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-Bradenton-Branch-

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President's Post

March 1, 2024

Building Bridges

Dear Members,

I look forward to seeing you at the March 16th Scholarship Fundraiser at the Palm Aire Country Club. If you have not registered with Pam Ross, President-Elect for the Manatee Branch, please do so before March 8th. Thank you for the donations and basket items. We finalized our baskets on March 4th and will be delivering them to **Merrie Lynn Parker**. We contribute many nice baskets. Your generosity is very much appreciated!!



While our February attendance was smaller than usual, we benefitted from an excellent

presenter. Christi Haley, Development Director provided us with great information and an opportunity to support the Pace Center for Girls in May. I will be reaching out to members who are willing to organize and coordinate the Bradenton Branch of AAUW in our efforts to support the Lucky Duck Race on the Manatee River in May of 2024.

In addition, Meg Newsome, Director of Communication provided us with an update on scams and ways to protect ourselves and our organization. Her presentation was very helpful and is also available for your use. Please feel free to contact her for further information.

In looking at the next 3 months, I encourage you to:

- Invite a friend to our April meeting
- 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!!!

Barb Coolahan

Bradenton Branch President of AAUW

Next Meeting:

JOINT FUNDRAISER with MANATEE BRANCH!

Saturday, March 16

11:30 AM

Palm Aire Country Club

**Come Celebrate Our Bradenton Branch's 50th Anniversary
and Manatee Branch's 75th Anniversary**

PROGRAM:

Cyn McCullough

Topic: Women's Issues in the Workplace

Be sure to RSVP!

A Registration Form was emailed to you. A copy is below.

CALENDAR 2023-2024

Dates:	Time:	Topics:	Location:
March 12, 2024		Equal Pay Day (see below)	
March 16, 2024	11:30 AM	FUNDRAISER Cyn McCullough Women's Issues in the Workplace*	Palm Aire Country Club*
50th and 75th Anniversary Celebration			
April 4, 2024	10:00 AM	Southwest Regional Conference	Venice Art Center
April 16, 2024	5:30 PM	LWV Deb Mazzaferro /Floridians for National Popular Vote Election of Officers for 2024-2025	AMOB
May 21, 2024	5:30 PM	Installation/plan for 2024-25	AMOB

* Joint Meetings with Manatee Branch




March 12 is Equal Pay Day 2024

Each year, this symbolic day is used to raise awareness around and combat the impact of pay inequities. Equal Pay Day 2024 is on March 12 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap: 84% for full-time workers and 78% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal).

*American Association of University Women,
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Bradenton Branch
and the 71st Anniversary of the Manatee County Branch*

WITH YOUR HELP . . .



You're invited!

Saturday, March 16th, 2024
11 AM Check-in & Silent Auction, Noon lunch

Palm Aire Country Club
5601 County Club Way, Sarasota

Speaker: Cyn McCullough
Gender Equality in the Workplace:
Personal Reflections

Join us for a great speaker, great food, great auction items,
and a wonderful fashion show and sale.
Our scholarship winners will thank you for helping
to make their college dreams come true.

All proceeds go to the Bradenton Branch and the Manatee County Branch Scholarship Foundations!

*Menu: Pecan-crust Chicken or Vegan Pasta Primavera
Dessert: Strawberry Trifle Coffee and Tea
Fashion Show by Heart's Desire
(15% of sales go to scholarships!)*

Please return this form and your check by March 8th and send to

Pam Ross, 6220 7th Ave Dr W, Bradenton, FL 34209
Questions? 941-962-5483 or pross1517@outlook.com

Guest Names: _____ (continue on reverse, if needed)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

No. of Tickets @ \$45 _____ Next to each name, please indicate with a "V" those requesting a vegan meal.

Please seat me with _____

I can't attend, but I'm happy to support scholarships with a donation. \$ _____

I've enclosed a check made out to: **MCB AAUW SF** (Manatee County Branch AAUW Scholarship Foundation)

The Manatee County Branch AAUW Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization
and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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Time Sensitive Public Policy Notices!

Upcoming Webinar

It's My Vote: 2024 Voter Engagement Campaign Launch

Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m. ET

The outcome of the 2024 election could have a major impact on diversity and equity in education, women's economic security, and access to reproductive and civil rights for all women. The good news is that when women vote, we change the conversation.

Given the importance of the elections, AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund are renewing our voter engagement efforts in 2024. This webinar will provide an overview of our upcoming capacity-building training series and what tools and resources we'll provide to support AAUW members' ability to lead and contribute to local voter education and registration efforts.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Public Policy Forum: Women's Economic Security

Thursday March 7

6 pm

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from a nonpartisan but equity-focused viewpoint? Would you like to be able to ask your own questions of experts regarding these issues?

