



Orlando *** Winter Park BRANCHLINE



Nothin' but Treble

Nothin' but Treble, formed in 2010, is an all upper voice ensemble, a powerhouse of personality and musicality. Whether they're snapping, stomping, or singing, they turn every performance into an event. With their bold harmonies, rhythmic flair, and lots of sass, they will make you smile and laugh. They know how to make good treble!



Saturday, December 13, 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, DEC. 10

USE THE RESERVATION EMAIL BELOW:

AAUWreserve@gmail.com

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

From the President



Dear Friends:

In the month of December, it is usual to look back over the past year remembering events that have occurred. The members of our AAUW branch this year, through its fund-raising efforts, participated in scholarships, various grants, and contributions to the PACE School for Girls. We have also provided PACE with the gala Thanksgiving dinner and fun classes in various crafts.

With the holiday season, our most common wish is that we ask that our Family and Friends have happy holidays. Happiness is certainly a goal for all of us and many quotes exist on this subject—some familiar and accept-

ed, others with which we may not agree. The following is from Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, writer, and orator:

My creed is: that Happiness is the only good. The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is to make others so.

Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and a new year that brings you all good things!!



Diana Secor, President
AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch

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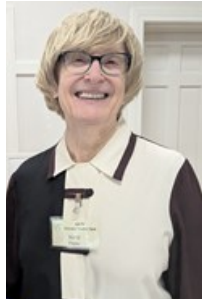
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Maria Bonnet
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Contact Judy McDonald if you hear of any member who is ill, having surgery, experienced a loss, etc.
murrnan@bellsouth.net

VP Membership



Ann Burnham
co-V.P. Membership



Irene Pruzan
co-V.P. Membership

You've heard this before, but it bears repeating:

DO NOT SEND ANY DUES TO NATIONAL. PAY YOUR DUES ONLY TO OUR ORLANDO/WINTER PARK BRANCH.

Members Directory for 2025-2026 will be available at the General Meeting on Saturday, December 13.

Cost: \$2 (Buy two. Keep one in your car!)

National offers a 50% discount on their 2025-26 dues to any guest who joins at a general meeting.

Instead of \$100 dues, a new member pays only

\$63. That's calculated as follows: National gives a 50% discount on their 2025-26 dues of \$74. Add that \$37 to the branch dues (\$14) and to the AAUW Florida dues (\$12) to make \$63 the discounted dues payment for new members. Encourage a guest to join!

Emily Dickinson, the American poet, was born on December 10, 1830. She wrote nearly two thousand poems, but only seven were published in her lifetime. This was not because of rejection by editors, which is what happens to most poets, but because she wrote just for kicks. Besides, she didn't want to go to the bother of submitting things, which meant enclosing

self-addressed stamped envelopes. A sample of her more difficult poetry is:

I'm nobody. Who are you?

Are you nobody, too?

Makes you think, doesn't it?

This bulletin board is for you to announce non-AAUW events that you would like to publicize and/or promote.

Adrienne's Global Dining:

Contact Adrienne Katz Katz for information on this group.

321-695-4445

katzaid@yahoo.com



Contact Linda Fessel if interested in purchasing tickets.

PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

Thursday, November 20, 2025, ends a two-plus decades tradition of AAUW's catered Thanksgiving dinner for the PACE girls and their families. While Pat urged us to put on our happy faces, the photo of Sue McDonald captures what many of us felt behind the smiles. See next page for more photos and the comments from the PACE Team.



From the PACE Team

Once again, the AAUW PACE Thanksgiving was a wonderfully delicious event. Many thanks to all the many members who made the day possible. Your generous donations of food and money let these girls experience a true and complete Thanksgiving. All the food you cooked was outstanding. We really appreciated that so many were there to experience the day and show support for the girls. Your presence was notable and enjoyed by the girls and the staff at PACE. The girls came through the line carrying plates loaded with that delicious food. Many, if not most, came back for seconds; and then they started on the desserts. Afterwards, the girls and staff were encouraged to take any leftovers home with them, and they certainly did. Any food left over was packed up for Pastor Jackson of the Black Bottom House of Prayer in Parramore. At that church they are always feeding the hungry, so we were happy that no food would go to waste.

It was both a very good day and a sad day knowing that our PACE center will be closing next month. But we are not done yet. On Monday, December 15, at 11 a.m., we will be throwing a pizza party for the girls. After pizza, we will assist the girls in making holiday cards. Then we will send them home with a gift card! We are still planning the day and welcome any ideas about how to make the day fabulous for the girls.

Many people have asked about why our center is clos-

ing. First of all, many of the PACE centers in Florida are in trouble; three centers have already closed. Of course, it comes down to money, and money comes from the number of girls at the center. There are just not enough girls at PACE right now. And why is that? Rocky, the Executive Director, very politically says that it is the "current climate." We all keep up with the news, and we know that the current climate includes the huge loss in students by Orlando Public Schools due to vouchers as well as the current immigration policy.

All of PACE is based on the relationship with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, which is its largest financial supporter. We understand that the DJJ really wants a program for girls here in Orange County. So we are told to consider this as a pause in service. And some time next year, there will be a review and reimagining of services, hopefully leading to a new formation of a program for the girls.

AAUW has had a long successful partnership with PACE. Thank you all for your encouragement and support of that partnership and especially of the girls.

Your PACE Team,

Anne, Barbara, Karen B, Karen G, Pat, Roberta, Sue, Susan





It's not too soon to mark your calendars!

