



March, 2022-23
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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.



March President's Message

Welcome, members, to March, the month known as “March Madness” and “Women’s History Month.” It seems natural to me that there’d be some “madness” in women’s history.

I just read the article “*Amelia Earhart once took Eleanor Roosevelt on a nighttime joyride.*” The author writes, “Although her aviation career lasted just 17 years, Amelia Earhart remains one of the most famous people ever to take to the sky. In addition to being renowned for her many firsts — including being the first woman to fly [solo across the Atlantic](#) and the first person to fly alone from [Hawaii to the mainland U.S.](#) — she’s known for her 1937 disappearance and the many theories it spawned.

Less well-known but considerably more fun to imagine is the time she took Eleanor Roosevelt on a [nighttime joyride](#) from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore on April 20, 1933. The brief flight took place with both in their evening wear following a White House dinner party. “I’d love to do it myself. I make no bones about it,” the First Lady told the *Baltimore Sun* after the flight. “It does mark an epoch, doesn’t it, when a girl in an evening dress and slippers can pilot a plane at night.”

Women all around us make history—and sometimes they do it with their crazy friends. That is why membership in AAUW branches is important. Together we make change. I hope you are planning to participate in the coming branch activities. We are especially in need of members who are action orientated. There are openings in our slate of officers for 2022-2023. **Meg Newsome** as President-elect is poised to serve as

president and **Judy Griffin** is willing to serve as Secretary. **Sandra Stone** planned to continue as Treasurer, but recent job responsibilities change that. She will complete this fiscal year, but we will need a new treasurer beginning July 1. Your name would look good after any job title, right?! I am waiting to hear from you.

On the plus side, our exploration of a merger with the Manatee Branch continues. AAUW policies and procedures require both branches to dissolve and then form a new branch with a new name. This would allow us to reexamine how and when we would meet and what our priorities would be. More information should be available to share after our joint Zoom meeting at the end of the month. Contact me to ask questions, share your ideas, or just talk about it.



Let's talk more at our meeting next week (bring your friends) and our "field trip" April meeting at the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature.

Marcia Hill, President



SAVE THE DATE

March 10-14 – **Jane Plitt** Documentary: **The MARVELOUS MARTHA** via the Through Women's Eyes' documentary and can be downloaded any time during that period. Here is the link. <https://twe2022.eventive.org/films/61fb2712b7df2f006329a7d6>
The film festival is sponsored by the not for profit UN Women Gulf Coast chapter.

March 15—Equal Pay Day

March 15 - Next Bradenton Branch Meeting (See Below)

March 29 – Joint Branch Board Zoom Meeting to explore merger 7:00 pm

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

The Power of Story

How stories shape our lives and beliefs, and those of others

How to tell a true from a false story

AAUW's story—and how it has changed

How to tell our story

April 19 – Bradenton Branch Meeting: Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, including tour and planetarium show – "Meeting with the Manatees"! 11:30am-2:00pm



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

In Person (or Zoom)

Downtown Central Library

1st Floor Meeting/Recording Room

11:30am - 1:00pm

2820 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, Florida 34205

Social Time: 11:30 am

Presentation from **Selah Freedom**

Business Meeting to Follow

[More information about our Guest Speaker below.]

Please join us as we gather at 11:30 am for social time at the downtown library. Our program will begin about 11:45, after which we will have the meeting. **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!** (Going out to lunch downtown afterwards is encouraged.)

We are thrilled to announce that our guest speaker this month is **Brenda McGowan**, the Awareness & Development Manager for **Selah Freedom**! Selah Freedom is a nonprofit anti-human trafficking organization, based in Florida and the Midwest, with the mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited through four strong programs: Advocacy & Awareness, Prevention, Outreach, and Residential.

She will present more information regarding Sex Trafficking, and how they are helping to bring light, awareness and prevention techniques..

(<https://www.selahfreedom.com/>)

How can you help this worthwhile cause?

Gift cards are easy and greatly appreciated. Sometimes it is helpful to give an Outreach candidate a gift card to get a meal can make a difference in building trust and showing we care about their needs. (Small amounts \$20-\$25).

Amazon gift cards (in any amount) are also great as we post on Amazon Smile our immediate needs list.

The Salah Prevention team can also use replenishment of school supplies, such as crayons, markers, pens, pencils etc.

We encourage members to donate gift cards & school supplies at the meeting!

There will be a **Zoom option** again for anyone who would like to attend virtually.

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

(Meeting ID: 603 076 3851).



Our Guest Speaker for March

Brenda McGowan
Awareness and Development Manager
[Selah Freedom](#)

Judy Griffin would like to introduce **Brenda McGowan, Awareness & Development Manager** for Selah Freedom. Brenda has a heart for Non-Profits and has been providing multichannel Database Marketing services for over 25 years.

Her team manages Selah Freedom's marketing initiatives: Volunteers, Awareness, Donors, and of course... developing those vital business relationships!

