



Orlando * Winter Park
BRANCHLINE**

**COME HANG WITH US ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
FROM 9:30–11:30 A.M.**



"The Ballerinas," © by Maria T. Manhart (AAUW Naperville, IL. Branch) Used with permission of the artist

MEMBERS, FRIENDS, GUESTS

Conversation, Catching up, and Breakfast!

RSVP by Wednesday, September 10 to AAUWreserve@gmail.com

First Congregational Church of Winter Park
225 Interlachen Ave., Winter Park
(entrance at New England Ave.)

**Cost: \$20
(No cost for guests)**

**Special discount for guests who
join AAUW today.**

How to pay:

1. Cash or check at the door
2. Zelle or
3. Send check to:
(Make check payable to AAAUW-Orlando/Winter Park)

AAUW
P.O. Box 884
Winter Park, FL 32790
(Allow 5 days delivery time)

From the President



With the coming of September, we often hear the following quote: *September is the month of new beginnings and fresh starts.*

At AAUW, September is the traditional start of our year's activities. Our group leaders have been preparing for our coming year. These include, among others: booklovers, dining in (and out) discussion groups, and excursion groups.

AAUW is active in serving our community with its involvement with PACE School for Girls, and participating in girls'

and women's achievements with awarding scholarships and grants, particularly in STEM studies.

Our year is starting off with our AAUW meeting on Saturday, September 13, for our members to socialize with each other, introduce friends and acquaintances, and remind ourselves of our AAUW goals and interest groups.

We look forward to seeing you there. And apropos of nothing related to new beginnings and fresh starts, I like this quote *re* September by Voltaire: *Wine is the juice of September!*

Cheers everyone!

Diana Secor, President
AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch

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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

Photos from May to August



Our May speaker and new member: Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes spoke to us about women who continued to produce their best works in their older years,



Joanne Britto recounted her experience as a NCCWSL grant recipient. NCCWSL was held at the University of Maryland.



Abigail, Mia, and Sarah were three of the seven recipients of our \$1000 scholarship award. More information on all the recipients can be found in the April 2025 Branchline.



Ann, Jeannie, Irene, Linda and Collette toured the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) in Daytona. It is the largest collection of Coca Cola memorabilia outside of Coke's home-base in Atlanta.



In August, Dr. Leslie Lieberman eating sladoled (ice cream) in a café in Zagreb, Croatia.



In July, Myra Gaziano and Lynda Hinckley took their granddaughters to Casa Gregorio, a cooking school 90 min south of Rome for a week in the cooler mountains. Myra also took her grandson and her daughter. The two Nonnas (grandmas) made pastas, main dishes, cookies, desserts, pizzas and other delectable items each day and enjoyed daily excursions as well.

PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

Welcome to our new AAUW Season! Our PACE Committee is looking forward to once again hosting the two annual events for the girls at PACE. But first, some tidbits that we want to share with you.

In a recent discussion with the PACE Executive Director, we learned that our two AAUW events, the Thanksgiving Lunch for the girls, their families, and staff and the Valentine Party including food, crafts, valentine-making, exercise and gifts, are the most anticipated and most enjoyed events in the PACE calendar. The girls enjoy the food and the crafts but what seems to be of utmost importance is your presence. The girls are on their best behavior when we AAUW women are around. We have seen that and, importantly, so has the PACE staff. As one staff member put it, "We never have to tell them to behave when you women are here. The girls simply want to behave well."

So we are once again planning our Thanksgiving Lunch and our Valentine Party and ask for your support. The first event is the Thanksgiving meal which will be held the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 20, 2025; please pencil it into your calendars. There will be sign-up sheets at our September and October meetings to bring a dish, contribute for turkeys plus volunteer to serve the meal.

Our PACE activities are truly a team effort. We often note that we could not have such successful activities without so many of you participating.

Thank you from your AAUW PACE committee.
Ann, Anne, Barbara, Karen B, Karen G, Pat, Roberta, Sue and Susan

Karen Buchan

MORE PACE

BIG (Believing in Girls) Breakfast

On June 6, the annual PACE Believing in Girls Breakfast was held at the Alford Inn in Winter Park. Ten AAUW members enjoyed a delicious breakfast and the excitement of celebrating PACE's 40th anniversary. Representing our Branch were: Karen Buchan, Barbara Buchele, Roberta Cooper, Collette Davis, Karen Gillett, Linda Hammersla, Mary Himes, Lynda Hinckley, Barbara Knapp, and Diana Secor.

In 1985, PACE was founded by Vicki Burke and began with ten girls in Jacksonville. Today PACE has 25 locations, mostly in Florida, but also in Georgia and South Carolina, serving more than 3,000 girls annually.

The large ballroom was packed with PACE supporters, community dignitaries, Board members, and current and former PACE girls. Jermaine Stokes, PACE Board President, Buddy Dyer, City of Orlando Mayor, State Repre-

sentatives Anna Eskamani and LaVon Bracy Davis were present, along with Greg Angel, Orlando Aviation Authority, who served as Master of Ceremonies.

An exciting program filled the hour and included Theresa Smith-Levin of Central Florida Vocal Arts, leading a small chorus of PACE girls in "The Circle of Life" from *The Lion King*.

Raquel (Rocky) McCormick, PACE—Orange Executive Director, added her emotional and inspirational remarks about the successes she has seen in the PACE—Orange's girls. She reminded us that, "Once a PACE girl, always a PACE girl."

The AAUW ladies left with a heart-warming feeling that our financial contributions and the events we sponsor for the PACE girls are making a difference—one girl at a time!

(Contributions from AAUW totaled about \$2500!)

