



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

### APRIL PROGRAM



#### Ms. Karen Civitate

"Scams, Schemes and Frauds" are everywhere and the victims are often seniors. In 2023 more than 101,000 people age 60 and older reported

scams to the FBI. The amount reported lost was \$3.4 BILLION with an average loss of \$34,000. Of course, this does not include the millions of people who are scammed of lesser amounts and at younger ages. The scammers are getting more diverse—romance, troubled grandchildren, phony charities and lotteries, false tech support, cryptocurrency and more clever scams with the aid of AI. The March/April issue of the *AARP Bulletin* is devoted to updating their members on the latest and greatest of these scams. AARP has a department where you can report frauds and get help (877-908-3360). Today we will hear from an expert and learn ways to recognize fraud and reduce our chances of victimization.

Ms. Karen Civitate has been educating and helping older persons on issues of financial and physical safety as an AARP volunteer for 11 years. She speaks about fraud, scams and exploitation of older people and also teaches the AARP Driver Safety Course. Educated at California State University, Dominguez, she had a long career at the LA Department of Veterans Affairs and in the private sector as a mediator and mediator trainer. She now resides in Florida.

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**9:30-11:30**

**First Congregational Church of Winter Park  
225 S. Interlachen Ave., Winter Park**

**COST: \$20**

#### HOW TO PAY

1. **Cash or check at the door or**
2. **Zelle or**
3. **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 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

**USE THE RESERVATION EMAIL BELOW:**

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

The separation of powers was adopted by the Convention of 1787 not to promote efficiency but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power.

Justice Louis Brandeis

## From the President



The month of April inspires many quotes of coming spring—new blossoms, warmer weather, rebirth, in short, many beginnings and odes to the spring weather.

Here in Central Florida, it is also spring, but when one day the temperature is 39 and later it hits 80, the descriptions are not quite so obvious. What we can say is that each day is a new beginning, and I wish you all good new beginnings.

In March we held our traditional Literary Luncheon (23rd year!) as our fundraiser for Scholarships. Myra Gaziano, our chair for the event, will be giving us a report on this successful event.

A very big **Thank You** to Myra and all those who participated—many behind the scenes—the Silent Auction donors; those who prepared the items; reservations; venue arrangements; and those who worked at the event – greeters, floral arrangements, check out cashiers, and many more.

(Continued on page 4)

**YOU CANNOT RAISE YOUR  
CHILDREN THE WAY YOUR  
PARENTS RAISED YOU.  
BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS  
RAISED YOU FOR A WORLD  
THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.**

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

## Scholarships



On March 24, the Scholarship Committee met to review the 25 applications received by the March 1 deadline. Applications came from students attending Florida A & M University, Florida Polytechnic University, UCF, and Rollins College. Applicants ranged in age from 18 – 52; 4 are

international students; 8 are first generation college students; 18 are pursuing a Bachelor's Degree, 1 a Master's, and 6 a PhD. Their combined average GPA is 3.7!

After much discussion and serious consideration, the Committee selected 7 women to receive a \$1000 scholarship. The AAUW Board approved the Committee's recommendation and the recipients will be invited to our May meeting.

**Abigail** works as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at UCF while pursuing a PhD in Integrative Anthropological Science in preparation for a career in health services research.

**Amelia** has a double major in Computer Science and Theme Park/Attraction Management at UCF.

**Charabelle** is in the Health Sciences program at UCF with the goal of earning a medical degree and pursuing a career in either neurology or family medicine.

**Manuela** attends Rollins College and is studying International Business and International Relations with a minor in Social Entrepreneurship.

**Melissa** attends Florida Polytechnic University and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with a desire to develop systems that can address complex real-world challenges.

**Sachitaa** is pursuing a degree in medicine and currently works at UCF as the Program Manager of Science Leadership and Mentoring (SLAM).

**Starla's** educational goal at UCF is to complete the Doctorate in Family Nurse Practitioner and become an ARNP; additionally she is pursuing a certification in Healthcare Simulation.

A **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to the Scholarship Committee: Jeannie Bubriski, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald, Suzanne Schneider, and Margaret Williams! Their time and talent reading and evaluating the applications is a true labor of love and a huge commitment, and they all have experience as teachers!

*Karen Buchan, Scholarship Chair*

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!



The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Literary Luncheon with guest author, Madeline Martin, was a success thanks to all of you. Our fabulous Branch hosted approximately 110 guests and raised a little over \$3,500 (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:

**Pat Curenton and Diana Secor** for handling the reservation and seating arrangements,

**Nancy Napier, Marge Fadool, Kathryn Brohl, and Jeannie Bubriski** 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, Jocelyn Deprez, Karen Gillett, and Jane Rosen**. The 50/50 raffle raised over \$400.

