

AAUW Bradenton

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Branching Out

Branching Out is published monthly by the Bradenton Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#), P.O.Box 14099, Bradenton, FL 34280-4099



President's Message

Welcome back Bradenton Branch members. Can you believe that it has been more than six months since we have been together in the same room? The pandemic will change the way we work but not the work we do. We are ready to continue our focus on gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

The 2020-21 Board has met virtually over the summer exploring options for moving ahead safely. Our board members include **Mickie McElroy**, Treasurer; **Fay Murphy**, Secretary; **Judy Griffin**, Director of Programs; **Mary**

[\(to continue, click here\)](#)

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ZOOM Meetings

As of September 15, we plan to meet via ZOOM through the end of 2020. To join the meeting, click on this link between 6:45 and 7:00 on September 15:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

Zoom is free and easy to use. You just need a computer, tablet, or smart phone with WiFi access. Click on this link to sign-up for a free Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/signin>.

Topic: AAUW Bradenton Branch Meeting

Time: Sep 15, 2020 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

Meeting ID: 603 076 3851

Please [click here](#) for more information about using ZOOM, tutorial, and practice sessions!



September Guest

Speakers:

Florida Amendments

Invite Your Friends!

[Click here](#) for speaker details.

Social Time at 6:45. Guest speakers at 7:00. After our guest speakers, we will have a short business meeting.

On the agenda is approval of the 2020-2021 budget.

[Click here](#) to see the proposed budget.

President's Message (cont.)

Schmidt, Director of Public Policy; **Ruth Qualich**, Director of Bylaws; **Meg Newsome**, Director of Communications; **Elaine Graham**, Scholarship Foundation President; and your returning President, me (**Marcia Hill**).

We have confirmed Zoom virtual meetings for the remainder of 2020 and hope to be able to meet in person during 2021. Only time will tell! The Zoom format offers members some new opportunities. For instance, you may participate from your home—or anyone else's for that matter—so driving at night or a distance no longer is a roadblock. It allows you to invite a variety of guests without a concern about dinner payment. This is especially helpful for our first meeting about the ballot amendments that many voters know little about. Knowledgeable voters make better decisions. You may choose video (show off your new hairdo or blouse!) or only audio so you will be heard but not seen. The best thing, of course, is you don't have to wear pants! That may say more about me than I should have shared.

As we begin this new year, flexibility and creativity are the muscles we flex. Please share your ideas and input with me or other board member at any time, or with the whole group during the business part of our meeting, which will follow our speakers' presentations.

AAUW FL is offering us resources and support as is our national organization. I am confident that we will be proud of our efforts next May as we look back on this year. We already have received information about this year's Tech Trek plan. Several of you made that project a success this past year. Anyone interested in working with Tech Trek 2021, please contact me. You need not have experience with it to help.

Two board positions are available: president-elect and membership. Help and support is available. Don't let fear hold you back. Ask me or any board member for more information.

I offer deep thanks to our Board of Directors for their time, energy, support, leadership, and good humor. Each director plays a critical role in branch successes. I hope you will thank them for their dedication and commitment to AAUW.

Once again, welcome back. I am looking forward to working with you and having fun with you.

Marcia

AAUW Bradenton Monthly Meeting

Date: September 15, 2020

Location: ZOOM

Link TBD

Time: 6:45 PM

Program: Alice Newlon, President of the League of Women Voters of Manatee County: Amendments, esp. #3, Open Primaries. Also Steve Hough will discuss Open Primaries in more depth.

For more information, [click here](#).

Next Monthly Meeting:

Date: October 20, 2020

Location: ZOOM

Link TBD

Time: 6:45 PM

Program: Scholarship recipients

SAVE THE DATE

November 17 - AAUW State Board - Pat Dewitt, President, KayLee Smith, Director of Public Policy, Pat Hilliard, Diversity Chair

December 15th - Holiday Celebration

January 19th - Jane Plitt, Women's Suffrage

February 16th - TBA

March 16th - Amy Wich, Pace Center for Girls

September Program and Guest Speakers

This November's general election has 6 constitutional amendments on the ballot (see below). Alice Newlon, President of the League of Women Voters of Manatee County, will review the amendments, give you their pros and cons and the League's position (if any). Although the League never supports a candidate or party, it does take positions on certain issues. The most complex amendment on the ballot is Amendment 3, Open Primaries.

In addition to Alice as a speaker, we are pleased to have Steve Hough present Open Primaries in more depth. He will review the selection of this form of open primaries and be able to answer your questions, clarify any confusion and address your support and objections.

Steve Hough, is one of the main people behind the grassroots effort that resulted in the amendment being on the ballot. Steve is the director of Florida Fair and Open Primaries (FFAOP).

After retirement as an accountant, Steve wanted to create change for frustrated Floridians like himself. After becoming Director of FFAOP, he met with OP President John Opdycke and informed him of Florida's Constitution Revision Commission. They decided to seize the opportunity and spearhead a campaign to push for an open primaries amendment—and the rest is history.