THE 24th ANNUAL SPRING LITERARY LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 21, 2026



GUEST SPEAKER

Eliza Knight,

Eliza Knight is an award-winning, *USA Today* and International bestselling author. Her books have been translated into multiple languages and, most recently, her title *A*

Day of Fire has been optioned for television. She is also the creator of the popular historical blog, *History Undressed*, and hosts the *History, Books and Wine* Podcast. Eliza is an avid history buff, and her love of history began as a young girl when she traipsed the halls of Versailles. Her books take you through riveting historical journeys that cross landscapes around the world. In 2025, she will publish her first contemporary women's fiction novel under the pseudonym, Michelle Brandon.

Knight lives in the sunshine state with her husband, three daughters, a dog, a crab and a turtle.

At the 24th Annual Spring Literary Luncheon, Eliza Knight will speak on her latest novel, *Confessions of a Grammar Queen* as well as *The Queen's Faithful Companion*. Since no books have been scheduled for December, Book-lovers and members may want to take the opportunity to pick up copies from your preferred retailer.

The Literary Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the Hilton, Altamonte Springs and not March 14 as originally posted in the Calendar of Events for 2025-2026.

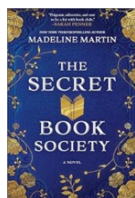
Submitted by Myra Gaziano
Literary Luncheon Chair.

More information will follow!

Thanks to Myra who researched what some of our recent past speakers are up to:

Madeline Martin, AAUW's 2025 literary luncheon speaker, and a *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publisher's Weekly* and International best-selling author of historical fiction published a new book, *The Secret Book Society* in 2025. Set in Victorian

London, this captivating must read novel is about a forbidden secret book club in an oppressive world when husbands or fathers could even restrict a woman's reading.



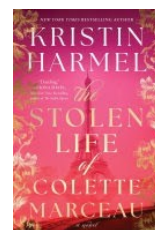
Tracey Enerson Woods, 2024 literary luncheon speaker, and a *USA Today* and International best-selling author shines a spotlight on another

amazing and overlooked heroine in history in her latest novel, *Katherine, the Wright Sister* which hit the bookstores in 2024. Woods tells us of the sacrifices Wright made so others could fly.



Kristen Harmel, our 2023 literary luncheon speaker's latest binge-worthy novel is *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau*. The setting for this electrifying novel, released in 2025, is

WWII. Colette Marceau, following in her mother's footsteps becomes a jewel thief to fund the French Resistance. Born to write, Kristen's books have been translated into more than 30 languages and have been *New York Times* and *USA Today* best sellers. Kristin is also a cancer survivor.



Interest Groups

Booklovers:

We have a Gift

'Tis the season for gifts. We have a gift for each other: the opportunity to gather and talk. Booklovers' talk recently concerned the length and topic of January's assigned book, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown. It is long book, a bit longer than our typical 400-page limit. The topic of how American Indians lost their land and liberty to white settlers moving westward is difficult. In her infinite wisdom, the powers-that-be scheduled this tome for our January title. Without an assigned book this month, December is available to begin the difficult process.

The process of tackling tomes is the subject of a November 18 article in the *New York Times*. Sebastian Castillo writes in his "The Secret to Getting Through Big, Dense, Difficult Books."

What is the point of this? Why are we doing this to ourselves? Is it merely a fetish for finishing a difficult book, the self-flattery it permits? None of us are academic philosophers, by any means; we have busy jobs and other pressing adult responsibilities. But the process has proved fruitful. A camaraderie emerges, I've found, when a group dedicates itself to a task that requires great effort. Learning is both painful and pleasant — and above all, communal.

And there is the gift. We do this for ourselves and for each other. How wonderful that we have this opportunity.

Booklovers is open to all AAUW members. If you'd like a chance to attend a Booklovers discussion and 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 reading list is independent from those of the other book groups. Due to the holidays, Booklovers Lite will resume in January. 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 mjcrozen@hotmail.com.

Exploring Central Florida (ECF): Plans are in the works to tour the Arts Center, Art House, Sculpture House, and Sculpture Garden in Casselberry sometime in January with lunch following. Day and date are currently being arranged. Check your email for more details. Contact Linda at LFessel@Comcast.net to get on the contact list.

Foreign Affairs: Foreign Affairs Interest Group will be eating lunch together at Westminster Tower Blue Heron dining room on December 14, Sunday, at 12 noon. Contact Mary Himes for more information. mwaltzhimes@gmail.com

Lunching Out:

As nearly all interest groups are meeting for lunch in December, Lunching Out will not meet until January. Meanwhile, if you have any recommendations for us, please let us know. Check your emails for time and place. If you would like to join this group, contact Linda to get on the contact list. LFessel@comcast.net

MahJongg: meets on Thursdays at Club 24 in Winter Park from 1-4 p.m. Mahjongg will not be meeting on December 25 or December 31. Want to learn the game? We will teach you. For more information, contact Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com



From Our Members



Mary, Linda, Rana, Sandy, and Irene celebrated Friendsgiving at Pho Vinh Vietnamese Restaurant.

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
During December, many groups will be meeting at different times and dates from those shown on this calendar. Check with	1 Group Leaders	2 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I	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>2 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI	10	11 <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	12	13 <u>9:30-11:30</u> General Meeting
14 Hanukkah begins <u>12 noon</u> Foreign Affairs	15	16	17	18 <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers X <u>1-4</u> Mahjongg	19	20
21 1st day of winter	22	23 <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30 <u>1:30</u> B-Lovers V	31 New Year's Eve			

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS		Karen Buchan	Dec. 9
		Anne Landrum	Dec. 12
Sue McDonald	Dec. 3	Elinor Parker	Dec. 15
Barbara Knapp	Dec. 6	Jeannie Bubriski	Dec. 18
Cecilia Shade	Dec. 6	Karen Deo	Dec. 23
Mary Young	Dec. 6		