



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

### MAY PROGRAM

Speaker Dr. Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés



Most of us know of classic examples of extraordinarily creative older women: Anna Mary Robertson Moses ("Grandma Moses") starts painting at 78; Laura Ingalls Wilder starts a successful

writing career with *Little House on the Prairie* at 64; and there are many, many women who continue to produce the best works of lifetime careers in their older years.

This incredible creativity is the topic of today's presentation based on the collected contributions of 21 women in *Old Enough: Southern Women Artists and Writers On Creativity and Aging*. The contributors, including our speaker, come from diverse ethnic, lifestyle, and educational backgrounds, offering insights into their creative works in the light of challenges of ageism, ill-health and loss. For each contributor, a photographic portrait accompanies her essay.

Dr. Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés is a Professor in the Department of English at UCF. Her Cuban American heritage informs her writing—fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—and her research and teaching interests in Latinx literature, women writers of color, emergent American Literature and women's studies. Her writing has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies such as *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*.

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**Saturday, May 10, 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, MAY 7**

**USE THE RESERVATION EMAIL BELOW:**

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

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

## From the President



May for our AAUW Branch marks the end of our monthly general meetings before the summer months. We will begin our active year again in September with a "kick-off" membership/guest gathering.

**This year we have a special event at our May meeting: Saturday May 10—we will have a drawing for a free National AAUW membership. More details are in this Branchline. All members from whom we have received their yearly dues will be entered in the drawing.**

Our meeting on May 10 is our Annual Meeting and we will present our Board Members, and Board Nominees

for next year, our proposed Budget for 2025-2026 year, and activity news. Keep in mind that there are a number of Branch Activities that continue during our summer months. The Chairs will be emailing the members of their groups with announcements.

Also during this break we will be working on our plans for next year, particularly on our scholarship activities, charities, and speakers. We would be pleased to receive your suggestions and will be sending out a request for your ideas.

I speak not only for myself but for our Board Members and leaders for your support this past year.

(Continued next page)

### OFFICERS

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#### STEM coordinator

TBA

#### Tech Trek

TBA

#### Website

Linda Fessel  
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Maria Bonnet  
marpazbonnet@gmail.com

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

(Continued from Page 1)

Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés was born in New Jersey to Cuban parents. Educated in Miami and New York, her fiction, nonfiction, and poetry appear in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Southern Humanities Review*, *Flash Fiction*, *Saw Palm*, *Literary Mama*, *Kweli Journal*, *Guernica*, and *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*. Her short story collections, *Oye What I'm Gonna Tell You* (2015) and *Marielitos, Balseros, and Other Exiles* (2009), were #4 and #5 on the *Guardian's* list of ten of the best books to help understand Cuba. *Everyday Chica*, winner of the 2010 Longleaf Press Poetry Prize was followed by *Everyday Chica, Music and More*, a poetry CD set to Caribbean folk music was released in 2011. She was the 2009 Theodore Morrison Fiction Fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She continues to be a creative force after more than 25 years at UCF.

#### Research Interests

Latinx Literature, writing, women writers of color, Emergent American Literature and women's studies.

#### Education

- Ph.D. in African American Women Writers, Composition, and writing from State University of New York at Albany (1989)
- M.A. in American and English literature from Barry University (1985)
- B.A. in English, Creative Writing from The University of Miami (Coral Gables) (1982)
- A.A. in English from Miami Dade College (1980)

#### Publications

##### Books

--- *Oye What I'm Gonna Tell You*, Ig Publishers  
Forthcoming

[\*Everyday Chica\*](#), Longleaf Press

[\*Marielitos, Balseros and Other Exiles\*](#), Ig Publishers

##### Recordings

[\*Everyday Chica, Music and More\*](#), Longleaf Audiobook

##### Awards

- 2011 Multicultural Student Center Advisor of the Year
- 2010 United Arts of Central Florida, Individual Artist Fellowship
- 2010 Longleaf Poetry Chapbook Award
- 2009 Theodore Morrison Fiction Fellow at Breadloaf Writers Conference



## From the President

(Continued from Page 2)

On a general note: our two important May holidays are Mothers' Day—May 11 and Memorial Day—May 26.

