



March, 2022-23
Volume 45, Number 5
<https://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>



Bradenton Branch

<https://www.facebook.com/AUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

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

Dear Members,

I hope some of you were able to celebrate **Women's History Month** by attending the Asolo Repertory Theatre's production of *Silent Sky*. Not only a beautiful staging with powerful performances, it was an inspiring reminder of how far women have come (and how much farther we have yet to go). If you'd like to read a more detailed account, there is a thorough review at <https://anythingarts.com/2023/01/30/silent-sky-lights-up-the-night-at-asolo-rep/>.

I also hope you saw my forwarded email from **Vicki Waters**, recommending the PBS program "*The Vote*," part of the [American Experience](#) series. We owe so much to these brave women!

As you know, one of our own inspiring women, **Dr. Mona Jain**, passed away at the end of last month. How I wish I'd had the opportunity to know her! If you did not get the chance to read her [USF Spotlight Biography](#), I highly recommend it.

Barb Coolahan tells us that we have also lost our dear friend **Lois Blevins**. I do not have any details yet, but will share them when known.

We, of course (following our bylaws) will be making a memorial gift of \$25 to our **Foundation** in honor of each of these amazing women. You may also make individual or small group memorial gifts in their honor if you so choose. No gift can ever truly

represent all these two women have contributed to our Bradenton Branch, to AAUW, and to our community. They will be greatly missed.

~~~

Looking ahead, our nominating committee of **Sue Hauck**, **Linda Guilfoyle**, and **Elaine Graham**, has been hard at work filling a slate of officers and directors for 2023-2024. They will announce names formally at our March Meeting so that we can vote in April. I am authorized – and extremely happy – to let you know that **Barb Coolahan** is willing to serve as President, as well as **Mary Schmidt** as President-Elect. Continuing for another year will be **Linda Lewis** as Treasurer and **Judy Griffin** as Secretary. Directors will be announced a little later. Thank you for lending us your time and talents as our Bradenton Branch rebuilds and forges ahead! I am grateful beyond words, and pledge my support for their leadership.

**Meg Newsome, President**



## SAVE THE DATE

**March 13-14 Lobby Days** (See Feb. Newsletters for details.)

**March 15** [Equal Pay Day](#)

**March 21** **Branch Meeting** (See below for details.)

The **AAUW Florida Convention** will not be held this year. Instead, Regional Leadership Meetings are occurring throughout Florida. Our Regional Leadership meeting was in October, and was well-attended.

**April 18** **Branch Meeting** (Dinner Meeting at Anna Maria Oyster Bar)

**May 16** **Branch Meeting** Installation on Officers and Board for 2023-2024.



## NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**  
Braden River Branch Library  
Room 205  
**12:00 noon – 2:30 PM**  
4915 53RD AVE. EAST, BRADENTON

Our program on the ALICE Project for the United Way had to be postponed.

Instead, our program will be a presentation by

**Sarah Wertheimer,**  
Executive Director of  
**Embracing Our Differences.**

<https://www.embracingourdifferences.org/>

I am excited to hear from her, both to learn about all this wonderful organization accomplishes, and also about the recent headlines and issues.



### About Us

Embracing Our Differences is a nonprofit organization based in Sarasota, Florida, that uses the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open the heart to celebrate the diversity of the human family. It accomplishes this through an annual, large-scale, juried art exhibition and a comprehensive series of educational initiatives, programs and resources designed for teachers and students. In honor of our 20th anniversary, our theme this year is "*Embracing Kindness*" during a time when we need it more than ever. We are excited for our community to come together and honor the impact, change, and unity EOD has created over the past 20 years.

### Mission

Through the transformative power of the arts, we educate and inspire to create a better world.

### Vision

A world that embraces diversity, respects differences, and actively rejects hatred and prejudice.



## Scholarship Foundation News

Scholarship Foundation members **Barb Coolahan, Doreen Colket, Linda Guilfoyle, and Elaine Graham**, and members of the Manatee Foundation Board met with Simone Peterson, Manatee Community Foundation Community Investment Officer, on Thursday, March 9, to make scholarship applicant decisions from the list of new applicants for the branch's scholarships.

We were all sent the applications ahead of the meeting from eight new applicants for Bradenton Branch AAUW Scholarship Foundation Fund and one new applicant for our Bradenton Branch AAUW Education Scholarship Fund.

In reviewing the applications, we all agreed there are older students who have challenging lives and are deserving of help to continue their education.

We had a good discussion about all the applicants and came to consensus regarding the scholars we will support from the new applicant pool.

The renewal applications are due later and we will review those and make decisions later this year.

Our completed 2023-2024 report will be presented at a later date.

AAUW Scholarship Foundation Board 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**, President, Bradenton Branch Scholarship Foundation





## Tech Trek Update

The Manatee and Bradenton AAUW branches have been collaborating on the Tech Trek Initiative for the past 4 years. This year, the (**in person**) camp will take place in June of 2023.

Manatee County teachers nominated 18 middle school girls. Three of these nominees completed their written applications and essays.

