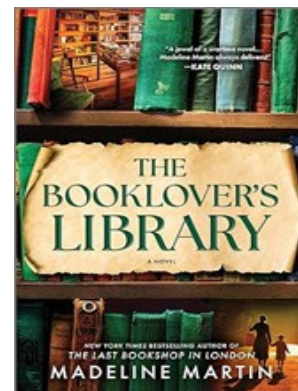


**Orlando *** Winter Park
BRANCHLINE****Twenty-Third Annual Spring Literary Luncheon**

Saturday, March 8, 2025

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Heathrow Country Club
1200 Bridgewater Drive
Heathrow, FL 32746

Speaker: Madeline Martin**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Madeline Martin is a *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publisher's Weekly* and internationally bestselling author of forty historical fiction and historical romance novels, whose books have been translated into over twenty-five different languages. At the Literary Luncheon, Ms. Martin will speak about her latest heartwarming and compelling novel, *The Booklover's Library* that has been nominated for the 2024 Goodreads Choice Awards for Best Historical Fiction.

The Booklover's Library is a well-researched tale of a mother and daughter in wartime England and the power and solace of books that brings them together and helps them to find hope in the darkest of times. According to the author "this book truly comes from my heart and is based on so much of my personal life."

The Booklist starred review noted that "Martin infuses *The Booklovers Library* with an array of historical details, highlighting the strength and courage needed by every citizen in a wartime effort. The novel is a feast for the senses – the sound of air-raid sirens, the taste of rationed butter, the smell of freshly brewed tea." Martin lives in Florida with her two amazing daughters, two incredibly spoiled cats and a man so wonderful he has been dubbed "Mr. Awesome."

She is a die-hard history lover who will happily lose herself in research any day. She also loves travel, attributing her fascination with history to having spent most of her childhood as an Army brat in Germany.

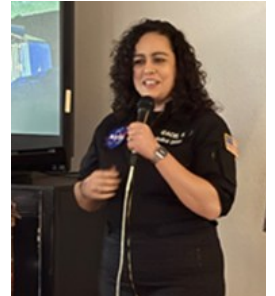
Here's what you missed if you didn't come to the General Meeting on February 8:



The new administration promises to deport millions of undocumented people. Nancy Rudner, a former AAUW speaker, presented some facts about the approximately 12 million undocumented people in Florida. She also passed out red cards which can be given

to an undocumented worker or anyone who thinks they know someone who might be one. These cards, printed in about 19 different languages, explain what their rights are.

Our main speaker, Sharife Gacel, spoke about being an analogue astronaut for NASA. The topic was one which obviously intrigued many of our members and produced one of the highest number of attendees at a general meeting.



In brief, analogue astronauts simulate on earth (usually in remote locations like a mountain or desert) the conditions that will one day face astronauts on the moon or on another planet. They live in a small area, eat what would be available to them outside earth, and even don space suits when they want to go outside.

Initially scheduled for January, **Exploring Central Florida's** trip to the Sculpture Garden in Lake Nona ran into a force that even the bull couldn't vanquish—the weather. But one month later, on February 28, the tour met at the Wave Hotel to stroll through the gardens, enjoy lunch at the hotel's Garni Café, and the weather couldn't have been more perfect. Jeannie Bubriski prepared handouts for everyone giving details of the different sculptures and the sculptors. Kudos to Jeannie for volunteering to act as our guide.



From A Member

From our member Sarah Goodwin:

Did you know that Sarah and her grandfather were volunteers for the Orange County Elections Office? In fact, they were the oldest and longest serving volunteers! To commemorate that milestone, the flag shown below was flown over the US capitol on July 4, 2024. On the right is a proclamation from Congressman Daniel Webster honoring them earlier last month. Sarah said she had no idea that they would be so honored. CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah and her grandpa. You do us proud!



From the President



Welcome to the month of March...which contains several well-known events, such as Mardi Gras (3/04), Daylight Saving Time (3/09), St. Patrick’s Day (3/17) and of course, the day of warning—Beware the Ides of March (3/15)! (In 44 B.C.E. this date became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar—a turning point in Roman history!)

March’s full moon is known as Worm Moon traced back to Native American lore noting the emergence of beetle larvae from thawing winter “hideouts” such as tree bark.

There are March days such as Share A Smile Day, National Cheese Doodle Day, National Let’s Laugh Day, and more seriously – World Meteorological Day, World Wildlife Day, International Women’s Day, and National Safety Day.

March is also known as Mustache Month, Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig month, and National Celery Month. Worth noting, however, are American Red Cross Month, International Ideas Month, Listening Awareness Month, and Women’s History Month.