Mothers' Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908, became an official U.S. Holiday in 1914, and was officially established as the second Sunday in May by Woodrow Wilson.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the U.S. for honoring and mourning U.S. military personnel who have died in service to our country. Initially celebrated on May 30, 1868, as Decoration Day, in 1971 Congress standardized the holiday as Memorial Day and established its observance on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the U.S.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and safe summer.

*Diana Secor, President*

## Scholarships



Branch Scholarship – Seven \$1,000 Scholarships were awarded in 2025!

We met two of our Branch Scholarship recipients at the April meeting. Sachitaa and Charabelle are both pursuing pre-med degrees at UCF. They are both

smart, well-spoken, and gave us the feeling that they will have a very bright future in medicine.

Plan to attend the May meeting to meet our other five recipients: Abigail and Starla are both pursuing Ph.D's at

UCF. Abigail is in Anthropology and Starla is in Nursing. Also at UCF is Amelia who has a double major in Computer Science and Theme Park/Attraction Management. Manuela is studying International Business and International Relations at Rollins College, and Melissa is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science at Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland.

Again, a Big THANK YOU to our Scholarship Committee: Jeannie Bubriski, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler, Sue McDonald, Suzanne Schneider, and Margaret Williams.

*Karen Buchan*  
Scholarship Chair



## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

**There is room for a few more members to join us  
at the AAUW table on June 6 (7:45 a.m.-9 a.m.) at**



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



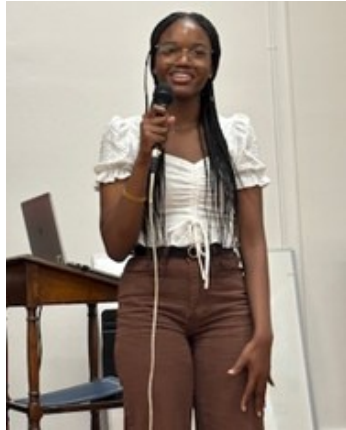
JUNE  
6

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





Here's what you missed if you did not attend the General Meeting in April:



Karen Buchan, Scholarship Chair introduces two of our seven scholarship winners: Charabelle and Sachitaa, both pursuing pre-med degrees at UCF.



Our speaker, Karen Civitate, is an AARP spokesperson who shared informative and critically important information regarding scams. If you have not been scammed or nearly been scammed, then you have probably been living in a cave without access to Wi-Fi, the Internet, or a phone. This is such a huge topic (Ms. Civitate passed out over a dozen pamphlets and flyers dealing with different aspects of scams and frauds) that it cannot be summarized in a few sentences or paragraphs. Educate yourself on what to do if you think you're being scammed. Call AARP for help: 877-908-3360.

## PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

AAUW is taking a break for the summer, but the girls at PACE are not. They need to stay in school in order to get up to level.

Let's stock the food pantry with some staples that can be taken home or used at school. You can always bring items from the recipes we have shared this year. Please bring your items to the Branch Meeting or deliver to PACE. For those who order on Amazon, you can have your items delivered to PACE Food Pantry, 445 North Wymore Road, Winter Park, FL 32789. Delivery instructions are weekdays only with delivery accepted between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Items Needed

Canned Soup	Deodorant
Crackers	Tooth Paste
Tuna Fish	Body Wash
Canned Chicken	Body Wipes
	(e.g., Honest)
Mac & Cheese complete	Shampoo
Snacks	Conditioner
Canned Peaches	Sanitary Pads

Thanks to all for your support of PACE. Our Thanks-giving Lunch and Valentine Party were great hits with the girls for the good food, the crafts and gifts, but mostly because they showed the girls that we care about them.

Your PACE team,  
Ann R, Anne, Barbara, Karen G, Karen B, Pat, Sue,  
Roberta, and Susan

## Interest Groups

**Groups that will meet during the summer are in red.**

### **Booklovers:**

May concludes this Booklovers reading season, and my gratitude is plentiful. Heartfelt thanks to the intrepid group leaders Judy Alper, Joyce Folsom, Maggie Kinst, Diana Secor, Lynne Wiley, Lynda Hinckley, Georgiana Havill and Emily Bader who kept Booklovers informed and involved. Under their leadership we can look forward to this summer and next year.

