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AAUW Bradenton

Feb. 1, 2021 | Vol. 44, No. 6

<https://bradenton-fl.aauw.net/>



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



Bradenton Branch <https://bradenton-fl.aauw.net/>

American Association of University Women <https://www.aauw.org/>

February President's Message

Hello, members! Are you ready to be the Bradenton Branch's Valentine? No dinner, wine, or flowers needed. What we need are active, interested participants. If you are one the members who has joined in the Zoom branch meetings, you are already on the sweetheart list. Our January meeting featured author, entrepreneur, and speaker **Jane Plitt**. She started our journey through history by exploring the ties between the suffragette movement and the abolitionist movement and led us through equity issues that have been resolved and ones we continue to tackle. Members took part in a lively discussion with Jane, sharing perspectives from their own lives. Jane, a previous Women of Achievement, concluded with the charge to "keep looking for inroads" because equity challenges still need our attention.

Another familiar face will join us for the February meeting—**Ashley Brown** of the Women's Resource Center. How has the pandemic affected the services the WRC offers? Is there a role we can play to support their mission? Ashley will fill us and answer our questions. Please plan to join the meeting and invite friends, neighbors, former members, etc.

For the coming branch meeting, you will again be receiving an "Evite" email notice which will contain all the info about the program and ask you to reply. We know that some members haven't even opened some past Evites. Since they come from a mail

list of members, it may go to your spam folder and you wouldn't see it to open. If you have any questions about the Evite, contact **Meg Newsome**, director of communications at meggnewsome@outlook.com.

Later this month we have an opportunity to prepare for Virtual Lobby Day in March. The AAUW FL Public Policy Committee will host a Pre-Lobby Day Meeting on **23 February @ 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in participating in Lobby Days 2021, please register at the Zoom link below to review the final details and action plan for Lobby Days Reimagined. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. **Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcuyorz8jHdDr2af0C3dqIqU9ouPjzRWp>

You can see that although the pandemic has curbed our in-person activities, each of us can support the AAUW mission virtually. The board continues to meet via Zoom, and board positions for next year are becoming available: president-elect, membership, and public policy. Lots of help and support is available. Don't be afraid to ask me or any board member for more information.



Join us in any of these activities and be a branch valentine!

February Guest Speaker:

ASHLEY BROWN,

President & CEO Women's Resource Center

About the Women's Resource Center

For more than 37 years, the Women's Resource Center has been dedicated to engaging, educating, enriching and empowering women of all generations and socioeconomic levels. Our Bradenton Branch is proud of having been part of the formation of the Women's Resource Center as an Establishing Partner!

Today, WRC serves thousands of women and families in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Its vision is to provide unique strategies and programs that strengthen women through life's transitions and provide balance, confidence and determination, which not only meet their immediate needs, but also provide hope for the future. To learn more, visit MyWRC.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 4 - 1:30pm Book Group. See notice below for details.

Feb. 6 - 10am Manatee Branch Branch (Nate Jacobs, WBTT, see article below)

Feb. 16 - 6:45pm Branch Monthly Mtg. (Ashley Brown, Women's Resource Center)

March 16 - 6:45pm Branch Monthly Mtg. (TBA)

March 17 - Virtual Lobby Day! See article below for details.

April 16, 17,18 - Virtual Florida Leadership Conference. More information to come

April 20 - 6:45pm Branch Monthly Mtg. (Report from Virtual FL Leadership Conf.)

May 18 - 6:45pm (TBA).

[Note: Women of Achievement 2021 has been postponed until 2022.]

AAUW and Black History Month

Throughout AAUW's history, our members have forged new pathways in leadership



This Black History Month I'm turning a spotlight on a notable AAUW member, Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985).

