The Tiempo

Tampa Branch Newsletter
SEPT 2024 | ISSUE NO. 19 | VOL. 2024-2025



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SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Solana Rostick

CONTACT US:

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PO Box 172715
Tampa FL, 33672

Hello AAUW Tampa Members,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 membership year. It's good to be back from summer break. What a summer it's been! Discussions have abounded related to abortion rights, Project 2025, and a push for partisan school board races. We also saw a failed assassination attempt on former President Trump and the amazing return of gymnast Simone Biles at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The biggest moment for me was a two-part historical milestone. Part 1 began on June 27, 2024, with the first Presidential Debate between President Biden (D) and Former President Trump (R). Biden's performance sparked a chain reaction, paving the way for Part 2, Vice President Kamala Harris (D) becoming the first Black and Asian woman nominated for president by a major party. Though the election outcome is still over 65 days away, we have experienced history-in-the-making as 25 million watched Harris accept the Democratic Presidential nomination.

No matter your political beliefs, I hope we can support candidates at all levels who positively impact women and girls. Each new membership year reminds me of AAUW Tampa's mission and vision, and further reminds me that without our action, our mission and vision become stagnant. This membership year, think about where you can (and will) take action to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy and service.

Our first newsletter upon our return is filled with many nuggets, including the following:

- Calendar (p. 2): Happy B-Day Martha, Catherine, & Dora.
- President's Message (pps. 3-4)
- Upcoming Events: Sept 21st Meeting: 11am at the North Tampa Branch Library (p. 5); Stem Trek 2024 (p. 5), and Mystery Dinner October Fundraiser: For International Day of the Girl Child (p. 6).
- **Position Piece:** Florida's Amendment 4 (pps. 7-8).
- Additional Resources (pps. 9-12): Join AAUW national conversations and the regional conference; Learning opportunities through books, grants, and education forums; and am overview of AAUW Tampa's Calendar of Events for Membership Year 2024-2025

Until we meet again, enjoy the current newsletter!

Authored By: Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



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September 2024

100.7							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
National Forgiveness Day	Labor Day A day honoring American workers & the unofficial end of summer	3	4 National Wildlife Day	5 2pm ET: AAUW w/ Dr. Miles Click to Register 6pm ET: AAUW-FL; Edu. Forum Click to Register	AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference Early Bird Click to Register (Early Bird Price: \$209)	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Su	Suicide Awareness Week; Need Help? Call 911, 988, or family or friend! Check-in with others.						
Intl' Literacy Day		4pm ET: AAUW Member Gathering Click to Register	Remembrance &			National Parents Day Off	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Rosh Hashanah Begins National Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Constitution Week Begins		International Talk Like a Pirate Day		1st AAUW Meeting of the 2024-2025 Year Tech Trek!	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
First Day of Autumn or Autumnal Equinox		Yom Kippur Begins	History Moment: 1981- Sandra Day O'Connor sworn into Supreme Court		Day 1: AAU Atlantic Regional Conference	Day 2: AAU Atlantic Regional Conference	
Day 3: AAU Atlantic Regional Conference	Happy Birthda	Hope Birt	riday B	Happy	Happy Birthany		
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A Message from the President



Dr. Shella Miller President, AAUW Tampa Branch 2024-2026

Dear AAUW Tampa Members:

Welcome back to an exciting membership year! I hope you all enjoyed your summer, and I can't wait to hear about your adventures. I'm thrilled to be working with such an engaged and energetic Board of Directors (See Image 1) who are passionate about advancing AAUW's mission to promote gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Are you ready to make a difference and step into a leadership role? We're looking for a passionate and dedicated individual to join us as our Recording Secretary. Don't miss this chance to be a key part of our dynamic team! Interested? Reach out today and let's make great things happen together!

A special thanks to Solana, our volunteer Social Media Manager! She has done a fantastic job, posting more than 70 times last year. Please help us grow our AAUW Tampa social media presence by following and liking our Facebook page and encouraging your networks to do the same: **AAUW Tampa Facebook Page**.

Congratulations to the 2024-2026 Board Members!

