



October 2022-23  
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<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-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.



## September President's Message

Dear Bradenton Branch Members.

What a couple of weeks this has been! We were truly fortunate here in Bradenton that Hurricane Ian changed course instead of hitting us dead-on as originally predicted. I'm sure all our hearts and prayers are with all those not as fortunate. If any member is in need of assistance, please call me or write, and I will try to put you in touch with what you need.

I would love some assistance from one or more of you! I find I cannot do justice to this newsletter, the Bradenton Branch website, and the Facebook page. Please let me know if you would be able to help with one or two of these. I would be most grateful!

If you recall, in last month's newsletter I introduced myself with a short autobiography. This month I asked Linda Lewis to do the same. Linda joined our branch last spring, and very graciously volunteered to serve as treasurer. Thank you, Linda!

I have been reminded recently of the saying, "Think global. Act local," attributed to Patrick Geddes, a Scottish biologist, social activist, and philanthropist. As we listen to our guest speaker this month from the Manatee League of Women Voters, we can remember that all local elections are important – not just the "big" ones. I am also in

mind of a quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead, who said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” When the enormity of the world’s problems leaves me overwhelmed, I find inspiration to do even what little I can, which includes being informed on the issues and candidates and then voting.

A reminder, if you still have not successfully logged in on the new [Community Hub website](#), it is important that you do so as soon as possible. I am available to come to your home, or to talk you through the process on the phone. You can always renew your membership by check here locally, but that is not a substitute for actually logging into the website. All official records will require it. If one of your fellow branch members calls you, please respond. We also plan to have a laptop station or two at the September meeting if needed. I look forward to seeing you on September 20<sup>th</sup>!

**Meg Newsome, President**

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## SAVE THE DATE



**Oct. 18**—Bradenton Branch Meeting, see below for details

**Nov. 4** – Waves of Success: Just for Girls (details below)

**Nov. 9** – AAUW-FL SW Regional Workshop, see below for details

**Nov. 15** – Bradenton Branch Meeting, 11:30 Luncheon

**Dec. 13** – Holiday Luncheon / Tech Trek Fundraiser

**Looking Ahead:** **Plan to Advocate!**

**Florida Legislative Session 2023** – March 7 – May 5, 2023

**AAUW Florida Lobby Days 2023** –March 14, 15, 2023

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## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
5:30 PM**

**League of Women Voters  
2022 Election Issues**

Anna Maria Oyster Bar, Landside  
6906 14th St W, Bradenton, FL 34207

**Please respond for an accurate count to the Evite, or contact Meg Newsome directly.**

Join us at the **Anna Maria Oyster Bar Landside** (Private room) to hear our guest speaker from the League of Women Voters. With local, state, and national issues on the November 8 ballot, this will be of vital concern to us all.

Each person will be able to order from the menu individually.

Feel free to bring a guest who might become a new member! (Just indicate that on your Evite or email RSVP.)



## Member-Renewal Grace Period Extended

The September 30 grace period for renewing members (June 30, 2022 expires) to remain in good standing has been extended. You now have until November 30 to renew branch members for FY23 and work with AAUW staff to resolve any issues for the current fiscal year. You can verify your members' expiration status using the "Export Branch Roster" option in the Community Hub. Please report membership discrepancies to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

**Anyone who is still not renewed by October 18, please bring your renewal check to the meeting!**

- **Individual members** can renew now on the **AAUW Community Hub** <https://my.aauw.org/onlinejoin>. If you have not already signed in to this new database, please start by resetting your password.
- AAUW National dues (\$67) + AAUW Florida dues (\$12) + Branch dues (\$12) = Total of \$91.
- **If you do not wish to renew online, please send a check to AAUW – Bradenton Branch, P.O. Box 14099, Bradenton, Florida 24280.**

## Southwest Florida Regional Workshop

Make plans now for the first ever one-day **SW Regional Workshop** on Wednesday, **November 9, 2022**, at the **Venice Art Center** from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Those attending will be branch officers and branch members invited to attend because they have demonstrated leadership qualities that need to be fostered to meet succession planning ideals.