Join our March Public Policy Education Forum where Mary Gatta, our AAUW FL Co-Public Policy Director will share her new research on Florida women's economic security and the gender pay gap.

The forum will occur on Thursday March 7th at 6pm on ZOOM

RSVP required for this event.

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-GurTMoGdGYbZw3qSffBnt6xp4lhB9z?fbclid=IwAR0HsDieXXGLELAVCFuzqIqNZihvmYRa6n64QXYPYXidNuiRjQNLyJYVocg#/registration>

Dr. Mary Gatta has over twenty years of teaching, research and advocacy experience working on issues of career education and workforce development in colleges and non-profit organizations. In Florida, she serves as Co-Public Policy Director for the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Florida. She has led research for the AAUW in Florida on older women's economic security across race and class.

Through this work she wrote several reports including: "Women, Economic Insecurity and Aging in the Florida Sunshine", "Florida's Hispanic Women – Striving But Not Economically Thriving", and "Working Black Women in Florida and Economic Insecurity, and "Women and Economic Insecurity In Sarasota County, Florida" Additionally, she worked on the national **AAUW report Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers**



Tech Trek Update

It's exciting that this year's Tech Trek Summer Camp will be back on college campuses. This June the camps will be held at Stetson University and Florida Atlantic University. This week long experience will be a wonderful way for girls to increase their knowledge of STEM activities while working with women mentors in scientific fields.

Our district has four 7th grade girls who completed the application process and are now being interviewed by committee members. Once the interviews are completed, the girls will be ranked and sent to the State Tech Trek Committee for their consideration. Hopefully, all four girls will be accepted to attend. The girls will be notified on March 30th whether they are accepted into the summer program. Our girls

represent King Middle, Dr. Mona Jain Middle, and Buffalo Creek Middle Schools. We hope that the girls who attend Tech Trek will share their experiences with us in the fall.

Thank you to both Branches for supporting this important project.

Tech Trek Committee: Marianne Harrison, Marlene Yanelli, Vicki Waters, Patty Benson, Linda Guilfoyle



***The March Spotlight
Shines on Linda Guilfoyle!***

Many branch members know **Linda Guilfoyle** as someone with leadership skills since they've seen her as president and treasurer of both the branch and the scholarship foundation. But the *Spotlight* always reveals something new!

Did you know she's an Army Brat? As you might suspect, her family moved every couple of years until Linda was in high school. Linda said, "We lived in nine different states while I was growing up--usually camping as we moved from one to another. It was a great experience to live in so many states and overseas."

Linda went to preschool in Germany, 9th grade in Okinawa, and spent college summers in Bangkok. She graduated from Emporia State College in Emporia, Kansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education with a mathematics major. She earned a Masters in Education from the University of South Florida in Curriculum and Instruction.

“I loved being a teacher! I taught middle school mathematics for 7 years in Kansas and then moved to Florida where I taught at Palmetto High School for 9 years before moving to the County (School District) Office to work in Curriculum,” Linda said. “While at Palmetto High, I was lucky enough to be recognized as the Manatee County Teacher of Year. It was such a wonderful experience that opened doors to opportunities at the district level. I worked in several different areas of curriculum with wonderful educators, many who are in our Branch, and retired as the Executive Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning.”

Linda joined the Manatee County Branch of AAUW when she worked with renown educator **Marjorie Kinnan** on the **Mathematics Superstar Program**. In 1992 she joined the Bradenton Branch and served as president and treasurer of our Branch and currently is treasurer of the Branch Scholarship Foundation. She also works with **Tech Trek**.

Beyond AAUW, for the last seven years Linda serves our community through mentoring in **Take Stock for Children**.

So, what does Linda do with joy? She says, “My favorite pastime is spending time with my daughter, Amy. We love to travel and try to take a trip together every year. Our next adventure is to Iceland.”

Linda selected a retirement hobby that might surprise you. She joined a breast cancer survivor dragon boat team called Survivors in Sync. “This has become a great passion with such a fabulous group of women who support each other on and off the water. We practice three times a week and race both in Florida and internationally.”





In the breast cancer division, her team has competed in Florence and New Zealand and will be traveling to Ravenna, Italy to compete in the International Dragon Boat Festival in August, 2024. “We tease that we have all been bitten by the dragon,” she said.

Linda’s birthday is July 17, so her zodiac sign is Cancer. People born under this sign are known for being loyal, protective, intuitive, and hard working. They often have a great memory and can recall important facts and figures with ease.

What new info did the **Spotlight** illuminate for you?

Submitted by **Marcia Hill** (Keeper of the Spotlight)

mshanerhill@gmail.com or 941-704-5381

Thank you,

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 this 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!



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meggnewsome@outlook.com

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