

# The Communicator

Publication of the Sun City Center Branch of  
American Association of University Women



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## May Scholarship Meeting An Outstanding Success

*Beverly Fletchall* introduced some of the women who will receive scholarships to Hillsborough Community College from our fund. Two of them gave us a brief talk about their lives and career goals. These were mature women with families who are struggling to further their education to better the lives of themselves and their families.

Jessica Dorey with her mother and great aunt.



We felt proud to be able to help them in their goals.

We were also pleased to see Jessica Dorey again and hear how she is progressing toward her goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Our branch has been awarding her scholarships for several years as she has pursued her studies at USF.



Two of our scholarship recipients speaking to us.

*Naomi Foreman* installed the new officers for the coming year. Rita Bevan is the new Recording Secretary and Jane Adair is the new Corresponding Secretary. Other officers will continue for their 2nd year. Marsha Fader thanked the board and all the members who have worked so hard to make this past year a success.



*Kathleen Mahoney* and *Joan Weening* won the two free National Memberships.

Because our percent of membership increased during the past year, National AAUW awarded us two free memberships. A drawing was held at the end of the meeting. We have 63 paid up members. All 63 names were put into the basket and two names were drawn. These two members each won a refund of their National Dues. If you have not paid your dues for next year, do it now – before the end of June. Still \$72.00 . Send to Bunny Blackstone, 1319 Lennox Greens Dr.

## Membership Updates.....

### New Member

#### **Bernice Levine**

302 Northway Drive, Sun City Center

Phone: 813-633-1886

berniceL1@yahoo.com

Psychiatric Program Manager

BA Adelpia University NY

MS Hofstra University NY

### **Welcome Back**

### New Address

#### **Margaret Houck**

811 Freedom Plaza Circle Apt. 202

### Sympathy

Our love and prayers flow to **Alice Benson** because of the untimely death of her grandson, 24 years old.

**Edith Rice** is improving every day. It has been 6 weeks since her surgery and now she can go swimming. So she is doing a lot of water walking to strengthen her legs. Her legs do not "like" walking on pavement she says.

**President Marsha Fader** treated the board to breakfast one morning recently. After a lovely breakfast the board conducted a review of the year's activities and discussed plans for next year.



**Membership Chairman Glennie** reported that when new members fill out interest cards, there is often an interest in the book club. This group can only function well with a limited membership so that they can meet in the home and everyone can get into the discussion. The present group, Tea and Books, is full. **Marcia Silverman** suggested a new book club be formed so everyone interested can participate. She also volunteered to lead such a group. Look for an announcement of this new interest group in the fall or call Marcia now if you want to be sure to be included.

**Program Chairman Marcia** reported that Yvonne Ponsor has been chosen as the Author for our next 'Book and Author' luncheon in November. Also the date and venue has been changed to the first Saturday, November 6th, in the Community Hall.

Marsha Fader stated she is still looking for a **Historian** to replace Jane Adair. Surely one of you is interested. Call Marsha if you can take this position.

**Rita Bevan** read us a very nice thank-you from Jessica Dorey for awarding her a scholarship for the coming school year. Also Jessica's mother wrote a thank-you for letting her attend our May meeting and for helping her daughter finance the rest of her education.

As a thank you for all her hard work this year, the board presented **President Marsha Fader** with a gift certificate to Bealls.



## Members of SCC Branch Win FL AAUW Creative Writing Contest

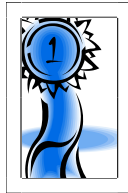
*Erika Nargo* won first place in the Short Story – Fiction category. *Kathleen O'Connor* won first place in the Short-Short Story – Fiction category in the FL AAUW Creative Writing Contest. Both gals are published authors with several books to their credit already.

Erika taught Advanced Writing at the United Community Church this Spring . Kathy took her class. Kathy's entry was the story she worked on in Erika's class!!

This is not the first time an entry from our branch has won a place in this yearly competition. Both Erika and Kathleen are previous winners. Also other members have won over the years – Fran Orenstein and Rosie Clifton to mention only a couple.

It just goes to show how much talent still resides in "these old grey heads". I believe there may be other members who are interested in writing and would like to join a *Creative Writing* group within our branch. Perhaps we can get these two talented gals, Erika and Kathleen, to head up such an interest group next fall.