For 2025 the theme for the NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY ALLIANCE (NWhA) is: **“Moving Forward Together: Women Educating and Inspiring Generations.”**

(Continued on page 5)

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PACE Center for Girls

PACE Center for Girls

What a wonderful day! Our first Valentine Party at PACE was a huge success with the girls, the staff and our AAUW members. The Pizza Party started off the day. A party needs music and the girls were singing and dancing in their chairs after they eagerly chomped down on the pizza. The crafts and the chair exercise really went over big. Many girls began wearing their bracelets immediately, and others took extra yarn to make more key chains at home. Their own creativity in making the cards along with the bracelets and key chains was very meaningful to the girls and to all those who worked with them. Then they loved the homemade cookies and the presents in large heart bags. One of the girls remarked that we should come there more often since it was always so much fun when we came! Another girl told Sue that her aunt had attended PACE before her and told her she could look forward to the wonderful days that AAUW provided.

Many, many thanks to all who made this day so special—all the crafters, the exercisers, the cookie makers, the servers, the decorators, the food and present preparers, all the shoppers and all the donors. This fabulous day could not have happened without all of you.

PACE Food Pantry Recipe

(Please bring to the general meeting or deliver to PACE items from this recipe so that the girls can bring home healthy meal ingredients.)

Vegetable Lo Mein

- 1 box spaghetti
- 1 (4oz) can mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 (28 oz) can La Choy Stir Fry Vegetables
- 1 (14.5 oz) bottle La Choy Teriyaki Stir Fry Sauce and Marinade

Cook 8 oz spaghetti according to package directions, omitting salt. Set aside when done. Heat oil in deep pan over medium heat; add vegetables and mushrooms. Cook for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Stir Fry Sauce and cooked spaghetti and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for 5 minutes till Lo Mein is slightly thickened.



A shout-out to Vinzo's Italian Grill & Pizzeria in Casselberry for supplying the pizzas. They also provided a generous discount thanks to our recently acquired 501(c)(3).

Interest Groups

Booklovers:

As I type this note, orange blossoms unfurl on the tree outside my window. How appropriate that the blossoming friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune will occupy our Booklovers discussions in March. Most groups will read *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. If you are interested in joining a book group, please contact Missy Baker, Booklovers Coordinator, at bakerworks@gmail.com

Booklovers Lite: Booklovers Lite meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 1 p.m. The group will meet on March 26 to discuss *The Sunday Wife* by Cassandra King. The reading list is independent from those of the other book groups. If interested in being part of this fun group, contact chair Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

Dining In: Dining-In normally meets at noon on the first Friday of the month. Contact Jane Rosen for more information: 321-295-7689 or mjcrossen@hotmail.com.

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): Contact Linda at LFessel@Comcast.net to get on the contact list.

Foreign Affairs Foreign Affairs Interest Group will be discussing chapter 1: "America at a Global Crossroads" in our Great Decisions book on Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. Barbara Turnage will be presenting this topic. Contact Mary Himes for more information. mwaltzhimes@gmail.com

Global Dining: Contact Adrienne Katz (katzaid@yahoo.com) for information regarding this group.

Lunching Out: Check the date(s) on the calendar. An email with more information will be sent to those on the Lunching Out contact list. Contact Linda Fessel to get your name on the 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 Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

Their goals & objectives mesh strongly with AAUW, to wit:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Honor:** Recognize the achievements and contributions of women educators, mentors, and leaders.
- Inspire:** Motivate all generations to pursue education and leadership roles.
- Educate:** Raise awareness about legacies from every walk of life, highlighting their unique contributions and diverse backgrounds, including socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, abilities, and personal experiences.
- Unite:** Bring together communities to explore, share, and celebrate women's history and achievements.
- Envision:** Create a blueprint for the future that honors our foremothers and builds bridges for the next generation of women.

www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

Looking forward to seeing you at our March Literary Luncheon, our branch SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER!!

Diana Secor, President
AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch

I made a chicken salad last night.
Apparently they prefer grain.

I went to the paint store to get thinner. It didn't work.

My landlord wants to talk about my high heating bills. I told him my door is always open.

Branch Scholarships



The deadline for our Branch Scholarship applications was March 1, and as of February 25, we have received 14 applications. The scholarship applicants range in age from 18 to 50, and are attending UCF, Florida Polytechnic University, Florida A & M University, and Rollins College. They are pursuing

Bachelors (9), Masters (1), or Ph.D's (4).

Typically, we receive more applications in the few days before the deadline, so a complete report will be in the April *Branchline*. The Scholarship Committee (Jeannie Bubriski, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald, Suzanne Schneider, and Margaret Williams) will meet in March to evaluate the applications and choose the recipients for 2025.

A recap of the past nine years (2016 – 2024) shows an outstanding contribution in support of higher education for women:

46 scholarships awarded
 Total amount = \$49,500
 Average scholarship = \$1076

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions to our Branch Scholarship, our PACE Next Step Grant, and the Valencia College Foundation Endowed Scholarship are all tax-deductible.

