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Bradenton Branch

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Branching Out is published monthly by the Bradenton Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#), P. O. Box 14009, Bradenton, FL 34280-4099.

President's Message November 2021

Welcome to fall, members! I am still digging through my closet to find a sweater I can wear in public, but the cool breeze does usher in the holiday season!

As you may recall, we have celebrated the holidays with a special breakfast and games for the students at **Just For Girls Middle School**, but we are still unable to celebrate at the school with the girls. This year our special project is a gift bag filled for each girl which Principal and branch member **Dee Ralph** will present on our behalf. During our October Zoom meeting we discussed possibilities and agreed to meet once rather than during November and December. During this in-person outdoor meeting we will put together the 45 gift bags and have a chance to socialize with each other as well.

We are continuing to finalize details (and welcome your ideas!), but I wanted to share the big picture with you. Tentatively, we will meet on Tuesday, December 7 during the day so Dee will have options of when to give them to the girls.

In the meantime, please think about what you could contribute to the project—time, items, or a contribution. Dee asks that we include no candles or permanent makers. (Just let your imagination run with 45 girls with those treats!). Put your Santa caps on and start thinking!

We will send you more details in the next couple of weeks. If you'd like to include our traditional book exchange at this holiday season meeting, let me know via email (mshanerhill@gmail.com) or text (941-704-5381). We have the additional opportunity of joining the Manatee branch at their holiday gathering. I will forward details to you as they become available.

Our branch is continuing to collaborate with the Manatee branch to sponsor girls for FL AAUW's 2022 Tech Trek. Barb Coolahan and Linda Guilfolye are spearheading this project. They will let us know if they need members to help interview candidates as the process moves ahead.

When the new year arrives, we are anxious to become more active and able to work together to support the women and girls of our community.

Marcia Hill



SAVE THE DATE

November: DEADLINE for DUES (so you aren't removed from AAUW's national roster!)
We have about a half-dozen members in this precarious category.

November 9: AAUW webinar, the second in our three-part series, [Equal Pay Every Day](#), intended to get employees, managers and senior leaders talking about pay equity. It focuses on employers in the New York area but offers lessons applicable to all workplaces.

[Register Now](#)

November 13: Meeting of the Manatee Branch, via zoom. We are invited to attend.
10:00 AM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81600210408?pwd=S3djTCsxRit1RExJMHczU2IDZ2RHQT09>
Meeting ID: 816 0021 0408 Passcode: 923436

MASH UP MEETING!

December 7: (No meeting November 16 or December 21.) Combined November and December Meeting. For more information, see President's message above, and stay tuned!

January 18 and 19, 2022 – Lobby Days

April 1, 2, and 3, 2022 – AAUW Florida Convention in Orlando <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/2021/07/10/2022-aauw-florida-convention-annual-meeting/>



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
In-person, Outside, Daytime
(Details TBA)

We will put together Holiday Gift Bags for Just For Girls!
(See President's message above.)



Scholarship Foundation News

We have been challenged replenishing the account due to COVID. We will get back to projects, but in the meantime, please donate what you can.

The first on our **SF Replenishing Fund Donor List!**

A big thanks to
Doreen Colket
Jacqueline D' Alessio
Eileen Oldwine

There's plenty of room for more names!

Make Checks Payable : BBAUW Scholarship Foundation

Mail To: American Association of University Women
BBAUW Scholarship Foundation
PO Box 14099 Bradenton, FL 34280



November Spotlight: Scholarship Foundation Recipient

Marvict Benkert is a teacher at the Collegiate School-SCF, married, a mother of a 19-month-old and working toward a Master's Degree in Public Administration from U.S.F. In her personal statement she wrote,

“My name is Marvict Rodriguez Benkert. I was born in Venezuela and moved to the United States when I was ten years old. My identity and personal values have been largely influenced by my experience as the oldest daughter of an immigrant single mother who taught me that education and hard work could help me accomplish anything I wanted.

“My experiences as a bilingual immigrant, teacher, and community volunteer have helped me realize that I want to develop and use my talents to affect positive change for people in my community. My ultimate goal is to become a policy analyst so that I can work with decision-makers at the local, state, or federal levels to design and implement policies that could help improve community support programs, expand access to educational resources, and help educate communities at large of the positive contributions that immigrants make to our society, culture and economy. My pursuing of a Master's in Public Administration from USF Tampa is the first step toward reaching my academic and professional goals.”

November Spotlight: Scholarship Foundation Recipient (cont.)

Marvict's references spoke about her volunteer support of students who are working toward higher education by helping them and their parents work through the college application process.

The Scholarship Foundation Committee felt Marvict embodied the student we want to support.

The Bradenton Branch AAUW has given scholarships to deserving women for years. Our scholarships are awarded to women who began their education and life intervened causing a pause in that part of their life. Our applicants are now ready to revive their educational journey. They realize that education is a vital component of upward mobility for their family.

