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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.



## May President's Message

Dear Members,

Thank you all for a wonderful year! When I think about our final meeting of 2021-2022 last May and how we needed to meet outside for a picnic, I can hardly believe how much has changed. In September we began to meet in person again, and slowly but steadily all year we have increased our monthly participation.

We've had some challenges, to be sure. But in spite of those, our Scholarship Foundation awarded nine education scholarships (including three renewals) to Bradenton girls and women pursuing a college or technical degree this fall. We will award three additional new scholarships for this coming fall and will renew several others. We partnered with the Manatee Branch AAUW in a successful grant from AAUW Florida to sponsor prizes, t-shirts and refreshments for elementary school children (especially girls!) participating in the countywide Math Superstars competition. Several of us participated in the first ever Southwest Florida Regional Workshop for branch leadership held in Venice, Florida. And last, but certainly not least, we raised over \$1000 ourselves and received another \$1000 grant from the Bradenton Rotary Club for Tech Trek. All three girls we interviewed and recommended will be going to Tech Trek this summer. For a "rebuilding year" we accomplished a great deal.

None of this would have been possible without the leadership and hard work of you, our membership. I cannot thank you enough! For more details on our most recent accomplishments, please keep reading!

I has been my honor to serve you as president this year, and I look forward to greater things ahead next year for our Bradenton Branch. Your officers have already been hard at work planning for a successful 2023-2024 year!

In love and gratitude,

**Meg Newsome, outgoing President**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**May 16**     **Branch Meeting** (Dinner Meeting at Anna Maria Oyster Bar)  
Installation of Officers and Board for 2023-2024.

**May 18**     **AAUW Florida 2023 Annual Meeting** will be held via Zoom on Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Plan to participate in the election of officers for 2023-25, hear end-of-year reports from your state officers, and participate in a Town Hall with a representative from AAUW National. Check your AAUW *floriVision* Newsletter for more information.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 5:30 PM**

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

**Program: Meet Your Scholarship Recipients!**

Details to follow.

[Pending Board Approval]

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-2024**

President: Barb Coolahan

President-Elect: Mary Schmidt

Treasurer/Director of Finances: Linda Lewis

Secretary: Judy Griffin

Director for Membership: Mary Schmidt

Director for Public Policy: Marcia Hill

Director for Communications: Meg Newsome

Many thanks to the **Nominating Committee:**  
Sue Hauck, Linda Guilfoyle, and Elaine Graham



## Scholarship Foundation Report for 2023

Doreen Colket;  
Barbara Coolahan;  
Elaine Graham  
Linda Guilfoyle;  
Sue Hauk;  
Marcia Hill;  
Eilene Oldwine

The **new** students who will receive scholarship dollars from Bradenton Branch AAUW are as follows,

### **Nama Shkukani**

State College of Florida  
Computer Programming & Analysis

Nama graduated from high school in 2006 and has three children, worked at *UN Refugee Center* and was described as passionate about her service and the work she did during the mission.

### **Karlee Hudson**

Southeastern University  
Psychology

Karlee graduated high school in 1985 and has one child. Her application and letters of reference indicated numerous volunteer experiences throughout her life, and she was a recipient of the **Women's Independence Award** in Manatee County.

### **Evgenia Gatke**

State College of Florida  
Nursing

Evgenia graduated high school in 1998 and **immigrated from Russia**. Her references indicated a strong work ethic with a steady consistent work record. Her letters of recommendation stressed her compassion and kindness with co-workers and patients.

We look forward to hearing more of their stories at a fall branch meeting.

The window for students who apply for a renewal scholarships at Manatee Community Foundation is May 1-May 31. MCF responds to the renewal needs of students later to get final, end-of-the-year records from all renewal scholarship candidates.

Our committee will meet in early June to make those award decisions. Please continue to support Bradenton Branch Scholarship Foundation.

Thanks to the **Scholarship Committee members** (above) and to **all members** who make these scholarships available to deserving women in our community.