Karen Buchan
 Scholarship Chair

VP Finance



**OH NO!
 NOT AGAIN!!**

We have received word that National is sending out letters requesting that your dues be sent to them.

You must be tired of hearing this over and over and over again—

DO NOT SEND YOUR DUES TO NATIONAL

ORLANDO-WINTER PARK is the ONLY collector of your dues.

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

National	\$72 (only this portion is tax deductible;)
	(Supports the many programs that AAUW Champions)
State	\$12
Branch	\$14 (used for operations)

Parveen Wahid
 Co-Director of Finance

The AAUW Florida Public Policy Education Forum

Zoom (aauw-fl.aauw.net) at 6:00 p.m. (All programs are at 6 p.m.)

Thursday, March 8

Pay Gap, Caregiving & Economic Security-

Mary Gatta, Ph.D., Director, Research & Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers

Thursday, April 3

Gender and Race Equity in STEM- Prof. Amanda Koontz, UCF

MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 <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	6 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	7 <u>12 noon</u> Dining-In	8 <u>LITERARY LUNCHEON</u> <u>Heathrow Country Club</u> Don't forget to SPRING AHEAD TONIGHT
9 Daylight Saving Time	10	11 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	12	13 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg <u>1:30 p.m.</u> B-Lovers X	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 <u>12 noon</u> Lunching Out <u>2 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	19	20 (SPRING) <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	21	22
23 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	24	25 <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	26 <u>10:30</u> BOD <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite	27 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	28	29
30	31	1 APRIL FOOLS DAY	2	3	4	5

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Martha Williamson	March 7
Joyce Zeluck	March 8
Geri Ossana	March 8
Suzanne Schneider	March 20
Debbie Kirkwood	March 23
Nancy Flaherty	March 30



INFORMATION FOR THE LITERARY LUNCHEON:

Besides many lovely baskets and individual objects for auction, there are three notable offerings that you and your friends might want to bid on. Here are some descriptions that should get your mouths watering!

Celebrate!! Cocktail/Wine Party



This year the Dining-In Group is offering Celebrate!! Cocktail/Wine Party. The winning bidder will host a stress-free cocktail or wine party in her home while the Dining-In “chefs” prepare and deliver delicious hors-d’oeuvres, attractively arranged on platters or other appropriate containers. Don’t miss your chance to bid on Celebrate!! Cocktail/Wine Party. The opening bid for 10 persons is \$190.

Hors d’oeuvres specially prepared for you will include:

- * Greek Mezze that includes hummus, marinated feta cheese, olives, tzatziki, and pita chips
- * Savory rugelach
- * Martha Stewart’s low country pickled shrimp
- * Mini glazed meatballs
- * Stuffed artichoke hearts
- * Bacon wrapped dates stuffed with Manchego cheese and fresh mint
- * Asparagus spears wrapped with phyllo and prosciutto

. . . And More!!

TWO MORE OFFERINGS FOR YOU TO BID ON



In the Footsteps of the Barefoot Contessa



This year the Dining-In Group is offering a fabulous and delectable dinner, “In the Footsteps of the Barefoot Contessa.” Don’t miss your chance to bid on a dinner for eight which uses recipes of the Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten. The elegant dinner will be prepared and delivered to your home by “famous foodies,” the AAUW Dining-In Group. These eight women with discerning palates, who enjoy cooking and eating, have designed a delectable five-course menu for your enjoyment.

A butler will be on hand to serve you and your guests for a truly memorable experience.

“Party Like It’s 1984” Cooking Class

Southern Living Magazine (December 2024) stated: “Party Like It’s 1984—Entertaining now is quite different than it was 40 years ago, but our recipes stand the test of time.”

AAUW’s Karen Buchan will offer you a fun and memorable experience. A hands-on cooking class that will take you back to 1984 with recipes that have truly withstood the taste test of time.

The winning lucky bidder can invite 11 friends to enjoy an afternoon or evening participating in a cooking class. You will prepare and enjoy eating four savory appetizers, a refreshing beverage, and one sweet treat from 1984.

Don’t miss the opportunity to bid on a cooking class for twelve which uses 1984 recipes that include:

Artichoke Squares

Crab Puffs

Refreshing Champagne Punch

Chunky Onion Dip with Raw Vegetables

Ham Rolls

Glorious Amaretto Cheese Dip with Fresh Fruit

This exciting and delicious bid item is being offered by Karen Buchan, AAUW member and past Gourmet Cooking Instructor in the Orange County Public Schools Adult and Community Education Program. Additionally, Karen has continued her teaching tradition at Westminster Winter Park/Baldwin Park with a successful monthly “Cooking with Karen” program.