Would you be willing to send an occasional check-in email and birthday or holiday card to one of our recipients? If you can help keep this connection, email Elaine, and she'll send the information you need to stay in touch. She needs 6 members to volunteer, so please let her know!

We are so proud of the support we provide to help women and families. Every year, through our funds housed at the Manatee Community Foundation, we award multiple scholarships to move dreams forward. This happens with donations and fundraising from members who value education.

Learn more about AAUW (A new feature from our president!)

Members, last month I shared info about the first session of this series exploring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through AAUW's recently introduced resources. Below is the information on the next session. If you missed the first session, you can still participate in this session. I plan to and I hope to "see" you there.

Marcia Hill, Branch President.

DEI Dialogue #2: Micro-agressions

Saturday, November 13, 2021

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Zoom

Sponsored by AAUW FL Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

AAUW Florida invites you to participate in a series of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) discussions sponsored by the AAUW FL DEI Committee at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of every month October 2021 through March 2022.

This second discussion deals with micro-aggression: a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized

group. Micro-aggressions are based on stereotypes and are tied to implicit bias – the topic of the first discussion in this series held last month.

Join us **November 13** to discuss how to identify and avoid micro-aggressions in your actions and language.

Plan to attend the rest of the dialogues in the series:
December 11, January 8, February 12 and March 12.

Dialogues are open to all members and guests.
Videos of all dialogues in the series will be posted on our [website](#).

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87338261758?pwd=amxIUmVZRUpyZTFqWlpxcXYwcVBWQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 3826 1758
Passcode: 231392



News from the Manatee League of Women Voters

Thursday, November 11, 5:30, Curious about the National League of Women Voters?

Alicia Gurreri, Organizing Manager of the National League of Women Voters, will join us for a special hour. Alicia is using her direct-service and advocacy experiences to increase equity in democracy by working closely with league affiliates. Learn what important issues the National is working on and how they exercise their influence. Let's hear how we can better support LWV National and how the LWV National can better support the LWV of Manatee. Ask questions and make suggestions!

This event is part of the Taste of our League program, a bi-monthly general meeting providing an opportunity for all to learn and be inspired. Potential members can get a "taste" of the League and current members can connect, share and have a bit of fun. Spread the word and share this with friends and neighbors. Of course, we will have our toast and other fun events...looking forward to seeing you!

Register in advance for this zoom meeting: [Click here for more information.](#)



NEWS from AAUW Florida

The AAUW Florida goal is for every branch to contribute at least \$750 this year to the AAUW Funds, counting both branch and member contributions. Branches that meet this goal would qualify to select a member for a Branch Named Gift and to nominate a member for the AAUW Florida Named Gift Award.

According to Ellen Roche, FI AAUW Director of Development, our branch members have contributed \$314 as of September 30, 2021.



NEWS from AAUW



Dear Member,

We are thrilled to invite you to attend our 140th Anniversary celebration on November 17, 2021, at 4 p.m. ET. Join us as we mark a milestone year and unveil our distinguished 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee. This year's recipient is a trailblazer and globally recognized leader, and we are excited to reveal their identity soon.

We'll also give special recognition to AAUW affiliates celebrating big birthdays of their own, including states and branches with 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries this year. And you'll hear from AAUW National Board Chair, Julia Brown, and our newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Gloria L. Blackwell. They'll share their reflections on our rich past and look ahead to a bright—and equitable—future for women and girls.

[Register Now](#)

Finally, you'll be the first to learn about the historic gift matching opportunity made possible by this year's board of directors, committee leaders and staff, allowing your donations to be doubled through the end of 2021.

I hope this event serves as a small token of our gratitude for everything you do for AAUW. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,



A blue handwritten signature that reads "Katrina".

Katrina Sun Breese
Senior Director of Institutional Advancement



Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups are not meeting regularly yet.

Would you like to start a new one?
Here are some ideas...
Museums/Galleries/Lunch Out?
Bridge? Financial Literacy?
Any idea could work!

Contact Marcia Hill if you want to start something fun!

November Birthday

Patty Davis NJ



The Book Group started again in September and is reading *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. We invite new members to join us.

For information, call Carolyn Reynolds at 941-0720-6575.



Bradenton Branch Leadership

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

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

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

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

Bradenton Branch Board: 2021-2022

President: Marcia Hill mshanerhill@gmail.com

Secretary: Fay Murphy faymurph@aol.com

Treasurer: Sandra Stone sstone101654@gmail.com

President Elect: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

Director for Program: Judy Griffin jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director for Communications: Meg Newsome meggnewsome@outlook.com

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

Scholarship Information: aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Book Club: Carolyn Reynolds: 941-720-6575

Just for Girls: deenisnice@gmail.com