Since taking the helm, Steve has grown FFAOP's base of volunteers, helping the movement gain momentum and taking advantage of the rare chance to amend Florida's constitution.

Constitution Amendments on the ballot:

1. Only U.S. citizens can vote in federal, state, local, or school
2. Increases the state minimum wage to \$15 by 2026
3. Establishes a top-two open primary system for state office primary elections
4. Requires voter-approved constitutional amendments to be approved by voters at a second general election
5. Increases the period during which a person may transfer ["Save Our Homes"](#) benefits to a new homestead property from two years to three years
6. Allows a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran

N. Alice Newlon

You have to stand up for some things in this world.

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas

In Memory Of ...

Ricki Cunninghis

June 30, 1936-June 29, 2020

We will miss a long-time member, Ricki Cunninghis, who died this summer, one day before her 84th birthday on June 29, 2020. Ricki was a multi-talented woman who led a fascinating life. She was a pioneer in the field of geriatrics, writing seven books and visiting all fifty states to give lectures on the subject. She was also a Life Master in the game of bridge, a world-wide traveler, gifted textile artist, and devotee of crossword puzzles.



She was president of the Bradenton Branch for 2008-2009, and an Educational Foundation Named Grant Honoree in 1996. She was a longtime member until she could no longer travel. Happily, Ricki joined us for Trivia Night in January. The book club met at her house for the last 3-4 years to allow her continued participation. But Bridge was her lifeline and she was able to remain a bridge group player. For several years she volunteered with other branch members at ArtCenter Manatee. Ricki made a valiant effort in her fight against a muscle disease similar to ALS. She loved all her bridge friends and rarely missed a day playing if she could help it. Her mind was sharp but her body made it so hard for her.

Ricki is survived by her three children; Lon, Amy and Jill, and their respective spouses, Kim, Karen and Eitan, as well as, her four grandchildren; Madison, Audrey, Daniel and Raveh. She is predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Burt, who died in 2013.

In Memory Of ... (continued)

AAUW FL is saddened to announce the sudden death of former **AAUW President Shirley Reid** on June 21st.



Shirley served as president of AAUW FL from 2016 to 2018 and had also been president of the Venice branch.

She retired to Venice in 2000, and joined the Venice branch in 2004, explaining "I looked it up in the newspaper and just came off the street." She served as branch president from 2009 to 2013.

During her first term, she guided the Venice branch to achieve 501(c) 3 status, one of only three Florida branches with the designation at that time.

She was committed to promoting STEM careers for girls and served as the director of AAUW FL Tech Trek during the two years it was held at Eckert College.

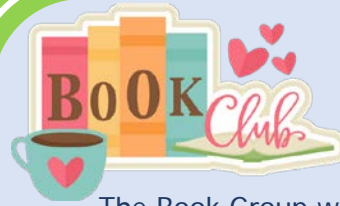
In July 2016, she began a term as president of AAUW FL. Under her leadership, the board expanded AAUW FL Tech Trek, establish the AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, and encourage branches to focus more on public policy.

She remained committed to AAUW and its mission saying, "It changed my life. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be where I am today. I'm filled with gratitude to this organization and I believe in its mission." She showed that gratitude through her membership in the AAUW Legacy Circle.

AAUW is most grateful for her leadership of both the AAUW Venice branch and AAUW Florida. She will be missed.

Special Interest Groups

Most Special Interest Groups are not yet meeting regularly.



Book Group

The Book Group will resume in October with Jackie Kelsey leading the discussion of *The Taster*, by V. S. Alexander. We have decided to meet in person at an outside location and time which have not been determined as of this time.

Please contact Ruth Qualich, 792-0367 if you wish to join this group of avid readers.

September Birthdays

Ann Marie McShea (NY)



**mark
your
calendar!**

2020-2021 Monthly Meetings Dates, Times, and Locations

September 15th, 2020 -- 6:45 p.m. on ZOOM

October 20th, 2020 -- 6:45 p.m. on ZOOM

November 17th, 2020 -- 11:30 a.m. on ZOOM

December 15th, 2020 -- 11:30 a.m. TBA

January 19th, 2021 -- 11:30 a.m. at Peridia Golf & Country Club

February 16th, 2021 -- 11:30 a.m. at Peridia Golf & Country Club

March 16th, 2021 -- 5:30 p.m. at IMG Academy Golf Club

April 2021 -- Women of Achievement Luncheon – Details TBD

May 18th, 2021 -- 5:30 p.m. at IMG Academy Golf Club

**Bradenton Branch AAUW
Proposed Budget 2020-2021**

INCOME	BUDGET 2020-2021
Membership Dues	576.00
Trivia Night	1,500.00
Monthly Meetings	0.00
Monthly 50/50	0.00
Directory	0.00
Tech Savvy	1,810.44
Tech Trek	5,610.00
Women of Achievement	3,000.00
Donation	0.00
Scholarship Foundation	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,496.44
EXPENSES	BUDGET 2020-2021
Just For Girls Luncheon	75.00
Work Smart/Start Smart	250.00
Liability Insurance – State Farm	375.00
Tech Savvy	1,810.44
Tech Trek	5,610.00
P.O. Box	168.00
Memorial Donations	50.00
Educational Foundation	0.00
Supplies, Stamps, Printing - \$15 each for President, Treasurer, Membership, Secretary	60.00
State Conference	250.00
Publicity/Marketing	100.00
Thank You Gifts – Outgoing Officers	100.00
Dinners for Speakers	125.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,023.44
NET INCOME	\$4,473.00