Harris was a woman of many firsts during her lifetime of public service. Harris was the first Black woman appointed to the U.S. Cabinet, serving as U.S. Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (1977) and of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (1980). At her 1977 confirmation hearing she was asked about being able to represent the interests of the poor. In her reply she said, "I am one of them. You do not seem to understand who I am. I am a Black woman, daughter of a dining-car worker. I am a Black woman who could not buy a house eight years ago in parts of the District of Columbia. I didn't start out as a member of a prestigious law firm, but as a woman who needed a

scholarship to go to school. If you think that I have forgotten that you are wrong.”

She was also the first African American woman to become a U.S. Ambassador and the first African American woman to become a dean of law school. She earned her law degree from George Washington University and was admitted to the District of Columbia Bar and to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Patricia Roberts Harris was honored by the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 2003. She has been described as “one of those quiet warriors whose life stands as a testament to excellence, tenacity, and commitment to change.”

She is one of so many notable AAUW members.

Marcia Hill

**You are invited to the Manatee Branch of AAUW’s February Meeting,
Saturday, Feb. 6, at 10:00 AM.**

Join us for a different kind of fund raiser. We will have Nate Jacobs speak to us about his founding of the West Coast Black Theater in Sarasota in 1999. Following Nate we will have Undine Shorey, an AAUW scholarship winner, entertain us with her music talent. The program will begin shortly after 10 a.m. so please confirm your attendance.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtc--urT0sGtLaDWZhwRoJPafG1xtoMrUT>



Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe founder and artistic director **Nate Jacobs** is a driving force in Florida’s theater scene. For nearly 30 years, he has worked extensively in the community training and mentoring youth in the performing arts. He founded **WBTT** in 1999. As a result of Jacobs’ outstanding contributions to young people, the **Sarasota County Branch NAACP** Youth Council recognized him as one of its 2012 **Men of Valor**. In the spring of 2013, he was inducted into the **Community Video Archives Hall of Fame** for his significant contributions to the arts and education. In 2015, Jacobs was recognized as a "**Champion of Diversity**"

for the arts during the Biz(941) and La Guia magazines' Unity Awards Luncheon.

Jacobs was honored with the prestigious **Larry Leon Hamlin Producer Award** during the 2015 National Black Theatre Festival in August, in Winston Salem, North Carolina, “due to his contributions to Black theatre specifically and American theatre in general.” In 2017, Jacobs was named a **Goodwill Manasota Ambassador of the Year**. The award honors “those who help change lives.” In October 2018, Jacobs received the Arts Leadership Award for Artistic Achievement from the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. As Nate Jacobs has said, “While WBTT is dedicated to producing the finest dramatic and musical theatre, my dream – my true calling and purpose for founding this organization – has always been to help young aspiring artists who may otherwise be overlooked to develop their talents and have the opportunity to achieve success.”



Undine Shorey: Singer and receiver of three AAUW Scholarships in 2012,2013,2014 Undine was born in England and traveled to America when she was one year old. She comes from a family of musicians and attended Manatee High School where she played violin and was concert mistress as a senior. After graduating from U of Tampa, Undine began work in the corporate world. She now works for **Connect Bradenton**. Realize Bradenton hired Undine to perform at the Farmer’s Market and she has performed in the Blues Festival. She also writes for the **Bradenton Times** and **Sarasota Herald Tribune**. Jhonette Isham of Realize Bradenton says, “Undine is an impressive talent, responsive professional, and caring individual who has jumped in with both feet when it comes to contributing to her community.” Undine has a CD titled “Quality of Life.”



Watch an informative video about the West Coast Black Theater Troupe <https://www.pbs.org/video/909-west-coast-black-theatre-troupe-4mctu/> .



**Lobby Days Reimagined
Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**Pre-Lobby Day Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 23 - 7 p.m.**

AAUW Florida Public Policy Committee (PPC), has scheduled a **Virtual Lobby Day on Wednesday, March 17, 2021**. Plans are being developed and a list of bills is being compiled and vetted. All members are encouraged to participate.

VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY PLAN:

The day will include speakers on our bills, a short workshop on bill tracking, information session on bills and the impact of their related committees, and information on techniques for virtual lobbying. We will also distribute a state Action Alert for Lobby Day bills.

PRE-LOBBY DAY MEETING:

PPC will host a Pre-Lobby Day Meeting at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23**. If you are interested in participating in Lobby Days 2021, please register at the Zoom link below to review the final details and action plan for Lobby Days Reimagined. It is essential that you attend this meeting if you plan on participating in Lobby Day to obtain an accurate count of participants.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Feb 23, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcuyorz8jHdDr2af0C3dqlqU9ouPjzRWp>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

PREPARE: What will it mean to engage in virtual lobbying? What can you do to begin preparations for lobby days reimagined?

- Identify your [LEGISLATORS](#) and contact them or their legislative aide early to arrange meetings, call and/or email.
- You will need to provide information about AAUW – guidance on this process will be provided
 - Review our top 5 [BILLS](#) we are tracking and plan talking points

[HB 107 / SB 256](#)

[SB 554](#)

[SJR 276](#)

[SB 180 / HB 275](#)

[SB 410](#)

- Sign up to be a [Two Minute Activist](#)
 - Review AAUW [Quick Facts](#)
- It may be opportune for some branches to meet with their [legislators](#) now or prior to lobby days, if so please have your public policy officer contact the [PPC](#), if resources are needed.

**We are tenacious and trailblazing —
advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!
Together, we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all!**

Special Interest Groups

Most Special Interest Groups
are not yet meeting regularly.

February Birthdays

Barb Coolahan	PA
Bridget Windsor	WI
Carol Checovich	IN
Janice Sanburn	MO

Bradenton Branch Leadership

Website: <http://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

Branch Leadership 2020-2021

President - Marcia Hill: mshanerhill@gmail.com

Past President - Judy Griffin: jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director of Finance (acting) – Mickie McElroy: mickiemc@gmail.com

Secretary – Fay Murphy: faymurph@aol.com

Director for Programs – Judy Griffin: jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director for Communications – Meg Newsome: meggnewsome@outlook.com

Director for Public Policy – Mary Schmidt:

mcsrealtor@aol.com

Scholarship Foundation President – Elaine Graham: ebebeg@aol.com

Scholarship Information: aauwbscholarship@gmail.com

Bylaws Chair/ Parliamentarian – Ruth Qualich:

qualir@yahoo.com

Bridge Group: Lois Blevins at lwblevins@msn.com

Book Club: Carolyn Reynolds: 941-720-6575

Just for Girls: deeisnice@gmail.com



The Book Group will meet Thursday, Feb.4th at 1:30 at Blackstone Park in Palmetto. Ruth Qualich will lead our discussion of "Education". Visitors are welcome to join us. For information call Carolyn Reynolds at 941-720-6575. .

BOOK & MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

From Our December Holiday Celebration and Meeting

Judy likes "The Man Who Invented Christmas" which is on Netflix.

Mickie likes "The Santa Chronicles" on Netflix.

Doreen liked the "Call of the Wild" thru Hoopla.

Elaine likes "The Crown" on Netflix, the book "Eleanor" and the bio of John Lewis by Jon Meacham.

Meg likes the movie "Jingle Jangle" on Netflix and the books "All Over but the Shoutin'" and "The Best Cook in the World" by Rick Bragg.

Carolyn likes "McCleod's Daughter."

If your recommendation is not here, please send it to Judy to be included in the next newsletter!



ZOOM Meetings

We will continue to meet via ZOOM through the end of 20-21. To join the meeting, click on this link between 6:45 and 7:00 on February 16:

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

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

Test your microphone and speaker when prompted. Make sure your camera video is enabled.

Please call or text Meg Newsome (941-704-2707) or Judy Griffin (941-323-4639) for individual assistance.

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.



Important to Know

National AAUW

<http://www.aauw.org/>

Florida AAUW

<http://aauwfl.aauw.net/>



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