Dr. Shella Miller (President), Dr. Ebony Shoemo (Vice President),

Ms. Sue Morris (Director of Finance), Ms. Carolyn Austin (Director of Programs),

Ms. Tara Perkins and Ms. Yvette Williams (Co-Directors of Membership),

Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens (Director of Communications),

Dr. Gloria Hilton (Director of Scholarships), Ms. Kim Rostick (Director of Tech Trek),

Ms. Michelle Douglass, Esq. and Dr. Kay Lee Smith (Co-Directors of Public Policy),

Ms. Nina Thomas (Corresponding Secretary), - Ms. Paula Thomas (Director of DEI) And Ms. Solana Rostick (Social Media Manager)

Image 1: AAUW Tampa's 2024-2025 Board

Wishing you all a successful and successful term impactful term ahead. Let's celebrate with enthusiasm and dedication!

June 29th Meeting Yields Successful 2-Year Strategic Plan!



Goal 1: Increase membership by at least 10% and retain 90% of members each year.

Goal 3: Increase outreach to women in the community through quality programming that enriches learning and development focusing on education, advocacy and economic security. Goal 2: Retain 90% of existing and new members by creating added value in the AAUW Tampa Experience

Goal 4: Increase Public Advocacy, Strategic Outreach and AAUW Tampa visibility in the community.



Image 2: AAUW Tampa's 2024-2025 Initiatives: Quality Programs, Recruitment, Retention, and Public Advocacy and Visibility.

We Want to Hear from You!

We want to hear your thoughts on what we can do to move from good to great in these areas. Your feedback is invaluable to us. Please email me at auwtampabranchpresident@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or ideas for helping us in our strategic focus areas. Your input will help us shape our future initiatives and ensure we are meeting your needs and expectations.



Upcoming Meeting and Murder Mystery Details!



I am excited to invite you to our first meeting of the year on **September 21st from 11 am-1 pm** at the **North Tampa Branch Hillsborough Library Community Room** (8916 N. Blvd., Tampa, FL 33604). This meeting marks a crucial start to our year, and we hope to see a full room of members and guests. We will hear from our Tech Trek participants and discuss important public policy issues. Your presence and support are vital, so please invite others to join us.

In these critical times, it is essential for AAUW to organize and advocate for issues that advance women and girls. Our Public Policy Co-Director, Ms. Michelle Douglass, Esq., has highlighted some key public policy issues in the newsletter that should be on your radar. We encourage everyone to vote and inspire others to do the same. Together, we can drive the change we want to see.

Additionally, please mark your calendars for another important event. On **October 19th**, we will host "Circue de la Morte," a murder mystery luncheon presented by the Pelican Players. Enjoy acting, humor, networking, great food, and more The luncheon will be held from **11am-3pm** at **Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Hall**. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. This event is not just a fundraiser, but a celebration of our collective efforts to support more women and girls interested in STEM. You don't want to miss this fun-filled afternoon! Please invite as many people as possible. Our goal is to have at least 70 attendees. Special thanks to Dr. Bert Dunbar for leading the planning team for this wonderful event. Let's make it a huge success!

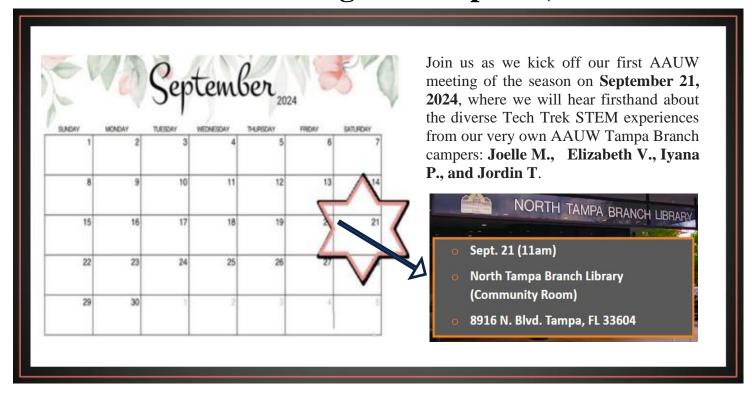
Recognizing Our Very Own!

