



January, 2024

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-Bradenton-Branch-

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Best Viewed on Full Screen.



President's Post

January 1, 2024

Building Bridges

Dear Members,

It was great seeing everyone at our December get together! Marcia's AAUW quiz provided us with good discussion, healthy debate, and laughter. As we look forward to a new year together, it is also important to reflect on our past accomplishments.

In these last six months, we have:

- Recruited and installed all 9 Board positions
- Organized our 2023-24 speakers and events for your planning
- Welcomed four new members and maintain a list of potential members
- Exceeded our Tech Trek financial goal of \$1,100
- Collaborated with the Manatee Branch regarding meetings, celebrations, fundraising and Tech Trek Initiatives

- Provided you with the two-week notification for upcoming meetings and timely newsletters that many of you requested

In looking at the next six months, I encourage you to:

- Contact me if you are willing to volunteer for the Nomination Committee
- Invite a friend to our upcoming meetings
- Donate items, organize baskets and give your energy for a successful March Fundraiser
- Attend the March Scholarship Fundraiser at the Palm Aire Country Club
- Contact me if you are willing to review our Bylaws and then participate in a two-hour finalization meeting in April of 2024
- Add to our 2024-25 Program possibilities. I already have suggestions for LWV presentation in October as well as possible speakers for Book Banning in Florida, Gun Violence, and Supporting Public Education.

Most of all, I am grateful for your support, suggestions, and teamwork. We have accomplished much and will do more to support women and girls in these remaining months. THANK YOU!!!

Happy 2024 to you and your families!

Barb Coolahan

Bradenton Branch President of AAUW

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 16

11:30 AM

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

PROGRAM:

[Guardian Ad Litem](https://guardianadlitem.org/) <https://guardianadlitem.org/>

Toni Jefferies

Circuit Director for the

12th Judicial Circuit of Florida Guardian Ad Litem Office:
Representing Children in Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto Counties

LUNCH:

Order from the menu.

Be sure to **RSVP** when you receive the Evite.

CALENDAR 2023-2024

Dates:	Time:	Topics:	Location:
Dec. 13, 2023	11:30 AM	Equal Rights Amendment March	(in person and virtual)

Jan. 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Guardian Ad Litem/Toni Jefferies	AMOB
Jan. 17, 2024	11:00AM	Tech Trek Tea Party Fundraiser: See Information Below	
Jan. 16-17		Florida Legislature LOBBY DAYS	Tallahassee
Feb. 20, 2024	11:30 AM	Christi Haley/Pace Center for Girls	AMOB
March 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Cyn McCullough	Country Club*
		Women's Issues in the Workplace*	
		50th and 75th Anniversary Celebration	
April 4, 2024	TBA	Southwest Regional Conference	Venice Art Center
April 16, 2024	5:30 PM	LWV Deb Mazzaferro /Floridians	AMOB
		for National Popular Vote	
May 21, 2024	5:30 PM	Installation/plan for 2024-25	AMOB

* Joint Meetings with Manatee Branch

Public Policy Updates for January 2024

This is the busiest time of the year for public policy activists. As the legislators return to Tallahassee next week, AAUW Florida has prepared position papers that you can share with elected officials about the issues on which we have taken a stance: the ERA Position Paper for Legislators; Paid Leave Position Paper; and Pregnant Women in Custody Position Paper. Since these are bit lengthy to post here, just let know if you are interested in one and I will send it to you. (mshanerhill@gmail.com) Additionally, "Talking Points on Bills and Other Suggestions" is available for members to educate themselves.

Another helpful resource is included under the heading of "Ensure legislators

understand AAUW issues” found at <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/lobby-days/> This is a good resource for each of us to use to understand the legislative priorities and to share with others.

Read a summary of priority legislation [here](#). Click each item in the list below to read talking points for specific legislation.

- [Equal Rights Amendment](#)
- [Family-Leave](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)
- [School Choice](#)
- [Period Poverty](#)
- [Hairstyles](#)

On a different note, have you signed up for the next AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forum? It’s next week so just click below to register. It starts at 6 pm and last one hour. It is free to members and guests.

		Dr. Marvin Dunn, Professor Emeritus at Florida	Click he
Public Education	Jan. 11,	International University and Miami Center for	register
and Book Bans	2024	Racial Justice	session

I hope to have updated information to share at our January branch meeting.

We are always stronger working together!