The primary Workshop goal is to give attendees the opportunity to gather close to home for an in-person meeting of counterparts. Sitting down face-to-face with other branch leaders will allow an exchange of ideas in a setting that encourages relationship building. Hopefully, that will lead to networks of cooperation and collaboration among attending branches.

The secondary Workshop goal is present a series of general and small group discussions of topics that address the major AAUW strategic goals; Education & Training, Economic Security, Leadership and Governance & Sustainability. I personally want to foster better understandings of the Branch, State and National roles within the AAUW family.

More Information to Follow!

## In case you missed it ... Exciting News!

Our own **Sandra Stone** is exploring the possibility of reviving the **AAUW student chapter** on the **University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus**, to be affiliated with the **Bradenton AAUW**. The chapter was active pre-COVID but has not been reactivated since, and it was not specifically affiliated with the Bradenton Branch. She is reviewing the requirements for student chapters and will consult with campus officials regarding the process for reactivating a dormant student organization. In addition, she will consult with student engagement staff to try to identify a student willing to assume leadership responsibility.

Assuming all arrangements can be made, a student chapter would offer possibilities for shared programs and activities, both on campus and in the community, as well as provide opportunities for Branch members to mentor young adults as they explore possible career paths and assume leadership roles.

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Our Tech Trek Initiative is already in process for the summer of 2023! Our state is planning on providing 48 campers with an IN PERSON Experience at each university ( Stetson and Florida Atlantic). At this time, the state is requesting \$1000 per camper. Between fundraising, contacting individual donors, and encouraging business contributors, our goal is to sponsor at least 2 campers for the 2023 summer Tech Trek Program. During September 2022, Patty Benson, Linda Guilfoye and Barb Coolahan have been reaching out to the Manatee School District STEM Coordinator and each Middle School Site Coordinator to improve communication and develop a process for better information dissemination. Our hope is to increase the number of teachers.

submitting referrals, and thus increasing the number of 7th grade applicants. The application process ends in December. Our team divides the Middle School applicants and then conducts the interviews in February. After the interviews are held, our team meets and submits our recommendations to our State AAUW Tech Trek Coordinator. We would like to add two team members to this collaborative initiative. Members of the Bradenton and/or Manatee Branches are encouraged to contact Barb, Patty or Linda for further information.

**Barb Coolahan**

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### **September Scholarship Foundation Report**

Our October meeting highlighted a few of our recipients who could join us via ZOOM for the meeting. Meg shared a little bit about each one before they joined us.

The link to the video is below. We hope you all enjoy meeting these wonderful young women.

Next month we will share a little about another recipient.

You can watch the video on our web page by clicking on <https://bradenton-fl.aauw.net/videos/>, or you can access it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/CqEgcv6Joy0>.

**Elaine Graham**, President, Scholarship Foundation

**BBAUW Scholarship Foundation**

P.O. 14099, Bradenton, Fl. 34280

## Scholarship Recipients 2022-2023

First Name	Last Name	College	Amt	Email	Birthday	Major
Marvict	Benkert	University of South FL	*1500	mjrodriguez@usf.edu	27-Dec	MPA
Megan	Briggs	Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Nursing	*1500	megbriggs10@gmail.com	11-May	Nursing
Kelly	Rome	Galen College of Nursing	*1500	kellyrome941@gmail.com	4-Sep	Nursing RN
Taylor	Rowland	University of Florida	3000	trowlan9@student.scf.edu	18-Oct	Elementary Edu.
Mallory	Tyler	University of Florida	3000	mallorytyler941@gmail.com	18-Dec	Mathematics
Karla	King	State College of Florida	1000	kking20@student.scf.edu	12-Jan	Social Work
Liz	Mackey	Galen College of Nursing	500	lizmackey@hotmail.com	1-Dec	ADN Bridge
Michelle	Nunez Banos	State College of Florida	500	mnunezba@student.scf.edu	9-Apr	Dental Hygiene
Verlie Joanne	Ubarco	State College of Florida	500	verlie97@gmail.com	6-Dec	Dental Hygiene

\* Renewal

## AAUW Public Policy Update

### Are You Ready to Take Action? Become a Two-Minute Activist!

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With AAUW's online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls! Many of us have registered before, but you will need to register yearly to keep active.