The Booklovers may take pride knowing part of their annual Booklovers dues will help support fellow Booklover Stacy Xin Xin next year. Stacy is a Ph.D. candidate whose interest lies in how AI technologies influence consumer perceptions, decisions, and experiences. AI is increasingly integrated into our daily lives, and Stacy hopes to share with our branch her growing understanding.

Some Booklovers groups will continue to meet during our hiatus. Contact the group leaders below if you are interested in attending any of these summer gatherings.

**Booklovers I** plans to meet 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of July and August at the Winter Park Library. The title for July is *Up the Down Staircase* by Bel Kaufman. In August the group will discuss *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Brinkley. Contact Judy Alper; [judyalper@aol.com](mailto:judyalper@aol.com)

**Booklovers VI** will meet Tuesday, August 12, 2 p.m. at Missy's home to discuss Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Contact Missy Baker [bakerworks@gmail.com](mailto:bakerworks@gmail.com)

**Booklovers VII** will meet 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of June and August at Parry's Corner at Westminster Winter Park Towers. Titles will soon be decided. Contact Diana Secor [dianasecoraauw@gmail.com](mailto:dianasecoraauw@gmail.com)

**Booklovers IX** will meet the first Wednesday of June, July, and August at 9:30 a.m. at the Crosby Wellness Center. Titles are open for discussion. Contact Lynda Hinckley [LyndaHinckley217@gmail.com](mailto:LyndaHinckley217@gmail.com) And finally, many thanks to Martha Williamson, Linda Fessel and Maria Bonnet, instrumental in coordinating our book selections for the 2025-26 reading season.

The winning titles and schedule are:

### **2025**

September: *James* by Percival Everett  
October: *The Color of Water* by James McBride  
November: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters  
December: No book. Party as desired.

### **2026**

January: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West* by Dee Brown  
February: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See  
March: *An Elephant in My Kitchen* by Francoise Malby-Anthony  
April: *The Spy Who Stayed Out in the Cold* by Adrian Havill  
May: *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen

If you are interested in joining a book group, 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. The group will meet on May 28 at 1 p.m. to discuss *The Deep End* by Julie Mulhern. 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). Booklovers Lite will resume in September.

**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 Emil Buehler Planetarium on the campus of Seminole State College in Sanford. Our tour will be conducted by Derric Demeter who has spoken twice at our General Meetings. Contact Linda at [LFessel@Comcast.net](mailto:LFessel@Comcast.net) to get on the contact list. Tours will resume in the fall when the weather is cooler.

**Cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it is between 8 am and 1 pm**

**Foreign Affairs** Foreign Affairs Interest Group will be discussing chapter 5: "*International Cooperation on Climate Change*" in our *Great Decisions* book on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. Margaret Williams will be presenting this topic. Contact Mary Himes for more information. [mwaltzhimes@gmail.com](mailto:mwaltzhimes@gmail.com)

**Foreign Affairs will meet during the summer on the following dates:**

**Sunday, June 29**

**Sunday, July 27**

**Sunday, August 24**

**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 May calendar. An email with more information will be sent to those on the Lunching Out list. Contact Linda Fessel to get your name on the contact list. [LFessel@comcast.net](mailto:LFessel@comcast.net)

**Lunching Out is hoping to meet twice during June, July, and August.**

**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)

**Mahjongg meets through the summer.**



## The Trolloprians

We are a Booklovers reading group that meets only once each year in the summer. Anthony Trollope is one of the greatest Victorian writers of all time with an international following. The Trolloprians have been reading and discussing one of his books each year since 2000.

In July, 2025, we will read **The Last Chronicle of Barset**, in which we meet the saintly Mr. Harding and his irascible son-in-law Archdeacon Grantly, Johnny Eames and Lily Dale, Bishop Proudie's appalling wife and the tortured Josiah Crawley.