Our three nominees and their parents were interviewed on February 28th via Zoom. The rankings were forwarded to the State Selection Committee. On March 26th, the candidates will be notified about their acceptance/denial. Our committee will provide the branch membership of the results upon notification.

A sincere thank you to **Linda Guilfoyle, Patty Benson, Marrienne Harrison** and **Marlene Yanelli** for their actions and support!

**Barb Coolahan**, Bradenton Branch Contact for Tech Trek



## NOTICE FROM NATIONAL: Dues Rates

AAUW National dues for FY24 will be \$72 in accordance with the three-year increase implemented by the AAUW Board of Directors back in October 2020. This rate becomes effective in the system on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Renewing members (those who were members in the last fiscal year) should **NOT** be advised to renew prior to this date as a host of system updates are underway. **REPEAT: DO NOT RENEW UNTIL AFTER APRIL 1.**

New members can be submitted at any time and will be charged \$67 for national dues before April 1 and \$72 on/after April 1. The Shape the Future discount of 50% off national dues when processing new members remains in effect when applying the coupon code at checkout.



# AAUW Action Network

On Equal Pay Day 2023—March 14th—we look at the current state of the gender pay gap: Women working full-time, year-round are paid 84 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid 77 cents on average for every dollar paid to men.

Pay equity will remain an AAUW priority until the pay gap is fully eliminated. We've long known that on average, pervasive pay inequities mean that women in the workforce take home less than men—and that women of color are often paid far less. *(Throughout the year, we will highlight how the gender pay gap impacts women of color and mothers differently in the workforce. [Read more](#) to see the bigger picture.)*

**How you can help:** Last week, Congress took the first step and introduced the bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act. When passed, the Paycheck Fairness Act will ensure all women have the tools they need to challenge discrimination in the workplace and all employers have the incentives they need to comply with the law. To make equality a reality, we need you to use our [Pay Equity advocacy toolkit](#) tomorrow and this week to:

- Contact your members of Congress
- Write a Letter to the Editor
- Engage your communities on social media

Why are we still talking about the gender pay gap? Because it has barely changed in decades, and these historic inequities were further exacerbated when the COVID-19 crisis hit. Women over the past three years, especially women of color and mothers, were pushed into part-time or seasonal work, or out of the workforce all together. As elected officials continue efforts to rebuild our nation in the wake of the dual public health and economic crises, they must do better. We cannot build back an economy that works for everyone without ensuring that all women can work with equality, safety, and dignity—starting with pay equity.

Speak out this Equal Pay Day and [support the Paycheck Fairness Act now!](#)

**Take Action**

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## Special Events

In honor of Women's History Month  
**Pioneer Women of Manatee**  
March 20, 11am - 12pm



**Island Branch**  
5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, FL  
(941) 778-6341



### Women's History Month: Pioneer Women of Manatee

In honor of Women's History Month, join us for this special event, *Pioneer Women of Manatee*, at our Island Branch. In this engaging discussion, learn more about the trials and triumphs that pioneer women of the Village of Manatee encountered while settling the area we now call home.

**Island Branch**  
March 20 | 11am - 12pm | Adults

[Learn More >>](#)



Manatee Library / Manatee Library Events & Spaces / Manatee Library Events



### Pioneer Women of Manatee



In honor of Women's History Month, learn more about the trials and triumphs that pioneer women of the Village of Manatee encountered while settling the area we now call home.

**Date:** Monday, March 20, 2023  
**Time:** 11:00am - 12:00pm  
**Time Zone:** Eastern Time - US & Canada (change)  
**Library Branch:** Island Branch Library  
**Location:** Meeting Room  
**Audience:** Adults  
**Categories:** History & Genealogy INTELLECTUAL



## Public Policy Positions of Florida AAUW

OF FLORIDA

While not all members are able to participate in the state Lobby Days activities in person, we can each contact our elected representatives to share our positions on priority legislation.

AAUW's priority legislation for the current session focuses on: school choice; human trafficking; solicitation of minors; menstrual hygiene products in public schools; discrimination based on hairstyle in the education system; employee leave and wage and salary history; and equal rights for men and women.

Below is a list of the bills along with their sponsors, AAUW's position on each bill, and a synopsis of the proposed legislation. Detailed information and talking points are included at <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/lobby-days/>

### **SB 202/HB 1 SCHOOL CHOICE**

**OPPOSE**

SPONSORS: CHOICE & INNOVATION SUBCOMMITTEE AND TUCK AND PLASENCIA (CO-SPONSORS) AMESTY; ANDERSON; BAKER; BARNABY; BASABE; BLACK; BRACKETT; FINE; GARCIA; GIALLOMBARDO; JACQUES; LEEK; LOPEZ, V.; MASSULLO; PAYNE; PERSONS-MULICKA; PLAKON; PORRAS; RIZO; ROACH; ROBINSON, W.; SIROIS; SNYDER; TRAMONT & SEN SIMMON

