



empowering women since 1881

Newsletter of the
Sun City Center/SouthShore Branch
Chartered in 1984

President: Diane Waronka
(813) 641-2722
dwaronka@msn.com



The Communicator October 2019



Hello AAUW of SCC/SouthShore members:

Well, at least nobody can say that the summer just ended was 'same old, same old' in terms of normal hot and rainy with little happening in town:)

As most of you know by now, it appears that the SCC CA Board has now eliminated the yearly \$125 fee for any KP members who use SCC facilities by belonging to a SCC club. Instead they will be expected to pay \$2 per day for any clubs, except—wait—this refers only to meetings not open to the public. Since we advertise all our meetings in the papers inviting guests and new members, we assume we fall into the category of 'open to the public.' I assume details like this will be discussed at upcoming meetings held by the CA just for National clubs. We also need to clarify whether we are 'national club with relationship with CA' or an actual CA club—what are we currently and what do we want to be. The SCC phone book has us listed as an actual SCC club. Hopefully all these details will be finalized once and for all in the coming weeks...:)

Hopefully you have already seen press releases describing the October meeting as a specific one where anyone who joins that day at the meeting pays only half of the national dues. It's really important that each of you think seriously of people you have wanted to invite as a guest sometime in the past...but never did. This is the time to do it!

Continued on page 2

President Diane Waronka
dwaronka@msn.com



OCTOBER BRUNCH, MEETING and PROGRAM

We will be welcoming new and returning members on **Saturday, October 12**. It is open to the public and held at the SCC Atrium **Florida Room at 9:30 a.m.** Brunch Menu: egg in mini croissants, bacon and cheese on the side, muffins, fruit salad, juice/coffee. This is a **SHAPE THE FUTURE** event, which means that **any new member joining at the October meeting** will pay half the national dues.

Bring a guest to hear club member **Mary Ann Worthington** present the interesting story of Beate Sirota Gordon, an artist who almost single handedly brought gender equality and constitutional rights to Japanese women. Ms. Sirota Gordon was the sole woman on a team that drafted the civil rights portion of the Japanese constitution. At her insistence, the constitution granted more rights to Japanese women than we have – even today - in America.

Please Notice This



OCTOBER MEETING RESERVATIONS

First time attendees and guests will not have to pay the \$10 for brunch, but will need to **contact Margi Castiglia by Friday, October 4** at 813-633-8253 or at: margidee817@gmail.com that they are coming.

It is recommended that members pay \$10 ahead by check to AAUW of SCC/SouthShore and send it along with guest count to Margi Castiglia, 2411 Emerald Lake Drive, #209, Sun City Center, Fl. 33573 by **Friday, October 4**. For any questions please contact Sue Nasrani at 570-401-5346 or suenas1@outlook.com.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Membership Committee has selected an overall theme for the year of **Broadening the Horizons of Women.**

Also we are making every regular meeting, a **SHAPE THE FUTURE** event. This concept comes from AAUW National. Everyone who joins that day will only pay half of the national dues along with regular state and local dues. That means \$56 instead of \$82. Renewals don't count.

Continued from page 1

Please realize the importance of letting Margie know by Friday a whole week before every meeting whether you're coming and how many guests - your \$10 fee per brunch regular meeting can be paid later if necessary but the count must be in by Friday. The \$10 fee is waived for anyone attending for the first time. There is an important reason for this switch to an earlier reservation date: Our caterer orders her food for the following week every weekend.

Thanks to MaryAnn Worthington for agreeing to be our October speaker. To think that Japanese women owe so much of their current societal equality to this almost unknown American woman at the end of WWII is amazing. I love hearing little-known stories like this.

Bring your checkbook so you can buy your tickets to the November 16 fundraiser - as usual \$30 for individual tickets or \$240 for a table of 8. Maureen must do quite a performance as the harried and unappreciated Red Cross nurse getting soldiers ready for the D-Day Invasion. She is overseas for several weeks in October having been invited to perform the show at several official D-Day Anniversary events! Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors - we are at Community Hall specifically hoping to get many more audience guests than would ever fit into the Florida room. Oh, and don't forget how everyone loves Banquet Masters - they are serving food typical of England for the occasion.

See you soon,
Diane Waronka

**FROM AAUW : ABOUT
SHAPE THE FUTURE**



The **Shape the Future membership campaign** is a recruitment tool for current members to offer a discounted rate to prospective members.

With this campaign, new members pay just 50 percent of the national dues rate when they join AAUW at a public event.

Branches also earn one free national membership to give away for every two newly recruited members, with a maximum of three free memberships annually.

CELEBRATE VETERANS

OF
WW II



Under-paid, Under-loved, and Over There

A one act play by Maureen Patrick depicting a WW II American Red Cross worker serving in Britain before D Day

British Brigadier General Colin Howgill will also be speaking

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Sun City Center Community Hall

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets \$30 Includes lunch by Banquet Masters

Tickets available by calling Lois Toeppe at 813-633-6484

Presented by AAUW Sun City Center/SouthShore.
Net proceeds go to educational programs for local women and girls.