Lastly, we are incredibly proud of our Tampa chapter members, Dr. Kay Lee-Smith, who has embarked on her first year as President of AAUW Florida, and Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens, who has begun her inaugural term as Director of Communications for AAUW Florida. Dr. Rostick-Owens has also been awarded a \$1000 sponsorship to attend the AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference in Glen Allen, VA, from September 27-29, 2024. We are thrilled that she will represent the Tampa branch at this prestigious event. Congratulations to both Dr. Rostick-Owens and Dr. Lee-Smith! Let's show them our support in their new roles at the state level by ensuring AAUW Tampa continues to flourish and answer the call when asked to support.

There is a place for everyone in AAUW! You do not have to be a seasoned leader to serve. It takes a village to move the organization forward. We want all your involvement, whether on the board, on a committee, on a welcome team, or simply sharing your ideas or helping us identify more potential members, guests, or potential speakers. Whatever you can contribute, big or small, we need you! I hope you enjoy the issue, courtesy of Dr. Demetrix Rostick-Owens and all who supplied content for this edition.

Let's keep forging ahead by making this membership year bigger, better, and more exciting than the last! Happy Reading!

Launching Our New Membership with a STEM Extravaganza! Sept. 21, 2024



AAUW Florida Tech Trek 2024: A Huge Success!

We are thrilled to announce that Tech Trek Florida 2024 has wrapped up, and we couldn't be prouder of our amazing participants and their incredible achievements!

Tech Trek Florida 2024: By the Numbers

- 169 Nominations from schools across the state
- 108 Girls completed the application process, including those crucial personal interviews
- 95 Rising 8th Grade Girls attended Tech Trek at Stetson University and Florida Atlantic in June



Igniting Young Girls' Passion for STEM

This one-week summer camp, backed by AAUW's advanced research, is designed to make STEM fields exciting and accessible to middle school girls, a crucial age when their participation in these fields often declines. For many girls, this week-long camp ignites their curiosity and sets them on a path toward success.

We were delighted to receive heartfelt thank you cards from each camper, expressing their gratitude for this scholarship and the unique opportunity for connection, inspiration, and mentorship.

Special Thanks

I'd like to give a special "Thank You" to the stellar AAUW Tampa Branch Tech Trek committee: Rukmini Potdar, Demetrix Rostick-Owens, and Pat Tabone for their dedication during the interviews.

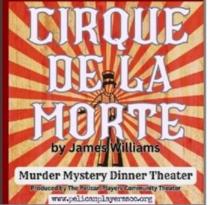


Join AAUW Tampa Branch's **Mystery Dinner Fundraiser- Get Your Tickets!!!**

AAUW Tampa is thrilled to kick off the 2024-2025 membership year and can't wait to reconnect in our September Meeting. But that's not all—we have something special lined up that you won't want to miss!

In celebration of International Day of the Girl Child, AAUW Tampa is hosting a Murder Mystery Luncheon on October 19, 2024 at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Hall from 11am-3pm (the doors open at 10:30). This event promises to be a blast, filled with intrigue, entertainment, and lots of fun—all while supporting a fantastic cause. We're raising funds for Scholarships and Tech Trek, and Dr. Dunbar and the planning team have crafted an unforgettable experience for you.





The AAUW Tampa Branch ...
Hosts the Pelican Players



Get in on the fun and join us at: Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Hall 304 Druid Hills Road, Temple Terrace, FL

Tickets: \$75.00

Mail checks to: AAUW Tampa, P O Box 292275, Temple Terrace, FL 33687



Payment Options



Questions? Contact aauwtampafinance@gmail.com









How to send money with Zelle'







ACCESS ZELLE®

Get started by enrolling your email or U.S. mobile number through your mobile banking app or with the Zelle" app.

PICK A PERSON TO PAY

Enter the preferred email address or U.S. mobile number of the recipient. You can send money to almost anyone¹ you know and trust with a bank account in the U.S.

CHOOSE THE AMOUNT

Enter the amount to send. If your recipient is already enrolled with Zelle", the money will go directly into their bank account.

Florida's Amendment 4: A Crucial Step for Women's Autonomy

As the Public Policy Chair for the AAUW Tampa Branch, it's imperative to address the significance of Florida's Amendment 4, the Right to Abortion Initiative, which will appear on the November 2024 ballot. This amendment seeks to enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution, ensuring that no law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider.

