

**06/2010 Vol. 48, No. 9
Summer Edition**

Presidents' Message

On behalf of the membership, we would like to congratulate and thank Carolyn Kokalis, outgoing President, and her Board for a most successful two years. The Fashion Show and other events enabled us to give scholarships and do community projects. The May meeting provided the membership with a wonderful program and a chance to hear our area talented youth. Ryan Norville, flautist, is a member of the Southwest Florida Youth Orchestra, has won many awards, and will be attending Interlochen this summer. Muriel Freedman will be planning more exciting and interesting programs for us this coming year.

This coming year the Ways and Means Committee has some great fund raisers and events planned. Fashion show plans are under way with Barbara Briggs as chairman. She will need help so please volunteer. **NEEDED:** Silent auction items (have 2 so far) and raffle prizes. The fashions will be done by Razzle Dazzle of Cape Coral, thanks to Ellen Schneider.

Membership is still an important priority for our Branch. If you have friends who might like to join, please contact our Membership chairs, Dottie Houck, Beverly Sears and Pat Allen.

We look forward to working with all of you and hope that you will share your ideas and talents. We have a great AAUW Branch and with your help and energy, we will have an exciting year of programs, events, and friendship.

Have a happy and healthy summer. See you at the September 25th meeting.

Carol Edmier and Barbara Briggs, Co-Presidents

Election Project: Manning the Polls

Volunteers are still needed to complete our full roster for Election Day on August 24. Contact Carolyn Nance (549-7486) ASAP if you can help.

AAUW Name Change Planned

Women moving to the Cape Coral-Fort Myers area do not always process that they are living in Lee County. Our name makes it hard for new people to find us.

AAUW Fort Myers-Lee County Branch

Even AAUW National seems confused about our location. A motion was made and passed at the May meeting that we change our name to Fort Myers-Lee County Branch. For more information or to state your objection, call Carolyn Nance or Judy Sims. The new name will appear on the "Torch", the 2010-11 directory, the updated website, and the tri-fold membership information pamphlet.

STEM PROJECT PROPOSED

The STEM committee (see last month's "Torch"), Marie Glasgow, Judy Sims, Carolyn Nance and Melanie Jackman, met with Alice McLeod Brunner, Executive Director of PACE to explore the possibility that our first Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) project could be done in partnership with the PACE Center. We wished to ascertain if this would be a good project for our branch to support.

PACE (@Pacecenter.org) is a non-residential program offering academic services, social services, and a gender-specific life management curriculum for girls aged 12-18. Girls are referred by the juvenile justice system, the Department of Children and Families, school personnel, community service agencies, and self-referral. The committee was very impressed with Ms. Brunner and the PACE program, especially when she explained that their success rate is 80% compared with a 23% rate for juvenile detention programs which cost much more per child.

After touring PACE, the committee met to discuss ways in which we can support their program. One possibility is collecting personal care items, e.g. hotel courtesy bottles of lotion, shampoo, etc. that they use as rewards in their "store." The retooling of their media center is one of their most important priorities for the upcoming year. In the fall the committee will present a detailed proposal for making a donation towards their media center upgrade as our STEM project this coming year.

-Melanie Jackman. Public Policy Chairman

Book Groups: Contact Muriel Freedman at 481-0391 for information on joining a group.

I meets 2nd Tuesday at 1:00 P.M.;

II meets 2nd Wednesday, at noon and brings a lunch;

Jinny Booth has announced that there are openings for two new members.

III no longer meets.

IV meets 2nd Wednesday at 3:00 P.M

Book Club I met at the home of Jane Lukowicz on May 11 to discuss So Brave, Young and Handsome by Leif Enger. This “modern” Western, set in the early 20th century, follows a writer who can’t seem to get his second book going and who becomes the reluctant hero in a tale of redemption and loss. There are cowboys, a few Indians, a gunfight, a senorita, and a Pinkerton detective pursuit right out of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Beautifully written, with finely detailed characters, it is nostalgic without being maudlin.

The group meets only for lunch during the summer, and will resume book discussions on October 5 with George, Nicholas and Wilhelm, Three Royal Cousins and the Road to WWI by Miranda Carter.

November 9: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot

December 14: Catcher in the Rye J.D. Salinger

January 11: Not Yet and All That Matters Wayne Choy

February 8: Nightingales Gillian Gill

March 8: Genre—Favorite Children’s book

April 12: King Leopold’s Ghost Hochschild

May 10: Let the Great World Spin McCann

Book Club II met at Jinny Booth’s in May to discuss Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama. We agreed that it is important to separate our feelings about the author and his politics. As the first African American to be president of the Harvard Law Review, Mr. Obama was approached by publishers to write about his experience. He’d planned an intellectual treatise on racial relations, civil rights, affirmative action and Afro-centrism, but the 1995 book became a personal memoir. It’s the tale of a young man born of a civil rights activist mother and mythical (mostly absent) African father and Kansan and Kenyan grandparents.. Dreams From My Father offers a glimpse into the making of the man in our oval office.