**Emily Bader** designed and made the fabulous 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,

**Collette Davis, Leslie Lieberman, Lynda Hinckley, and Diana Secor** for coordinating the silent auction,

**Parveen Wahid, Susan Turo, and Collette Davis** who were cashiers 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 items: a delectable dinner "In the Footsteps of the Barefoot Contessa" using Ina Garten's recipes, and "Celebrate!! A Cocktail/Wine Party." The two winning bids raised almost \$800.

*[Continued on page 4]*

(Continued from page 2)

We have received notice that National will be raising their dues \$2 this year. Please do not send any dues to National. Our Branch handles our membership, collection of dues, and liaisons with National. Our fiscal year ends June 30 and the new year starts July 1. You will receive notification from our Branch.

As a reminder, missives, checks, etc. should be sent to  
AAUW  
P.O. Box 884  
Winter Park, FL 32790

During the summer months, we will not have our general monthly meeting the second Saturday of the month. Meetings will resume in September.

However, many of our groups do meet during the summer months. Please check your Branchline and with group leaders for information on what is happening.

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

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**Martha Williamson** for her efforts in coordinating over 20 guests from *The Mayflower*,

**Barbara Buchele** for passing the mic during Q and A,

**Christine Porter and Barbara Buchele** for collecting the money for the table centerpieces, and

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

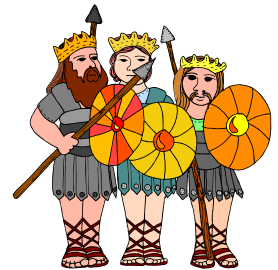
Also, a big thank you to the many members who worked behind the scenes on the day of the luncheon. Your efforts were invaluable. This event truly takes a village of volunteers! And most importantly, thank you to all of our members who attended and supported the event, bringing guests and potential members.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

*Myra Gaziano,*  
*Literary Luncheon Chair*



## APRILIS

The name of this month is thought to come from the Latin *aperire*, "to open," because this is the season when buds, windows, and umbrellas begin to open. During Nero's reign, it was called *Neroneus*, but as soon as everyone was sure the emperor was dead, the name was changed to April. Otherwise Browning would have written: "Oh to be in England, Now that *Neroneus* is there."



"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have

a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them." --

*Thomas Jefferson*





### PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

A large number of girls at PACE live in homes where the income is below the poverty line. So keeping up the food pantry is always necessary. If you can, please support the food pantry with appropriate items. Any items from this month's recipe would be great. Also they can always use canned chicken, complete mac and cheese such as Velveeta, canned peaches or mandarin oranges. Some supplies always needed by PACE are deodorant, body wash, tooth paste and tooth brushes.

### 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 ½ cup water, ¾ 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.

## HOW DID IT BEGIN?

Forty years ago, Pace Center for Girls began with a bold vision and a small group of ten girls gathered in a downtown Jacksonville church, guided by the determination of our founder, Vicki Burke, and the support of Juvenile Judge Dorothy Pate. What started in a humble church basement has since blossomed into a nationally recognized movement, empowering more than 40,000 girls across 27 locations in three states. Today, Pace stands as a testament to the power of hope, resilience, and community, serving over 3,400 girls annually.

We are thrilled to invite you to partner with us as a sponsor for our 2025 Believing in Girls Breakfast: The BIG 40: Finding the Great in Every Girl. This transformative event will not only celebrate our legacy but also chart a path forward, empowering the next generation of leaders, creators, and changemakers.

Delitza Fernandez

**40 years**  
Finding the Great in Every Girl  
pace center for girls

**Save the Date**  
*Believing in Girls*  
**Breakfast**  
Celebrating 40 years of Believing in Girls

**JUNE 6**

7:45am-9am  
The Alford Inn  
300 E. New England Ave.  
Winter Park, FL. 32789

## Interest Groups

### **Booklovers:**

Booklovers were buzzing about Madeline Martin titles after the Literary Luncheon. There we learned that Karen Buchan correctly responded to *The Booklover's Library* quiz and won a \$50 gift certificate to The Writer's Block. Congratulations, Karen!

In April many of the Booklovers groups will read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. The author, a forest manager in Germany, introduces us to the Wood-Wide Web. Should you take advantage of our current moderate weather and forest bathe in one of our lovely state parks, you may marvel at the complexity and cooperation under foot and over head.

If you are interested in joining a book group, please contact me, Missy Baker, Booklovers Coordinator, [baker-works@gmail.com](mailto:baker-works@gmail.com).