Submitted by Marcia Hill, Director of Public Policy

**From our Manatee County Branch Colleagues, A TEA Party
Invitation!**

Submitted by Barb Coolahan on behalf of Patty Benson



Come to the Tea Party
Benefiting our Tech Trek Program
To be held on Wednesday, January 17th

at Palma Sola Botanical Park
9800 17th Ave.
From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Followed by Garden Tour at 1:30 (Voluntary)

Menu

Hot and cold tea

Savorys:

Mini Quiche

Cucumber Tea Sandwich

Turkey and Raspberry Tea Sandwich

Sweets:

Red Velvet Cupcake

Blackberry Scone

Carrot Cake

Reservations for the Tea must be made by the January 10th. Tea is \$30 (of which \$10 goes to our Tech Trek program). The Tour is an additional \$10 for the parks' needs. Please complete the reservation slip below by January 10, 2024, and send to

Patty Benson
1406 90th Court NW
Bradenton, FL 34209

Reservation for Tech Trek Tea -

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I will be attending along with ___ guests.

Enclosed is my check for myself and my guests.

\$30 per person for Tea / \$10 additional for Botanical Park Tour





UPCOMING EVENT



LWVMC Hot Topics: The Status of Women in Florida

Monday, Jan 8 • 12:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

What are the issues that affect women and girls in Florida? There are hundreds of organizations working in all 67 counties that are focused on the welfare of the women of Florida. What impact do they have? What are the recent legislative changes and what are the bills filed for the upcoming legislative session that impact women and how? Is Florida moving towards away from gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Join the League of Women Voters of Manatee County Hot Topics presentation, "The Status of Women in Florida" to explore these issues and more.

Speakers:

Ashley Brown is CEO/President of Women's Resource Center. Ashley has a BA in Political Science from College of Charleston. Ashley started volunteering with Women's Resource Center (WRC) in 2000 as a computer tutor. In late 2002, Ashley was hired as the the WRC Finance/Development Manager. In November of 2003, Ashley became the WRC Executive Director.

Liv Coleman, PhD is Chair of the Political Science and International Studies Department at the University of Tampa. She received her Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her B.A. in Government and East Asian Languages and Literatures from Smith College in Massachusetts. Dr. Coleman is a member of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation US-Japan Network for the Future, and a former candidate for Florida State House.

Submitted by Elain Graham and Alice Newlon

Women's Resource Center



Triple your donation toward The State of Women

SUPPORT HERE

Did you know?!

Our counseling sessions range from \$5 to \$50, no insurance required. Which is significantly lower than the national average cost of \$120 per session.

1,784

mental health sessions; 98% reported making progress towards their goals.



1 in 5 students pursuing higher education in the US are also parents, many of whom hold full or part-time jobs.

58

Scholarships Awarded
(74% have children under the age of 18)



7,119

Referrals given

250 resources in our database vetted for accuracy and accountability.

40% reported contacting the agency, and 80% received the help they needed.

The State of Women

As the year comes to an end, we celebrate the progress of women in our community and recognize the challenges that remain.

Our staff, and more than 150 volunteers, work tirelessly to empower and elevate women to excel in all areas of their lives.

We are excited to share the work of the Women's Resource Center and invite you to support our efforts to strengthen the community by investing in the lives of the individuals we serve.

9,568

Individuals impacted this year through our programming.

VIEW REPORT

Maximize Your Impact: Triple Your Donations Today!

We are excited to announce that the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust will match donations made directly through their website between \$5 and \$500. Corporate donations not eligible.

Additionally, the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation has offered to match any contributions made during this period, up to a total of \$50,000. Your support means the world to us and we are honored to have your trust in our mission.



DONATE HERE

Checks can be mailed to:
Women's Resource Center
1926 Manatee Ave W
Bradenton, FL 34205

You can donate through checks or credit cards, donate appreciated stock, or make a qualified charitable deduction from your IRA directly to WRC if you're 70 1/2 or older.

Question? Please contact Mandy, at MDomer@mywrc.org.

Submitted by Elaine Graham



Spotlight on ...

Cay Johnson

This month's "Spotlight" shines on a new member, Cay Johnson. I enjoyed getting to know her a bit at our holiday meeting, and I'm sure you'll enjoy learning about her as well.

Cay is an Illinois native who was raised in the Chicago area. She has also lived in northern Wisconsin, Oregon, Idaho, and Pennsylvania. She made Florida her home in 2015. Cay said, "In 20 years of RV travel and 17 years of Forest Fire Fighting details, I have seen many locations that are unique and beautiful. I can never pick just one favorite spot. For today and this time of my life; right here in Bradenton Florida is my favorite. I still get goosebumps that I live in this paradise."

Her educational studies began at Northland College at Ashland WI in Environmental Studies. "Life got in the way for a few years," she said. "I changed my field of study to Geography and finished at East Stroudsburg University at East Stroudsburg, PA." Cay has double bachelor's degrees in

social and physical geography, graduating *magna cum laude*.