It is on Crawley, the perpetual curate of Hoggstock, that the plot centers, and his terrible dilemma when he is accused of embezzlement. The social and clerical pressures to which he is subjected make a compelling story, around which revolves the love life of his daughter Grace, the amatory susceptibility of Johnny Eames, the machinations of Mrs. Proudie, and the eventual weaving together of the delightful strands that make up one of Trollope's finest novels.

If you are interested, please contact group leader, Joyce Folsom at [folsom\\_joyce@yahoo.com](mailto:folsom_joyce@yahoo.com) or 407-696-0769. You will be contacted by email prior to the meeting.

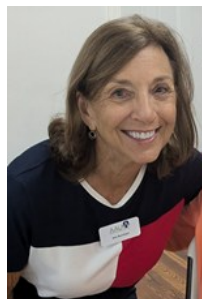
To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs. A major study concluded that older people are easier to catch, offer less resistance, and—most importantly—will not remember how to get back home.

Be sure to send this notice to your relatives and friends so they'll know what happened to you! . . . I started to cry when I thought of you . . . then it dawned on me—I'll see you on the bus!

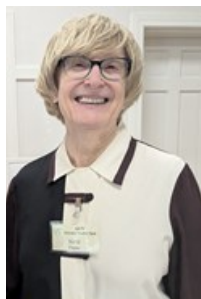




## VP Membership



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



*Irene Pruzan*  
co-V.P. Membership  
irene-pruzan@juno.com

### Please Welcome Our New Members

Jeanne Taylor Hard  
102 S. Interlachen  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
203-810-8264  
JeanneHard@Gmail.com  
Univ. of Pittsburgh,  
Communications, 1976

Sandra (Sandy) Robinson  
1208 S. Pennsylvania Ave  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
321-263-1716  
Leah-Rob0706@gmail.com  
St. Petersburg College, BS  
Hygienist

## VP Finance



**Dues have recently increased to \$100**

The breakdown is as follows:

<b>National</b>	\$74 (this portion is tax deductible;)
<b>State</b>	\$12
<b>Branch</b>	\$14 (now tax deductible)

If you turn in your dues by the General Meeting on May 10, you will be eligible for a return of your National dues (\$74). You could be the winner, but you have to pay to play.

*Parveen Wahid*  
Co-Director of Finance

**OLD AGE COMES AT A  
BAD TIME!  
WHEN YOU FINALLY  
KNOW EVERYTHING,  
YOU START TO FORGET  
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.**

OGC Orlando Gay Chorus

**Anniversary:  
A Choral Kaleidoscope**

Friday, May 16 - 7:30PM  
Ritz Theater, Sanford

Wednesday, May 28 - 7:00PM  
Steinmetz Hall, Orlando

UNITED ARTS CENTRAL FLORIDA  
Orlando ARTS & CULTURE  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOUNDATION

For more details

Contact Linda Fessel

LFessel@Comcast.net

689-290-8729

This bulletin board is for you to announce non-AAUW events that you would like to publicize and/or promote. Please consider it going forward in September.



# MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	2 <u>12 noon</u> Dining-In	3
4	5 <u>11 a.m.-2 p.m</u> Exploring Central FL	6 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	7 <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	8 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	9	10 <u>9:30—11:30</u> General Meeting
11	12 <u>12 noon</u> Lunching Out	13 <u>2 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	14	15 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers X <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	23	24
25 <u>2 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	26	27 <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	28 <u>10:30</u> BOD  <u>1-3</u> B-Lovers Lite	29 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	30 <u>12 noon</u> Lunching Out	31

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Carol Harris	May 4
Mary Himes	May 6
Karen Naylor	May 7
Linda Fessel	May 22

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Karen Gillett	June 2
Karen Madsen	June 22
Leslie Lieberman	June 23
Glenda Bogan	June 27
Bea Matthews	June 30

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Susan Speicher	July 1
Myra Gaziano	July 10
Joyce Folsom	July 20
Judy Alper	July 28

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Turnage	August 22
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Stay safe and cool. The Branch-  
line will be back in September.