**Booklovers Lite:** Booklovers Lite meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 1 p.m. The group will meet on April 30 to discuss *Comfort & Joy: A Novel* by Kistin Hanna. 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](mailto: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 [mjcrosen@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcrosen@hotmail.com).

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** Exploring Central Florida will tour the Alford art collection on Friday, April 4, followed by lunch at Cocina 214, a Tex-Mex restaurant. Contact Linda at [LFessel@Comcast.net](mailto:LFessel@Comcast.net) to get on the contact list.

**Foreign Affairs** Foreign Affairs Interest Group will be discussing chapter 6: "The Future of NATO and European Security" in our *Great Decisions* book on Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m. Clara Holodar will be presenting this topic. Contact Mary Himes for more information. [mwaltzhimes@gmail.com](mailto:mwaltzhimes@gmail.com)

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

**Lunching Out:** Check the date(s) on the April 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](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 Karen Deo: [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)

One old lady who wants her heart lifted up wouldn't be so bad, but you multiply her by 250,000 times and what you get is a book club. [Flannery O'Connor]

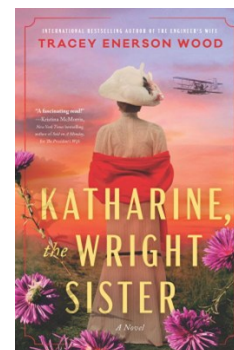
On **April 8, 1513**, Ponce de Leon, in his search for the fountain of youth, landed on the coast of Florida near the present site of St. Augustine. Because the discovery occurred at the time of the Easter feast (*Pascua Florida*), he named the land La Florida and claimed it for Spain. In his quest for the fountain of youth, Ponce de Leon discovered the retirement capital of America—the fountain of



The origins of All Fool's Day are lost in history. In ancient Rome, this day was marked in their calendar as consecrated to fools. A celebration was arranged in which elaborate instructions had to be followed. Those who could not follow the instructions were

called fools. The tradition of deceiving persons by sending them upon frivolous errands, pretending they are wanted when they are not, and betraying them into ludicrous situations, so as to call them an April Fool, is one of long standing.

*Katherine, the Wright Sister*, is Tracey Erneron Wood's new release. The book shines a spotlight on one of the most important and overlooked women in history, and the sacrifices she made so others might fly. Tracey was the speaker at our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Literary Luncheon.





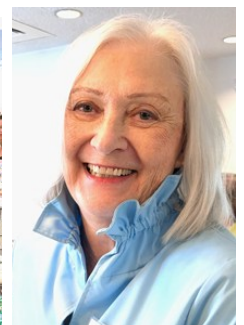
Guest Speaker: Madeline Martin



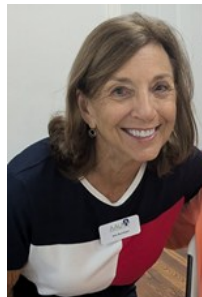
March 8, 2025  
23rd Literary Luncheon  
Heathrow Country Club



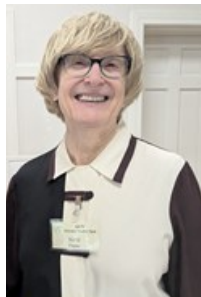
Madeline Martin with Myra  
Gaziano, Literary Luncheon Chair



## VP Membership



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co-V.P. Membership  
annmburnham@gmail.com



*Irene Pruzan*  
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### Please Welcome Our Returning Member

Joyce Culver  
joyceculver@hotmail.com  
407-730-7677



Below are some of the craziest taxes you've probably never heard of

Ever since Roman times, lawmakers have taxed their ingenuity to devise strange and unusual tax laws.

The Roman emperor Vespasian levied a tax on urine—a lucrative source of revenue since it was a highly valued cleaning or leather-tanning agent. Romans also were taxed on their children and slaves, on the doors of their houses, and, under Emperor Caligula, on "The pleasures of Matrimony."

England and Ireland enforced a "window tax" in the 17th and 18th centuries, with homeowners assessed according to the number of windows in their houses.

## 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 have recently increased: (\$100)** The breakdown is as follows:

National	\$74 (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

New Mexico residents over the age of 100 are exempt from paying taxes.

Pumpkins are exempt from sales tax in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Iowa—as long as you promise to eat them.

Louisiana doesn't tax fortune tellers.

For three days in August, Texas doesn't tax belts or cowboy boots.

California offers a credit to people who were persecuted by the Ottoman Turkish empire between 1915 and 1923.

Don't try too hard to figure out the logic; you just might overtax your brain.



## APRIL 2025

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

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Webb	April 23
Holly Mandelkern	April 25
Margaret Kinst	April 25

