



# HOTLINE

## March 2023

[AAUWverobeach.org](http://AAUWverobeach.org)

## President's Message



Do you feel the revival happening around us? We have revived our Facebook account, which gives us more communications breadth, helping us reach larger audiences about our events and activities. We are also restoring our favorite membership interest groups: Lunch Bunch, a new reading group, Mah Jong instruction and our own Mah Jong group, our famed Creative Writing Group, and the Cultured Pearls who venture together on cultural outings. We're going to have fun again in more intimate groups where we make dear friends. The pandemic is over and we're moving forward. Please join a group or two of your choice and send videos and posts for our Facebook page (see information below).

---

We have a new communication platform – new to us, that is. We finally have a working Facebook account called AAUW Vero Beach Branch, thanks to Sara Smith. Go



to [facebook.com/AAUWVeroBeach](https://facebook.com/AAUWVeroBeach) and see what we're doing.

Better yet, contribute to our Facebook page to make it lively. You can contribute any of the photos or videos suggested below by sending them to Sara Smith at [lwsara@aol.com](mailto:lwsara@aol.com). She'll post your contributions.

### Suggestions:

- Any short, fun videos taken on your phone about what members are doing in the community, which correspond with our mission

and goals.

- Mentoring a girl (with permission, of course).
- Meetings of local groups you go to, which correspond with our mission and goals. This gives us an opportunity to “tag” other organizations, who can then share our posts of their page, thus expanding our audience.
- Any neat things women and girls are doing in the community that we could applaud.
- A picture of the cover of a book your AAUW Reading Group is reading or particularly liked.
- “Like” our page.
- Share our posts on your own Facebook account, if you have one.
- Share quotes about the “monthly” occasion – Black History Month (February), Women’s History Month (March), etc.

Send these photos and/or video to Sara with text telling her what she needs to post. She won’t write the script or track down the event; she’ll simply post it. Please include the names of the people in the photo. Thanks again to Sara, it’s that easy to spread our activities broadly!

## March Book Review Breakfast

**Dr. Angie Bailey**  
**Professor of Business,**  
**Indian River State College**

**will discuss**

**“Becoming,”**  
**by Michelle Obama**

**9:30am Monday, March 6**  
**Richardson Center of IRSC**  
**6155 College Lane, Vero Beach**



“Becoming” is a deeply personal account of the life of a wife, mother, attorney, and groundbreaking First Lady.

Mrs. Obama explores dilemmas every woman faces: how to keep your dreams from being dismissed, how to straddle different expectations, how to balance the worlds of family and work, when to step off a career path to embrace something new and more fulfilling. As First Lady, Mrs. Obama used her visibility to bring attention to the needs of others.

The meeting is free and open to the public. A continental breakfast will

be served. Please remember to bring children's books for our Little Free Libraries.

## Phenomenal Women



### Phenomenal Women, a Cabaret

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 3pm

The Emerson Center  
1590 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach

We all have phenomenal women in our lives—women who inspired us, paved the way for us, encouraged us. They may be personal. Perhaps they're professional or international leaders. We each have a unique list.

Ami Brabson, a professional actor and singer, has performed on stage and television for 20 years. Now she's paying tribute to the writers, singers, politicians and family members who have motivated her along the way.

**Phenomenal Women** is a celebration of wisdom gained on the winding path to finding the courage to speak your truth.

Ami invites us to take this journey with her, and it couldn't come at a more opportune time in our history, as the country continues to explore issues of equity, access, race, gender and power.

**Tickets** are \$43 (includes \$3 service fee) or \$22 for students (includes \$2 service fee) online. Or, send a check for \$40 (\$20 students) to AAUW, PO Box 2143, Vero Beach, FL 32961, and email

[AAUWverobeach@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWverobeach@gmail.com) to register. **Both email and check are necessary.** You will receive a confirmation email, and your tickets will be available at the Emerson Center by 2pm March 19.

This fundraising event is sponsored by the Vero Beach American Association of University Women, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Proceeds go to scholarships, continuing scholarships, grants and programs for women and girls in Indian River County.

---

## Why buy?

Your ticket to Phenomenal Women buys a lot more than a great show and an enjoyable afternoon for you: All the proceeds from our fundraisers go toward educational assistance for girls and women in Indian River County.

Hear that? **Your contributions stay right here, making a difference in local women's lives.** Your contributions make it possible for women to earn a degree, which helps them support their families, and sets an example for younger women.



**So buy that ticket – do it today! Better yet, buy two or three or more. And, if you're busy that day, please make a contribution anyway; there are women and girls here in our community who need your help.**

Several special-interest groups are re-starting: Check them out, reach out to the contact person, get up, get out, get going!

# MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

Five interest groups are organizing and meeting in the next few weeks.  
If you are interested in joining any of them, please phone the contact person.