Cay began her professional career as a summer employee forest firefighter (ground pounder) with the National Forestry at the Umatilla National Forest in Eastern Oregon. "It paid so good, I put college on hold for a while," she said. For many years she fought forest fires out West in the summer months and on the East coast (Pennsylvania) during the spring and fall months. As time went on, Cay became full time with the Pennsylvania Forest Service in the fire prevention department. Her jobs included: initial attack helitack all-women squad ("No, I didn't repel or parachute, we-used helicopters for back country access to remote areas," Cay said.), operated air support helipads and fixed wing ports, operated 4 different fire towers, worked her way up to local dispatching and fire boss manager. Additionally, she was a Support Dispatcher at the national level in Logistics, Equipment, Supplies, Crews, Overhead, and Aircraft categories as well as taught and trained firefighting.

In Pennsylvania, Cay owned a tree farm specializing in Northern Cherry veneer hardwood and including firewood sales to campgrounds/retailers, renting cross-country skis in the winter. "I ended my working career as Supervisor at the Delaware Water Gap Welcome Center in Pennsylvania. Since I had a passport, I was selected to represent Pennsylvania at international travel trade shows," she said.

While Cay is new to the Bradenton Branch previously, she was a member of the Pocono Branch, in East Stroudsburg, PA. As you might suspect, Cay is involved in other activities as well. She has held many leadership positions including president in the Embroiderers Guild of America (EGA) since 2007 in both the Pocono and Sarasota Chapters. Currently she is the Regional Representative for the Chapter. The region consists of the entire state of

Florida.

Her service activities in Manatee include being a Pen Pal with 3rd graders, assisting with the “Big Bank Project” (a cooperative effort with the Manatee High Schools and the Chamber of Commerce) arranging and distributing “thank you” lunches to local Emergency Response Staff (Fire, EMS, Police) quarterly, assisting the Westminster Point Pleasant (WMPP) staff with Health Care and Memory Care resident events, and assisting with WMPP Trust Fund Employee Scholarship Fund Raisers.

Despite all these activities, Cay and her husband Ron have traveled in their RV seasonally for 20 years. They have one adult daughter/son-in-law and 2 grandsons. Both have retired from the Coast Guard after 20 years. One grandson just graduated college, and the youngest is in high school. “They do not live nearby; I miss them despite electronic communications.” Cay said.

Since’s Cay’s birthday is January 5th, she’s a Capricorn. January 5th people are said to be dynamic individuals who adapt easily to a new environment where some people struggle to adapt. They are born with the qualities of great determination and charm. They have a warm, funny, and charming personality that draws many people close.

Doesn’t all this make you want to know Cay more?

Submitted by Marcia Hill

AAUW - Bradenton Branch Strategic Plan 2023-2024

Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Value Promise

AAUW promotes programs and research to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Vision Statement

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

Diversity Statement

AAUW seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 – Membership – Increase and sustain a diverse membership in the Bradenton Branch of AAUW.

*Increase media exposure of all Branch projects and activities.

* Develop a marketing plan that includes outreach to other girls' and women's organizations, communities, schools, colleges and universities, sororities, etc.

Goal 2 – Public Policy – Engage and support the Bradenton Branch in strengthening the AAUW efforts and initiatives.

*Increase participation in the 2 Minute Advocate.

*Support Equal Pay Initiatives.

*Collaborate with the League of Women's Voters on voter registration.

**Goal 3 – Branch Initiatives – Promote and increase engagement in the
Bradenton Branch activities and initiatives.**

*Sponsor Tech Trek STEM Camp for girls entering 8th grade.

* Provide scholarships for deserving students.

*Engage and support all Branch activities and initiatives

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Officers and Directors for Bradenton Branch*

2023-2024

President/Administrator

Barbara Coolahan

President-Elect/Director for Membership

Mary Schmidt

Treasurer/Director for Finance

Linda Lewis

Secretary/Director for Diversity

Judith Griffin

Director for Programs

Marianne Harrison

Director for Public Policy

Marcia Hill

Director for Communications/Webmaster

Margaret (Meg) Newsome

President Scholarship Foundation/College University Relations

Sandra Stone

Treasurer Scholarship Foundation/AAUW Funds

Linda Guilfoyle

Tech Trek Chair/STEM

Linda Guilfoyle

* Contact information is included only on the newsletter.
On the website, the contact information will not appear.

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

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

Committee Members

Tech Trek

Linda Guilfoyle, Marianne Harrison, Patty Benson (Manatee Branch), Marlene Yarnelli (Manatee Branch)

Scholarship

Linda Guilfoyle, Sandra Stone, Sue Hauck, Marcia Hill, Doreen Colkert

Communications

FaceBook (Marcia Hill), AAUW site (Barb Coolahan), Evites and Newsletter (Meg Newsome)

AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Founded in 1881, membership is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent or higher degree.



Important to Know

National AAUW

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

Florida AAUW

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



About AAUW

We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!