As a sample of the quality of writing wherein we speak – here is a synopsis of Erika's winning entry.



### **The Dollhouse** by *Erika Nargo*

When the doorbell rings one damp November night, Elfie comes face to face with Angelique, a spunky, red-haired glamour girl. Except now, "Red," as she was known in her tom-boy years, sports a shiner, a gift from her second husband, Ray.

Elfie puts her childhood pal up for the night. The two reminisce about life during the Great Depression and their common past. Angelique regrets having married Ray. She had a crush on Dave at 14, married him at 19, and became a war widow at twenty-three. She vows never to get married again since Dave was the great love of her life.

Elfie feels ashamed about her vicious vandalism of Red's huge back-yard dollhouse and her ambivalent feelings towards her. She confesses her childish misdeeds to her husband.

"I don't know why I hate her, but I also admire her. She is so ... competent."

Wilford nods his understanding of the complexity of the human heart. He reassures her. "You were a mixed-up, jealous little kid. Just tell her. I know that Red can bring out a person's worst impulses ..."

Whatever does he mean by that ???

*Kathleen O'Connor* tells me that her story is about a woman who not only reconciles to, but begins to understand, a life-long enemy.

Kathy credits Erika's teaching skills for the success of her story. However, I have read Kathy's books and know she has substantial writing skills.

You may read Kathy's story on the next page.





## In Black and White

### First Place, Short-Short Story - FL AAUW Creative Writing Contest

No one thought to ask.....  
why we've avoided each other for the last eighty years.

My son wheels me down the narrow linoleum hallway. The inmates are watching flickering TV images of decades-old programs – Laurence Welk wields his baton; Desi scolds Lucy.

“Nicest nursing home in Fairfield county,” my son repeats. He is my youngest – only sixty – and doesn’t yet know that sometimes silence is best. He pushes me back into my appointed cell. The roommate is sleeping now – a big white rabbit of a woman snoring away.

I pat my son’s hand and let him escape , then inch towards the roommate’s tiny bureau and pick up the silver-framed photo I observed earlier. Plop it goes into my lap. My hands are gnarled, arthritic and clumsy. In the photo, they are smooth and capable. There are seven of us sitting on that fence – the entire 1927 graduating class of the Ogdensburg, N.Y., Normal School. Long graduation dresses hide our gangly legs.

A photo identical to this one rests in one of my unpacked boxes. My possessions have dwindled and barely fill four moving cartons. I discarded much but kept this photo because I marked the last day of my girlhood and the end of my relationship with Elizabeth Holcomb. She is the girl in the dominant middle. In the photo, she preens, leans forward, takes up too much space. Her styl-

ish petticoat camouflages part of my face as I sit next to her smiling, deferential, already stoop-shouldered. Of the seven of us in that teacher-training class only she and I survive. The nursing home administration ferreted out this information and decided to unite us. My children congratulated me on my good luck. No one thought to ask if we’d been friends or wonder why we’ve avoided each other for the last eighty years.

Occasionally I ran into her at the library. We are both voracious readers. I look around the room and don’t see any books. Perhaps Elizabeth’s vision has failed. I can still read large print and so allow myself an inexcusable moment of triumph.

Elizabeth stirs. I return the frame and edge towards my on side of the room. She sits up, blinks repeatedly before saying, “Bingo at two... We’ll go together. You shouldn't play today. Just watch what I do.”

“Of course, dear.”

Her voice is still commanding, slightly patronizing. Her expensive possessions spill onto my side of the room. She hasn’t changed one little bit. And in this moment, on this day, I find that enormously comforting.

By *Kathleen O'Connor*

### Some AAUW Branch Activities Continue Through The Summer

#### Bridge:

TLCB continues on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Call *Margie Castiglia* 633-8253

BRIDGE BELLES continue each month. Call *Roberta Sturdevant* 634-5184

EIGHT-NO will not meet again until October.

#### Book Club:

TEA AND BOOKS continue monthly meetings with an informal format. Members discuss whatever they are reading at the time.

Call *Gladys Bromberger* 633-8291