AAUW's Support for Amendment 4

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has long championed the rights of women to make autonomous decisions regarding their reproductive health. AAUW's mission to advance gender equity through education, advocacy, and research aligns with the principles of Amendment 4, which aims to protect women's rights to make personal medical decisions without government interference.

Why Amendment 4 Matters

- 1. **Protecting Women's Health and Autonomy**: The current law in Florida, championed by Governor DeSantis, restricts abortion access to just six weeks, a period in which many women may not even realize they are pregnant. This limitation not only undermines women's autonomy but also poses significant health risks. Amendment 4 seeks to rectify this by allowing abortions up to the point of fetal viability, or when necessary to protect the woman's health, thus prioritizing women's well-being and decision-making power.
- 2. Addressing Unreasonable Restrictions: The existing restrictions are not reasonable as the y fail to consider the complexities of individual health circumstances. Abortion is often a last resort, and being denied access can be traumatizing, especially when it is necessary for life-saving reasons. Amendment 4 ensures that such critical decisions remain between a woman and her healthcare provider, free from political influence.
- 3. **Maintaining Government Neutrality:** It's crucial to keep government out of personal medical decisions. The amendment reinforces the idea that reproductive choices should be made based on medical advice and personal circumstances, not political agendas. This is essential for maintaining the integrity and privacy of women's healthcare.







Ballot Title

Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

Ballot Summary

The proposed amendment will state: "No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion".

This language aims to ensure that personal medical decisions regarding abortion remain between a patient and their healthcare provider, free from political interference. The amendment requires a 60% supermajority vote for approval to be added to the Florida Constitution.

The ballot will present Amendment 4 as a measure to limit government interference with abortion, explicitly stating that no law shall restrict abortion before viability or when necessary for the patient's health. It maintains the Legislature's authority to require parental notification for minors seeking an abortion.

Mobilizing Support for Amendment 4

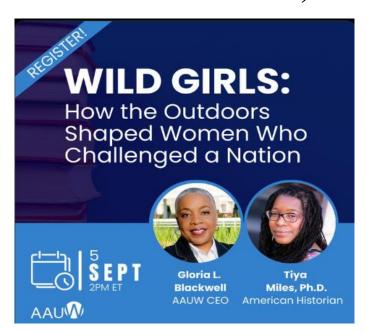
As an organization, we can take several steps to support this initiative:

- 1. **Educate and Advocate**: Share information about Amendment 4 and its implications with friends, family, and colleagues. Host informational sessions or community forums to discuss the importance of protecting reproductive rights.
- 2. **Engage in Voter Outreach**: Participate in get-out-the-vote campaigns to ensure that supporters of women's rights are registered and ready to vote in November.
- 3. **Leverage Social Media**: Use social media platforms to spread awareness and counter misinformation about the amendment. Highlight personal stories and expert opinions to emphasize the necessity of this measure.
- 4. **Collaborate with Organizations**: Partner with organizations like the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and Floridians Protecting Freedom, which are actively campaigning for the amendment's passage.

By advocating for Amendment 4, we uphold the AAUW's commitment to gender equity and the empowerment of women to make informed choices about their bodies and futures. Let's ensure that Florida leads the way in safeguarding reproductive rights and setting a precedent for other states to follow.

Authored By: Michelle J. Douglass, Esq. CO-CHAIR, PUBLIC POLICY

In the Know, Resources, and More



Join CEO Gloria L. Blackwell for a conversation with AAUW alumna, Dr. Tiya Miles (Community Action Grant, 2012-2014) about her book Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation. Dr. Miles discusses her work that puts girls of all races—and the landscapes they loved—at center stage and reveals the impact of the outdoors on women's independence, resourcefulness, and vision.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

Our General Election: November5
Deadline to Register: October7
Early Voting: October 26 - November 2
Vote by Mail Ballot Request Deadline: October 24

Vote by Mail ballot must be returned and received by the Supervisor of Elections in County of registration no later than 7 pm. on Election Day.