Karen Buchan



L to R

Diana
Collette
Roberta
Mary
Barbara K.

L to R

PACE alumna
Karen G.
Karen B.
Linda H.
Barbara B.
Lynda H.





A message from Gloria Blackwell
Chief Executive Officer, AAUW

September 3, 1752, never happened in England, nor did the 10 days that should have followed it. When the Gregorian calendar was adopted on September 2, 1752, it was required to make an adjustment that dropped 11 days. This decision caused riots because the people thought that the government had stolen 11 days of their lives.



Ready to Make a Difference? Join AAUW Today!

When you become a member, you're not just joining an organization — you're stepping into a powerful community of changemakers. Your membership fuels our mission to break down barriers in education and champion gender equity nationwide. [Join us.](#)

Celebrate Women's Equality Day – August 26

On Women's Equality Day, we honor the progress made while recognizing the challenges that remain, especially for underrepresented groups. Student debt, policy rollbacks, and the urgent need to expand opportunities for diversity, equity, and inclusion continue to stand in the way of true access and opportunity. [Stand with AAUW.](#)

This summer was not only memorable for the history-breaking heat, but for the passing of three of our members and friends. They will be missed.

Pearl Steele, a Life-time member, was still traveling at the age of 102.

Kaen Deo, Leslie Lieberman, and Linda Fessel visited with Pearl shortly before she passed.



The last photo we took of **Christina (Tina) Sharp** was at the most recent Literary Luncheon in March, 2025, at Heathrow Country Club.



Also passing this summer was member and friend **Gail Keegan**, who lost her battle with cancer.

Interest Groups

Booklovers:

Going into our 29th year and going strong. Welcome back to another Booklovers reading season of good books and good discussions.

Four of our Booklovers groups met over the summer. That's dedication! Some took a break. That's refreshing. Regardless, we are all looking forward to our September title, *James*. Inspired by Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, author Percival Everett offers a new portrait of the slave Jim and offers us weighty topics for consideration.

These titles await us later in 2025-26:

2025

October: *The Color of Water* by James McBride

November: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

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

True to our independent nature, some groups may vary the book selections and/or order of presentations.

And finally, all Booklovers offer a heartfelt thanks to Martha Williamson, Booklovers founder. After 28 years of coordinating the ballot process each spring, Martha is turning over the task to a committee of five. May she long continue to enjoy the discussions of her Booklovers groups.

Are you interested in joining Booklovers? Stop by the Booklovers display at our local AAUW September branch meeting.

If you cannot attend our kick-off in September but wish more information, 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 group will meet on September 24 at 1 p.m. to discuss *The Husbands* by Holly Gramazio. 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. Tours will resume in the fall when the weather is cooler.

Foreign Affairs: Foreign Affairs Interest Group will be discussing chapter 7: "AI and American National Security" in our *Great Decisions* book on Sunday, September 28 at 2 p.m. Susan Rogers will be presenting this topic. Contact Mary Himes for more information. mwaltzhimes@gmail.com

Global Dining: Contact Adrienne Katz Katz for information on this group. 321-695-4445 katzaid@yahoo.com

Lunching Out:

Lunching Out meets on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Check your emails for time and place. If you would like to join this group, contact Linda to be 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

One of our long time, favorite interest groups was Classic/Foreign Films. I would like to resurrect this interest group. As many of you know, I am now in Lake Mary, so you need to be willing to come to Lake Mary (it's not really as far as people think). Let me know if you would be interested in joining Classic/Foreign Films Part Deux.

Linda Fessel

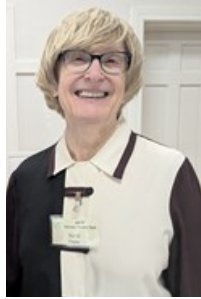
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VP Membership



Ann Burnham

co-V.P. Membership
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Irene Pruzan

co-V.P. Membership
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Please Welcome Our New Members

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610-348-9702
joypulcini@yahoo.com

Cecilia Rodriguez Milanes
820 Mellowood Ave. Orlando, FL 32825
Cecilia.Milanes@UCF.EDU
407 748-4832 and 407 823-5596 (her office)
State Univ of New York at Albany DA English 1989
Barry University MA English 1985
University of Miami BA English 1982
Miami Dade College North AA English 1980

Don't forget to pay your dues —\$100—for 2025-2026. Many of you already paid in the spring, but if you have not paid yet, you can pay at the September meeting. If we do not have your dues, we cannot include you in the membership directory.

The breakdown is as follows:

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

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1. Cash or check at the door
2. Zelle or
3. Send check to:

(Make check payable to AAAUW-Orlando/Winter Park)

AAUW
P.O. Box 884
Winter Park, FL 32790
(Allow 5 days delivery time)

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

SEPTEMBRIS

September, the seventh month of the old Roman year, got its name from the Latin *septem*, seven. When it became the ninth month, it retained its original name. This becomes less and less confusing as fewer and fewer people know how to count in Latin. Those who believe September was named after *septum*, a partition inside the nose, are probably thinking of the Roman nose, in which it reached its height. The Anglo-Saxons called it *gerst-monath*, barley month, because barley, which was harvested at this time, could be made into malt and malt into mead. After a few tankards of mead, an Anglo-Saxon trying to say *gerst-monath* was a scream.



SEPTEMBER 2025

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CAROL PETERSON	SEPT. 3
PENNY POTTER	SEPT. 4
ROSEMARY VENDENA	SEPT. 8
PARVEEN WAHID	SEPT. 8
DIANA SECOR	SEPT. 14
LINDA DOWDELL	SEPT. 21