LUNCH BUNCH – Avalon McGann – 772-299-1393

NEW READING GROUP on 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – Sally Fitzgerald – 772-492-1851  
2 Openings in existing group on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.  
– Kathy Martin – 772-617-2606

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP – Lois Miles – 772-299-6020

MAH JONG GROUPS – Beginners: Carolyn Bayless – 772-567-5465  
Experienced players: Kathy Martin – 772-617-2606

CULTURED PEARLS – Lois Miles – 772-299-6020

## Ready to Launch!!



**Cultured Pearls** has scheduled its first event:

### Stroll the Glass Garden

**Where:** McKee Botanical Gardens, 350 U.S. 1, Vero Beach

**When:** 11am Tuesday, Feb. 28 (Rain date: Wednesday, March 1)

**Cost:** \$13 admission fee

The walk-through will be followed by a light lunch in the cafe (not included in admission fee). To reserve your place, contact Lois Miles, 772-299-6020.

## Welcome, New Members!

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined AAUW Vero Beach since the publication of our last Hotline. You'll recognize new members by the green ribbons on their name badges when you see them at events. Please introduce yourself to them at our next event!

- Julie Barone
- Lorraine Ledford
- Elizabeth Stewart

### ***Did you know?***

The *Member Only* section\* of our website now has the most current information on these and all our members in the updated [online Member Directory](#). There is also a printable [Directory Addendum](#) that lists member information that was not available when the Handbook was published in September 2022.

\*Access the Member Only section using the password found on the inside front cover of your green handbook.



*The older you get the better you get, unless you are a banana.  
--Betty White*

Happy Birthday to members celebrating in February and March:

- Debbie Clemens Feb 1
- Jane Howard Feb 5
- Joan Magee Feb 5
- Christine Ryall Feb 20
- Kathleen (Kyp) Wasiuk Feb 22
- Linda Barker Mar 1
- Martha Kucinsky Mar 19
- Elaine Spooner Mar 22
- Carole Strauss Mar 30

If you're not sure if we have your birthday month/day on record, please email it to Kathy Martin at [aauwvb.kmartin@gmail.com](mailto:aauwvb.kmartin@gmail.com)

## Member Spotlight: Carolyn Bayless



***“How fortunate we were to teach at a time when we loved it, there was camaraderie among teachers, we counted on support from parents, and we could hug our kids.”***

Carolyn Bayless always knew she was going to be a teacher: “I was the one that put my dolls in front of the chalkboard and taught pretend classes.

“When it came time for me to choose my college, there weren’t the opportunities for women that exist now. I pursued the job I knew I wanted and won a scholarship for future teachers that enabled me to attend the University of South Florida. The school where I interned

hired me to teach second grade as my first position.”

When her husband was drafted to Vietnam, they moved to Palm Beach County.

### **Inside and Outside the Classroom**

“I spent 38 years in Florida public schools and loved teaching grades one to three, mostly traditional classes and occasionally non-graded classes. I taught home-bound hospital students from kindergarten to twelfth grade who couldn’t attend school in person.

“One student was a tenth grader who’d been paralyzed after a dive gone bad. Sophisticated computing didn’t exist yet, so for the year we worked together I used a tape recorder and read to him. Later, when he got home at last, he had limited arm movement and learned to peck on a keyboard.

“Eventually, I taught gifted students and learning-disabled kids. I’d work with gifted students for two days each week and learning-disabled students three days. Sometimes I couldn’t tell the difference! By that I mean that some kids were verbally gifted but not at grade level in writing or motor skills. It made my days most interesting.”

For the last 16 years of her career, Carolyn was Assistant to the Principal at Rosewood Magnet School.

“I was assistant to the principal, a teacher assignment without the additional salary of a formal assistant. Mostly I provided teacher support, not student support, by ordering textbooks and coordinating tests and other admin tasks. At one point, I was given the title of Elementary Specialist, which did bring a higher salary because of funding from the state.

### **Publishing, Advising, Training Teachers Online**

“After retirement, I worked part-time for 10 years at a school publishing company called Harcourt. I loved the interaction with customers and especially enjoyed work with the sales team at education conferences.

Carolyn was a student teacher advisor at Florida Atlantic University for 12 years. The teacher shortage in the early 2000’s resulted in selection of top teaching students to be teacher of record without a supervisor in the room. She went into the classroom as a mentor while they adjusted to their new position.

“I found it rewarding to supervise people who would take suggestions and try them out, whereas at the book company, suggestions were

sometimes blown off.

“My final position was teaching online for Western Governors University. The program began as teacher training for students who lived too far away to attend classes in person. I traveled to observe them in their last student teaching class before certification.”

### **Retired - But Still Busy!**

When her husband became ill, Carolyn knew she couldn't travel as much. For the past few years, she's been fully retired, but not doing nothing!

At IRC Historical Society luncheons, she connected with AAUW members and “got involved with this wonderful eclectic group from different backgrounds and professions and a variety of perspectives.