For the 2010-11 year the books chosen are:

October: Sara’s Key Tatiana De Rosnay,

November: How Starbuck’s Saved My Life Michael Gates Gill

December: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet Jami Ford

January: Mistress Shakespeare Karen Harper

February: The Hindi Bindi Club Monica Pradhan

March: Hot Lights & Cold Steel Michael Collins

April: South of Broad Pat Conroy

May: The Help Kathryn Stockett.

New members are welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month. Call Jinny Booth (433-5091) or Judy Sims (334-2037).

Book Group IV met in May at Ellen Schneider’s home with Carolyn Kokalis leading the discussion on Martyrs’ Crossing by Amy Wilentz. A former Jerusalem correspondent for the New Yorker and 1990 National Book Critics Circle nonfiction nominee, Wilentz supplements a natural storyteller’s eye for character with a reporter’s grasp of swirling political detail in this complex, haunting debut novel. Characters on both sides of the border are nuanced, sympathetic and deeply ambivalent, which heightens the well-crafted suspense. You don’t know what will happen next because neither do they. Wilentz’s insight into the region is so sharp that even the maelstrom she depicts is vivid and comprehensible, a full-fledged human tragedy from every perspective—a well-balanced account of this region’s turmoil that led to lively discussion.

Next year’s picks are a work in progress:

September: South of Broad Pat Conroy

October: To be decided

November: The Help Kathryn Stockett

December: No Meeting

January: Middle Sex Jeffrey Eugenides

February: To be decided

March: Not My Daughter Barbara Delinsky

April: To be decided

May: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet Jamie Ford

June: To be decided

Summer Breakfast Group

Encore! Encore! The AAUW summer breakfasts will resume this year. All members are welcome to join us for scintillating conversation, excellent company, and good food! **Call Fran Leeper at 481-2336.**

Place: First Watch on McGregor Boulevard (across from The Landings).

Time: 9 a.m. on June 22, July 27, and August 24

Reservations: Due by 12 noon the day before so First Watch can have a “big table” ready.

Lunch Bunch

There was some confusion as to the location of the May Lunch Bunch. Not having been contacted about a change, Jinny Booth and Barbara Goodwin went to Webster’s Grill as was announced at the May meeting. They report an excellent lunch and friendly and sympathetic staff. However, under the impression that Webster’s was closed, a larger group went to Biddles, also reporting a good time and good food.

As of June 1, Carolyn Kokalis will be the contact person for the lunch bunch and will confer with Leona and other regulars. If you want to be on her notification list over the summer, give her a call

Lunch Bunch will meet next on June 16 at Bahama Breeze at 12:30. Call Carolyn Kokalis 561-6413 or Leona Fliss 433-5053

Writers' Group

Writing group meets each Wednesday at 10 at different members' homes. We write and also share pieces we have written. Our purpose: to encourage and motivate the individual members of the group. Contact Marie Glasgow (691-1666) for more information.

NEW GROUP: "Movie and a...."

In the fall we'll have regular "Movie and a" Maybe a bite to eat, maybe a "cuppa," but we'll talk about the movie. New member, Patricia Allen, will be the contact person. On Sunday, May 16th the first AAUW movie group met to see "Letters to Juliette" at the Bell Tower. Four of us went to the movie and two to the Blue Point Oyster Bar afterwards. If you'd like to suggest a movie or be on the list to be called this summer, email or call Judy Sims (334-2037, judithssims@gmail.com).



Judith Sims' Movie Review

Going to the movie theater during the hottest part of the day is one way to cope with our Florida summers.

There are several films perfect for light summer viewing. "Letters to Juliette" is lovely. Filmed in Verona, Sienna and the Tuscany countryside, the scenery is the star! Vanessa Redgrave is still beautiful.

Equally light and "roll in the aisle" funny is "Date Night" with Steve Carell and Tina Fey. They play a tired suburban couple trying to put a little romance into their marriage by spontaneously (read "without a reservation") plan to have dinner in town at the hot, new place. They do something unheard of in polite, urban society. Even the bad guys are horrified.

Also, a very funny, sweet family comedy is "City Island."

"Chloe" is billed as an "erotic thriller," in the vein of "Fatal Attraction." This English version of a French film "Natalie" stars Julianne Moore and Liam Neeson.

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is a must if you can tolerate gritty and gory. Set in Sweden, it carefully reenacts the best seller of the same name. A feisty, nerdy woman hacker is hired to do research by an intellectual philosophical publisher. Together they solve several "cold case" murders and resolve a 40-

year-old missing-person mystery. Not recommended for the faint of heart or those who dislike subtitles.

"Sunshine"

If anyone needs to have a card sent, please contact

Diane Aiken at 466-8625. She is our "Sunshine Lady."

Torch Production

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Deadline for September 2010 Torch: Monday August 16 workmannfm@embarqmail.com