This bill revising student eligibility and ineligibility requirements for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; revising obligations of eligible nonprofit scholarshipfunding organizations; revising student eligibility and ineligibility requirements for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; authorizing public schools, including charter schools, to enroll certain students on a part-time basis; requiring the State Board of Education to provide recommendations by a specified date to the Governor and the Legislature for repeals and revisions of the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code to be considered in the 2024 legislative session; authorizing vehicles other than buses to transport students; authorizing district school boards to use advanced degrees in setting salary schedules for instructional personnel or school administrators, etc.

### **SB 166 / HB 59 HUMAN TRAFFICKING/HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION**

**SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. LORI BERMAN CO-INTRODUCER: ROSALIND OSGOOD / REP. KELLY SKIDMORE

This bill includes the alcohol as one of the controlled substances that traffickers can coerce victims. It Increases criminal penalties for engaging in human trafficking will help to increase punishment for traffickers and safeguard victims.

### **SB 326/HB 651 HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. ROSALIND OSGOOD, CO-SPONSORS: SEN. LINDA STEWART, LAUREN BOOK / REP: FELICIA ROBINSON



Human Trafficking: Revising definitions and defining terms; revising criminal penalties to include fines of certain amounts for violations of specified offenses; requiring the Department of Education and Department of Health, in conjunction with the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, to establish an awareness training program and community partnership on human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and child trafficking; requiring each state attorney to ensure prosecutors receive certain mandatory semiannual educational training, etc. House bill requires prosecution of specified offenses under Florida RICO. This bill has increased penalties for traffickers, training for prosecutors and adopting a prosecution stance. Fines are increased to \$100,000. Age-appropriate awareness training in educational and health settings required.

**SB 486 / HB 431 SOLICITATION OF MINORS TO COMMIT LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS ACTS** **SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. JENNIFER BRADLEY / REP. JESSICA BAKER

Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Acts: Prohibits person 24 years of age or older from soliciting person 16 or 17 years old in writing to commit lewd or lascivious act. **A new subsection making it a 3rd degree felony.**

**SB 334 / HB 389 MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** **SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. LAUREN BOOK / REP. KELLY SKIDMORE, CO-SPONSORS: REP. JOE CASELLO

Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools: Citing this act as the “Learning with Dignity Act”; defining the term “menstrual hygiene products”; requiring school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available, at no charge, in certain schools within the district and in certain locations within such schools; requiring schools to notify students of the availability and locations of such products; encouraging school districts to partner with specified organizations to meet certain requirements.

**SB 590/HB 51 PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HAIRSTYLE IN EDUCATION SYSTEM** **SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. POWELL REP. DRISKELL/ESKAMANI

Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle in the Education System: Citing this act as the “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act” or “CROWN Act”; prohibiting discrimination based on protected hairstyle in the K-20 public education system; defining the terms “race” and “protective hairstyles” for purposes of public K-12 nondiscrimination requirements, etc. Hair discrimination is rooted in systemic racism and erodes trust between students and the education system that is supposed to care for them. Protective styles, locs, headwraps, and durags are not just vital to the protection of Black hair, they are expressions of culture and identity. Discriminating against Black hair reinforces the othering of Black children and is another way that Black identity is policed.

**SB 576/ HB 663 EMPLOYEE LEAVE AND WAGE AND SALARY HISTORY** **SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. BOOK. REP. CASSEL

Employee Leave and Wage and Salary History: Authorizes parental leave for state employees in Career Service System whose child is stillborn; prohibits public employer, employment agency, & private employer from engaging in certain activities relating to wages & salary; authorizes public employer,

employment agency, & private employer to confirm prospective employee's wage & salary history under certain conditions.

**SCR 270 /HCR 513 EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN**

**SUPPORT**

SPONSORS: SEN. BERMAN / POLSKY REP. JOSEPH

Equal Rights for Men and Women: Ratifying the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution relating to equal rights for men and women, etc.

**Marcia Hill**, Director of Public Policy



## **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](mailto:mshanerhill@gmail.com)

Secretary: Fay Murphy [faymurph@aol.com](mailto:faymurph@aol.com)

Treasurer: Sandra Stone [sstone101654@gmail.com](mailto:sstone101654@gmail.com)

President Elect: Meg Newsome [meggnewsome@outlook.com](mailto:meggnewsome@outlook.com)

Director for Program: Judy Griffin [jdthgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:jdthgriffin@gmail.com)

Director for Communications: Meg Newsome [meggnewsome@outlook.com](mailto:meggnewsome@outlook.com)

Scholarship Foundation Board President – Elaine Graham: [ebebeg@aol.com](mailto:ebebeg@aol.com)

Scholarship Information: [aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com)

Book Club: Carolyn Reynolds: 941-720-6575

Just for Girls: [deeisnice@gmail.com](mailto:deeisnice@gmail.com)