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS
For This Event at Our October
Meeting or Contact Lois Toeppe
at 813-633-6484**



Tech Trek 2019 Has Been a Year of History-Making Firsts

Submitted by Kathy Vore

First year with two camps. First year on two college campuses. First year to accept 96 girls. First year for our Branch to have three campers at the two camps!

Selected from about 250 applicants from across Florida, the girls spent a week on one of two college campuses: Stetson University, Deland, or Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter. Selection to Tech Trek affords each girl the opportunity to live the college experience on campus for a week, sharing a dorm suite, exploring STEM interests with new friends, and sampling the college academic experience. After breakfast in the school dining hall, mornings were devoted to a core course such as engineering, neuroscience, marine biology or computer coding. Back to the dining hall for lunch, then on to afternoon workshops spread over four days including DNA, Chemistry, Cyber Security, Zumba, Finance and PowerPoint. Downtime in the dorm before dinner each evening allowed for calls home (the only time the girls had access to their phones!). Group evening activities after dinner continued until quiet time, then lights out to sleep and prepare for another busy day tomorrow. Non-stop, action-packed days punctuated with the fun of new friends and new experiences.

Wednesday evening the girls participated in the Women's Professional Night at dinner where they met and were able to ask questions of local professional women regarding their individual career paths. On the last full day of camp - Friday - each camp toured a local STEM-focused location.

Campers were literally hand-picked based on their nomination, application and essay, and personal interviews with local AAUW Branch members. They are smart, funny, personable, and talented, all with unlimited futures. And all deserving of this unique experience. Tech Trek Florida 2019 once again proved itself to be a Win-Win equation.

Once again, our Branch will partner this school year with Beth Shields Middle School to identify 7th grade girls who demonstrate an aptitude for math and science. We met the new principal, Colleen Carr at our April Pizza Party for the 2019 campers. Mrs. Carr is very supportive and appreciative of our Tech Trek outreach and expressed her desire to continue our partnership for the benefit of her deserving 7th grade girls.

Because Tech Trek relies on corporate and personal donations to cover the \$1,100 cost per camper, please consider making an individual donation. No amount is too small. And it is never too soon to write that fully tax-deductible check! Checks should be payable to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. and mailed to: Tech Trek Florida, PO Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468. (Please put "Tech Trek" on memo line of your check.)



Left, Alicia Bass and Kumite Clavizzao collaborate as a team on the design of a bridge in their Engineering Core Course.

Right, Alicia Bass keeps an eye on the bridge she designed and constructed with her partner during its testing on the final day of class.



AAUW Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Florida Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Submitted by Mary Ellen Skinkle

Florida ratified the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution on May 13, 1969. Women already had the right to vote in national elections since August 18, 1920 when Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify that amendment, and the right to vote in Florida state and local elections since June 14, 1921 when the Florida legislature removed the distinction of gender for electors via legislation. In addition, several localities in Florida granted women the right to vote before the national and state changes, starting with Fellsmere on June 8, 1915. So, the ratification was mainly symbolic.

So why didn't Florida ratify the 19th Amendment sooner? And why then? Did Florida ever reject it, as some other states have done? And was Florida the last state to ratify it? In what towns in Florida were women already allowed to vote back in 1919, when Congress approved the 19th amendment and the state ratification process started? (hint: none in Hillsborough County) And what was the role AAUW played?

The AAUW Sun City Center/SouthShore chapter held a lunch at Amici's in Club Renaissance on July 13, 2019, to celebrate 50 years since Florida ratified the 19th Amendment. Thirteen members and three guests attended.

We had a discussion answering these questions and more on the suffrage movement in Florida. In addition, we had a few fun games (word search of 1969 events, crossword puzzle of things that started or stopped in 1969) to put in perspective what else was going on in the world that year when our state finally ratified the amendment.

And we gave out a SWAG bag with a theme - can you guess it? Contents included Pringles, Famous Amos cookies, Twix candy, chip clip, dry erase marker, disposable mechanical pencil and post-it notes in a plastic Publix bag.



Think you know the answers to the above questions? Mary Ellen Skinkle will let you know if you're right.

We Have a New Website

We're starting off this fall with a new, improved website.

It can be found at: <https://sccsouthshore-fl.aauw.net/>.

Don't worry if you don't remember it – it is listed at the bottom of all branch emails.

Unlike our last website which was only a very long page of the AAUW Florida website, this one is all our own.

The new benefits to us include:

- There are menu tabs for the topics and a search bar to make it easier to find the information you want.
- Updates and important news are highlighted as "What's New" both on the right margin, and on the menu.
- A password-protected membership list is provided. (Password is listed at the bottom of branch emails.)
- At-a-glance calendar of activities for the month, additional descriptions of meetings, and directions to events each have their own tab to access them quickly.