ZOOM (continued):

If you are unfamiliar with using ZOOM, there is an excellent tutorial you can watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>.

Judy Griffin will hold two practice sessions: Monday, Sept. 7, 3:00 pm
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7:00 pm

To join one of these practice sessions, use <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3079791173>.

Test your microphone and speaker when prompted. To mute or unmute your voice, hover over the red microphone icon to . During a busy meeting, it's best to be muted until you need to be heard. Make sure your camera video is enabled. You can also call or text Meg Newsome for additional individual assistance, at 941-704-2707.

Scholarship Foundation Update



Thanks to Peggy Butkier and the Foundation Board for their work and continuing the connection to Manatee Community Foundation. In June the committee awarded 11 scholarships in the amount of \$20,250.00. Every member should be proud that we have given a boost to 11 scholars to continue their education.

Thanks to the Friendly Friday Bridge Club, who for years have supported the Scholarship Foundation while enjoying each other's company and playing bridge.

As we move forward in this wacky year, there will be a virtual meeting of the SF board in October (date TBA) to orient, update the process for scholarship awards; and other items. Another meeting will be scheduled in June to review student applications and select the scholars.

We would love for two or three other members to join our board. If you are a new Branch member or someone who has a little more time now, please contact me and let's talk. 941-705-1470 The work we do changes lives.

Current members of the SF Board: Carol Checovich; Kitty Conant; Elaine Graham, SF, President; Linda Guilfoyle; Susan Hauck; Marcia Hill, Branch President; Mickie McElroy, Branch Treasurer; Eilene Oldwine; Ruth Qualich,

You will meet some of our recipients this year.

The Scholarship Foundation is a major achievement of our branch. Vivian Dauber, longtime member honored our branch with a generous donation. This will help us continue the work of the branch and the Scholarship Foundation.

Foundation President,
Elaine Graham
8/2020





BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW MEMBERSHIP

July 1, 2020 -June 30, 2021

NEW BRANCH MEMBER

Note: Information you provide is printed in the Brach Membership Directory unless otherwise indicated.

Member Type and Dues

Membership Type _____ Annual _____ Life _____ Dual (name primary branch) _____

_____ Dues for Annual Members: \$83 (\$59 National + \$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch)

(\$46 of National dues plus #12 Branch Dues are Tax Deductible)

_____ Dues for Life Members: \$24 (\$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch)

_____ Dues for Dual Members: \$12

_____ I would like the branch newsletter emailed to me monthly @ no charge

_____ I would like the branch newsletter delivered by mail. I am adding \$10 for postage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name _____ Nickname _____

Florida Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Business Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Email Address _____

The branch sends invitations for monthly meeting reservations by e-mail. If you do not have email, enter NONE. *Those without email will be contacted by phone.*

Summer Address (if different from above) _____

_____ Zip _____ Summer Phone (____) _____

Please provide the following information for the branch directory:

Undergraduate Degree ___ BA ___ BS

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Graduate Degree _____

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Graduate Degree _____

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Current Profession or Retired: _____

BRANCH INTEREST -- Check any of the following that you might enjoy.

___ Evening Book Club

___ Friday Friendly Bridge Group

___ Evening Gourmet Group

___ Publicity

___ Communications

___ Public Policy

___ Scholarship Selection

___ Membership

___ Greeting at Monthly Meetings

___ Membership Directory Update

___ Website/Social Media Updates

___ Women of Achievement Luncheon

___ Trivia Night Event

___ Tech Savvy Event

___ Work Smart/Start Smart Event

MAKE CHECK OUT TO "BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW"

MAIL TO: Mickie McElroy, 10437 48th Court E., Parrish FL 34219

512-917-6768, mickiemc@utexas.edu

National AAUW <http://www.aauw.org/>
Florida AAUW <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>

Bradenton Branch

Website: <http://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>
Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

President Marcia Hill: mshanerhill@gmail.com

President-Past: Judy Griffin:

jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Scholarship Info:

aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Membership:

Bridge Group: Lois at lwblevins@msn.com

Book Club: Ruth (temp.) at (941) 792-0367

Just for Girls: deeisnice@gmail.com

**Important to
Know**

AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Founded in 1881, membership is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent or higher degree.