“Today, I'm AAUW Board liaison to the Cultural Council. I add our events planned for the next year into the Vero Beach Handbook and maintain the info on the chapter's website. Kathy Martin and I share some Membership duties, including getting groups that withered during the pandemic activated again.

“I wanted to learn mah-jongg, so started a beginner's mah-jongg group taught by an AAUW member. It's really fun.”

That's not all. Carolyn is active in the IRCC Retired Educators Group where she connects with Principals, teachers, and custodians. She was President of the Historical Society for three years and needed to take a break from being in charge.

“My daughter teaches European and World History at Vero Beach High School, which means she keeps me in the loop about how the teaching profession is changing, sometimes for political reasons and sometimes because of money priorities. Teachers often don't feel as supported as in the past, with no clear resolutions to issues given.

“I'm interested in learning about AI (artificial intelligence) and education. How is that going to affect students? Will AI software write papers such that teachers won't know what has actually been retained?

“I see a future with many unknowns.”

**60th Anniversary of Vero Beach AAUW**

**Let's Plan a Celebration!**





March of 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the Vero Beach Branch.

We have many accomplishments to boast of, and a wonderful party to plan. I would like to schedule an initial planning meeting for March 2023 before members begin to head north. If you would like to be part of the fun, please call or email me, and I will provide the time and place of the meeting. Look forward to seeing you and sharing your ideas.

**Contact Lois Miles, [loism756@gmail.com](mailto:loism756@gmail.com), or call 772-299-6020.**

## DEI State Dialogues

As AAUW members, we have access to resources beyond our own community. Among these resources are DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Dialogues, sponsored by AAUW-Florida.

The dialogues aim to help you become more comfortable sharing your perspectives or having those difficult conversations – and to inspire you to consider diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of your life.

They're scheduled on Zoom and are live the second Saturday of the month, through March 2023. Each dialogue features a presentation and has time for Q&A. Each session is recorded, so you can check them out any time.

### **DEI DIALOG #4 Appearance and Age March 11**

Meeting ID: 839 2236 9551

Passcode: 778732

### **Upcoming 2023 DEI Dialogues**

- DEI Dialog #5 – April 8 – **Hispanic, Latino and Haitian Culture**
- DEI Dialog #6 – May 13 – **Reflections and Observations**

To see previous DEI Dialogues, [click here](#).



**More from State:**

# Advance Gender Equity for Women and Girls at Lobby Days 2023 March 13 - 15

The AAUW Florida Public Policy Committee is working now to establish the 2022-2023 legislative agenda and planning a Lobby Day experience that will focus on public policy priorities: economic security, education and civil rights. For information on how to attend, click here <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net>

## Volunteer Opportunity



As you may know, we no longer host Senior Expo. We've given it to the Senior Collaborative, as it suits their mission better than ours. This year, it's going to be bigger and better than ever. It will be at the

County Fairgrounds on **Thursday, March 23**, with 70 vendor booths (yes, 70!), many speakers, and food trucks, so you can easily spend time there.

They would love for us to volunteer. If you're interested in helping one of our collaborative organizations, please sign up at: <https://volunteer.unitedwayirc.org/opportunities/4BSbtDFJ3p>. And if you've volunteered before, wear your gold AAUW T-shirt!

## Women Who Rock

**weVENTURE Women's Business Center** in the Florida Tech Bisk College of Business strives to be the leading voice and resource for professional women on the Space and Treasure Coasts. Since 2012, we have hosted the **Women Who Rock** Awards in Brevard County as a way to elevate the profile of local women doing amazing work and leading through action. This year, we are excited to partner with the SBDCs at Indian River State College to include the Treasure Coast, sponsored by PNC.

Plato once said, "What is *honored* in a community will be *cultivated* there." It is important that we take the time to recognize, thank and celebrate female leaders in business and our community—and inspire the next generation of young women to follow in their footsteps.

## Women Who Rock Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, March 28

11am - 1pm

IRSC Chastain Campus

2400 SE Salerno Road

Stuart, FL 34997

[Tickets](#), \$50 general admission, \$40 early-bird discount.

## The Learning Alliance

**Did you know that volunteering your time for one hour a week can change a kid's life forever?**

Volunteer to become a reading captain, Bookmobile helper, and much more. Contact Shanti Sanches, [shantisanches@gmail.com](mailto:shantisanches@gmail.com) for information. All materials and training are provided by [The Learning Alliance](#) (Click the name to learn more.)



## Big Brothers, Big Sisters.



Tutors (Bigs) work with elementary students (Littles). If you are interested, call Christine Ryall at 772-231-2591 or email [drcryall@gmail.com](mailto:drcryall@gmail.com)

## Got News?

**HOTLINE Submissions for April**  
Due before March 5 to  
[aauwverobeach@gmail.com](mailto:aauwverobeach@gmail.com)  
Subject: **HOTLINE**

**(Articles in Word.doc; photos in .jpeg)**

- Hotline Editor, Becki Manning
  - Final Editor, Elaine Spooner
-