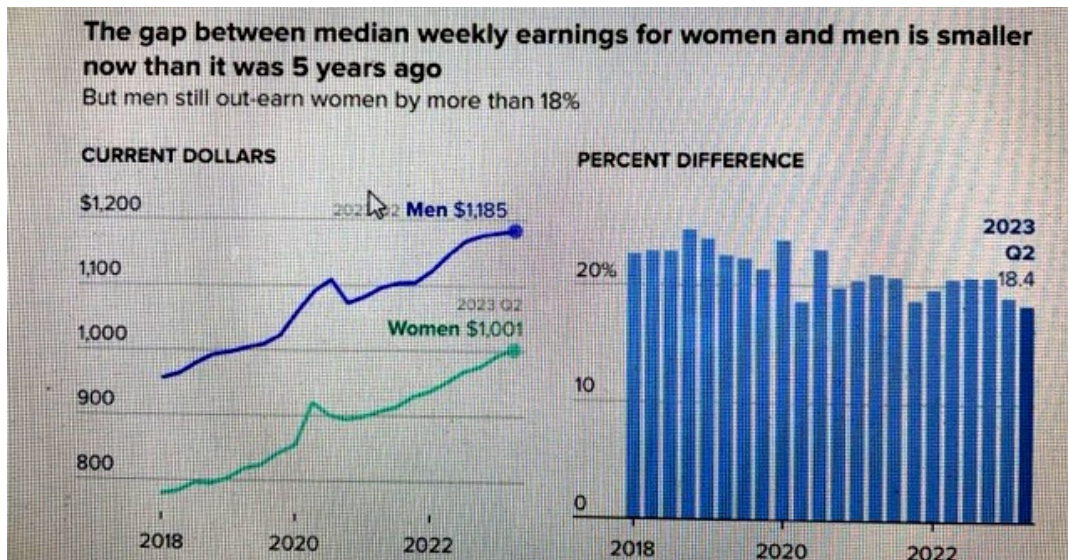
Another recent change that's helped mothers and caregivers return to full-time work is improved access to child care, a critical sector that struggled with hiring shortages since the start of the pandemic.

Although child-care employment has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, hiring has "steadily increased" in most states, a [recent report](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found.

Ruth Thomas, a pay equity analyst at PayScale, says that the proliferation of [pay transparency laws](#) is another crucial piece that is helping close the gender wage gap. "Mandating upfront disclosures allows women to know whether or not a job offer is fair, and target workplaces that genuinely support equal pay," she says.

Although the latest numbers are encouraging, there's still "a lot more work to do" in terms of identifying the specific factors that allow the gender pay gap to exist at all, Thomas adds. As of June 2023, more than 25% of U.S. workers are covered under pay transparency laws, according to data from [the National Women's Law Center](#), and at the federal level, the Equal Pay Act of 1963 outlaws gender-based pay discrimination.

"We're making slow progress on salary transparency and child care, but beyond that, what else is left to fix to close the pay gap?" says Thomas. "That's the bit employers seem to be struggling with."



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <u>12 noon</u> Dining-In	2
3	4 <u>3:30</u> B-Lovers VI Labor Day	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>2-4 p.m.</u> WELCOME BACK CELEBRATION
10	11	12 <u>3 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	13	14 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	15	16 Rosh Hashanah
17	18	19 <u>11:30</u> Cooking Globally <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	20	21 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers X	22	23
24	25 Yom Kippur	26	27 <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite	28 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	29	30

NOTE: Booklovers IV has merged with Booklovers IX.