Last year AAUW's Two-Minute Activists sent more than 200,000 messages to federal and state lawmakers. Wow!

Send emails and texts to our legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education, and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action. When you sign up, you may select only certain topics or all six topics.

You will receive access to a message that you may send as it, or you may personalize it. You may choose to send to both senators and your representative, or you may modify your selection.

Just click on the included link to complete the form. Remember that this is open to anyone, not just AAUW members. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Let your voice be heard!

**Marcia Hill, Public Policy**



## MONTHLY MEMBER PROFILE

Hi, I'm Linda Lewis, who took over the Treasurer's job in the Bradenton Branch of AAUW. I joined AAUW in 1975. I served in many offices in 2 different branches, including branch president. I was also a member of a 3rd branch. I was then a Member-at-Large after moving to FL. I served on several state committees and in several Board positions for AAUW-IL, Inc., including President.



I am a retired teacher, teaching 3rd grade for 34 years. I then taught for three and a half in the Business Division at Lake Land College, teaching mainly technology classes.

My degrees are a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara (major: Political Science, minor: Vocal Music) and a Master's in Education from Southern Illinois University, with a dual major in Instructional Technology, and Curriculum and Instruction.

My husband, Dan, and I have been married for 53 years. We have 2 sons, 2 bonus daughters and 5 grandchildren. I then taught for three and a half in the Business Division at Lake Land College, teaching mainly technology classes.

My degrees are a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara (major: Political Science, minor: Vocal Music) and a Master's in Education from Southern Illinois University, with a dual major in Instructional Technology, and Curriculum and Instruction.

My husband, Dan, and I have been married for 53 years. We have 2 sons, 2 bonus daughters and 5 grandchildren.

*Linda Lewis*

*just for* **Girls**

Leadership and Learning Centers

INVITES YOU TO JOIN

# Waves of Success

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022**

**5:30PM - 8:30PM**

(Doors open at 5:00 PM)

IMG Academy Golf Club • 4350 El Conquistador Pkwy  
Bradenton, FL 34210

Celebrating JFG Honorary Girl  
**MARIANNE BARNEBEY**

and the Dedicated Leadership of  
**GAIL HANNAH**

for her years of service to the  
Manatee County Girls Club Foundation, Inc.

**Featuring Plated Dinner, Dancing, and  
Live & Silent Auctions**

for the benefit of Just For Girls

~ **Nautical or Cocktail Attire Suggested** ~

*Please RSVP by October 14th*

*Early RSVPs received by Oct 1st eligible for prize drawing*

*JustForGirls.org*

TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL GUESTS, VACCINATIONS,  
MASKS, AND DISTANCING ARE RECOMMENDED



### **Special Interest Groups**

At the moment we have no active interest groups meeting. If you'd like to get one going, just let Meg know!

### **October Birthdays**

Marianne Harrison PA  
Sandra Stone IL



## **AAUW Leadership & Contacts**

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: 2022-2023**

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

Treasurer: Linda Lewis [lindalewis6745@gmail.com](mailto:lindalewis6745@gmail.com)

Secretary: Judy Griffin [jdthgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:jdthgriffin@gmail.com)

Director for Public Policy - Marcia Hill [mshanerhill@gmail.com](mailto:mshanerhill@gmail.com)

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

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

USF Campus Branch AAUW: Sandra Stone [ssstone101654@gmail.com](mailto:ssstone101654@gmail.com)

Just for Girls: Dee Ralph [deenisnice@gmail.com](mailto:deenisnice@gmail.com)

Tech Trek Barb Coolahan: [bjcoolahan@gmail.com](mailto:bjcoolahan@gmail.com)