Brenda is a graduate of Indiana University and served on the Board of Directors for American Marketing Association in Tampa Bay. She is very active in our communities, recently serving on American Cancer Society's "Making Strides" Committee, FL Cancer Specialists Foundation, and volunteers for The Mark Wandall Foundation, to highlight a few.

On a personal note, her "Brady bunch" consists of 4 children and 5 Grandchildren.

Last Month's Program

USF Battles Human Trafficking

The USF Trafficking in Persons Risk to Resilience Research Lab was established in 2020 to address the problems of sex and labor trafficking in Florida. After conducting a community needs assessments, two major focus areas emerged: a need for accurate, centralized data to help get a better understanding of the scope and dynamics of the problem, and a need for an integrated digital platform to expedite connecting victims/survivors with appropriate programs and services.

The presentation will provide more information on both these initiatives, including progress on a related human trafficking bill (HB 1439) currently moving through the FL Legislature.

Sandra S. Stone, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Criminology
Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies
University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus

Scholarship Foundation News

Meet one of our recipients

March Spotlight: Scholarship Foundation Recipient

Megan Biggs received **Bradenton Branch Scholarship Foundation** support for her continuing education for 2021-2022 year. She is studying nursing at John Hopkins In Baltimore. Megan was an outstanding candidate and her application reflected working with **Selah Freedom** and in reproductive health and public health abroad.

Megan says that her "... time in Selah was a period of immense growth. I had the privilege of working with incredibly strong women as co-workers and as clients. The women with whom I worked demonstrated great tenacity in achieving their goals and aspirations. Within my three years with Selah, I was able to witness the incredible resiliency these women had in efforts to turn their life around, heal their past traumas, and inspire others to do the same."

She served in the **Peace Corps** for over two years in Botswana, as well as seven months in Liberia, working as a response volunteer at a clinic doing preventative education. One of her letters of recommendation (from Selah Freedom) stated "Megan is one of the most compassionate people I have ever met. Her empathy toward helping those in need, whether a survivor of sex trafficking or patient, is unwavering".

This recipient was highly recommended and certainly we have seen the need for nurses during this pandemic. Our program this month will be additionally informative about her work with them.

Manatee Community Foundation is currently taking applications and will be setting up interviews in April. This process is a partnership we established to help manage our Scholarship Foundation dollars and maximize the scholarship process. Members of the branch Scholarship Foundation Board will review applications with the Manatee Community Foundation. Stay tuned for more information. We will announce our 2022-2023 scholarship recipients at a later date.

Please support our scholars by donating to our Scholarship Foundation which is a 501 c3. Make your check, a check from your IRA (RMD), or other payment to:

Our current Scholarship Foundation recipients benefit from the boost we provide when the Manatee Community Foundation sends the checks to their individual schools. The second semester is a good time to be reminded of the important support we provide.

Please support our scholars by donating to our **Scholarship Foundation** which is a **501 c3**. Make your check, a check from your IRA (RMD), or other payment to:

Make Checks Payable To : BBAAUW Scholarship Foundation

Mail To :

Bradenton Branch American Association of University Women Scholarship Foundation
(BBAAUW Scholarship Foundation)

P0 Box 14099

Bradenton, FL 34280

Elaine Graham, Scholarship Foundation



**Learn more about AAUW
Final Session**

**DEI Dialogue #6: The Influence of Culture on
Perception of Self in Girls and Young Women**
Saturday, March 12, 2022
10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Zoom

Jacque Jacobs has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and has lived and worked on five continents, as a teacher and school/district level administrator. She is a retired full professor from Western Carolina University where she was Department Head in Educational Leadership and Foundations. She has conducted research on such topics as the impact of self-perception of girls and young women and the implications for their development into leaders, and early life experiences in girls and young women on generative leadership. Additionally, she has presented at multiple international conferences on such topics as the health of girls on schooling in the US, Canada, and South Africa. Jacque will share the findings of some of her research, as well as her personal and professional observations of the impact of socialization on girls across cultures on five continents.

Sponsored by AAUW FL Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Dialogues are open to all members and guests.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 873 3826 1758

Passcode: 231392





NEWS from AAUW

Tech Trek

The local girls who returned their applications by February 14th were interviewed via zoom by March 10th. The state committee will mail Letters of acceptance on March 19th.

Once the girls have been invited to attend one of the camps, they will rank their choices of core classes from 1 to 4. Information about the core classes, the afternoon workshops and other STEM activities will be announced as soon as the camp programs and other activities are finalized.

Support Tech Trek By Shopping!

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> to do your amazon shopping and amazon will donate a small percentage of your purchases excluding taxes, gift wrap, etc. to the Florida AAUW Supporting Foundation, the sponsor of the Tech Trek camps. For more information about how to do this go to the [donate page](#) on FL AAUW website. Every item you purchase through smile.amazon.com will help raise money for Tech Trek.



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!

No March Birthdays

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