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 :** BBAUW Scholarship Foundation  
**Mail To :** Bradenton Branch American Association of University Women Scholarship Foundation (BBAUW Scholarship Foundation)  
P0 Box 14099, Bradenton, FL 34280

**Elaine Graham, President, Bradenton Branch Scholarship Foundation**



### **Lobby Days Report - *Continue to Advocate***

Although this year's Lobby Days have ended, our advocacy efforts will continue. The public policy committee is calling on all members to continue to contact your state legislators and share our 2023 Positions on Priority Legislation. [Click here to view.](#)

Let's work to be the change we want to see in Florida.

Please read your *floriVisions* Newsletter for the full report.



### **Tech Trek Update**

Greetings AAUW members,

On March 31, 2023, the **Bradenton Rotary Club** awarded **\$1000** to the **Bradenton AAUW Branch**. These grant monies must be used to support the **Tech Trek program**.

We have been asked to provide a presentation to the Rotary Club in the fall of 2023.

On April 7th, we were notified that **3 of our Manatee County applicants** were eligible for participation in the **June 2023 Tech Trek camp**. We will be contacting the families to determine their final decision regarding their participation and college site. Upon their acceptance, our branch will determine how to allocate the funds for 2023 and 2024.

At this time, \$1,107.13 has been generated by our local branch to support Tech Trek. A special thank you to **Mary Schmidt** and all those who have contributed time and money to this great opportunity for our young girls.

**Respectfully Submitted by Barb Coolahan,  
Tech Trek Coordinator**

## Tech Trek

### FAU, Stetson will welcome campers on campus again

Tech Trek Florida has identified 92 girls to attend camps in person this year.

The camps were canceled in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, Tech Trek went virtual, with classes held over the Internet.

This year, the camps are back again at Florida Atlantic University Jupiter and Stetson University in Deland. Forty-six girls entering eighth-grade in the fall will attend camp at Stetson University from June 11-17, and 46 girls will attend camp at FAU Jupiter from June 18-24.

The girls were nominated by a



math or science teacher at their schools and asked to complete an application. They were then interviewed by AAUW branch members who lived near them.

**Campus life.** The middle-school girls attending this June will again be living on campus in the dorms, eating meals in the student cafeteria, and using university classrooms and labs.

They'll take core courses as well as participate in workshops geared to specific interests. The camps will offer similar courses and workshops.

Core courses at FAU include Qualcomm wearable tech, structural engineering, neuroscience; and marine biology.

Stetson core courses include computer science discoveries, Qualcomm wearable tech, cybersecurity, and aeronautics.

**Donations.** Donations to support Tech Trek can be made through the AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation and are tax-deductible.

Make checks out to the foundation. Write Tech Trek 2023 and your branch on the memo line. Mail to:

Treasurer  
Tech Trek Florida 2023  
PO Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468.



## Public Policy Positions of Florida AAUW

### [Gender Pay Gap Update](#)

**What are the country's best-paying locations for women in the workforce?** Last week financial website Smartest Dollar published an analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau seeking the answer.

Women working full time in the Tampa Bay area make a median annual wage of \$46,447, compared to the national median of \$49,263, per 2021 data adjusted for cost of living. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater came in 45 out of 56 large metro areas.

**What about men?** The national median wage for men is \$60,428. The analysis didn't provide localized data for men.

**How does our local area compare?** North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton ranked 51 of 94 midsize metros, with women making \$45,675.

**What about Florida?** Florida ranked last out of all 50 states with women's wage median being \$41,633.

**AAUW continues to examine the big picture.** The gaps are more staggering for Black and Hispanic women, who earned 70 cents and 65 cents, respectively, to every dollar earned by a white man in 2022. White women earned 83 cents and Asian women earned 93 cents, according to a recently published Pew Research Center [analysis](#).

The 2022 update to AAUW's research report [The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap](#) is available to download from [aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/](http://aauw.org/resources/research/simple-truth/)

AAUW continues its focus on the gender pay gap as part of the strategic plan's economic security goals.

Read the study from the Smartest Dollar at <https://smartestdollar.com/research/best-paying-cities-for-women-in-2023>

**Submitted by Marcia Hill, Director of Public Policy**



### **NOTICE FROM NATIONAL: Dues Rates**

**AAUW National dues for 2023-2024 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>.

Florida and Branch dues will remain at \$12 for each, or \$24 total.

**Combined dues for National, Florida, and Bradenton Branch: \$96.**



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## **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: 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)

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

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