#ItsMyVote #FloridaVotes #AAUWVotes
#PowerinOurVote #PowerinOurVoice #AAUWTampaVotes

AAUW Tampa encourages every member to be prepared and ready for the upcoming 2024 U.S. Federal and Florida State elections. There are important issues on the ballot, such as reproductive freedom, women's economic security, and questions of partisan education boards. Initiate conversations within AAUW Tampa and join the conversations with AAUW National and AAUW Florida. Become an informed voter and elevate your impact!

Click the Link to Get Registered: https://act.aauw.org/3Mnvr59

Authored By: Kay Lee-Smith, Ph.D. CO-CHAIR, PUBLIC POLICY

Book Projects From Our Own Carolyn Austin

Greetings AAUW! I wanted to share my book projects with you.

Learn more about this Life-Changing Healing Project by visiting

www.prayersofmymother.c om or scanning the QR code.

> Carolyn Austin DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP



Prayers of My Mother: Volume I

Prayers of My Mother "is a collection of beautiful prayers, meditations, and anecdotes that celebrate the author's experience of faith..." Readers' Favorite

Don't Eat Your Vomit! We All Do This

"Don't Eat Your Vomit! is a relatable memoir. I read this book with bated breath. It was thought-provoking and a cause for self-reflection..." Readers' Favorite

"Austin is a born storyteller, as her stories are full of drama and intrigue." BookLife Prize



Learn more about this Life-Changing Healing Project by visiting www.prayersofmymother.com or scanning the QR code.



Branch Grant Funding: October 1 Deadline is Near



Access the Guidelines and instructions, as well as all applicable forms on the AAUW FL website under the Branch Resources page.

AAUW Florida is funding mission-based programs or project ideas ranging from \$100 to \$1500 to support the women and girls achieve their full potential. Prepare and submit your proposal today ahead of the upcoming October 1 deadline.

Proposals must have a direct community impact and align with AAUW-FL's purposes.

Questions?
Contact <u>Diana Sells</u>,
AAUW Florida Director for Programs.

Become a Two-Minute Activist



Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

- Tell your X followers about the Two-Minute Activist
- Share Two-Minute Activist on Facebook

Take future action with a single click.

• Log in or Sign up for Fast Action



Topic	DATE	of Florida SPEAKERS	RSVP
Education and School Board Amendment	Thur., Sep. 5, 2024	The League of Women Voters will update on the outcomes of the Florida 2024 legislative session regarding its impact on education and what we might expect in the 2025 session, along with an overview of the upcoming ballot amendment to make board elections partisan	RSVP for this session!
LGBTQ+ Families and Florida's Don't Say Gay Laws	Tues., Oct. 8, 2024	Join a conversation with Clark University Professor Abbie Goldberg where she shares some findings from her research on Impact of HB 1557 (Florida's Don't Say Gay bill) on LGBTQ+ parents in Florida ; and we discuss next steps in regard to research and collaborations on this important issue.	RSVP for this session!
Addiction, Public Health & Criminal Justice	Thur., Nov. 14, 2024	Come hear Rutgers Professor Patricia Roos talk about her new, deeply personal book sharing her son's struggles with mental health and addiction, that led to his death at twenty-five years old. Professor Roos will share ways to realign our public health and criminal justice policies to address the overdose crisis.	RSVP for this session!
Black Girls in Florida Schools	Thur., Jan. 9, 2025	Bayliss Fiddiman, National Women's Law Center, will join us to discuss a <u>case study of Black girls in Miami-Dade schools</u> , and their experience with harsh school discipline policies. The girls reported harassment, harm, humiliation and other challenges. The study provides recommendations to promote a positive school climate through holistic school safety.	RSVP for this session!
Florida Legislative Preview	Thur., Feb. 13, 2025	Come learn about AAUW Florida's work in Tallahassee this year. Dr. Pat DeWitt, AAUW Co-Public Policy Director will share the upcoming AAUW Florida legislative agenda.	RSVP for this session!
Pay Gap, Caregiving &Economic Security	Thur., Mar. 6, 2025	Come hear Dr. Mary Gatta, AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director and Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers share her latest research on the gender pay gap, caregiving and economic security.	RSVP for this session!
Gender and Race Equity in STEM	Thur., Apr. 3, 2025	University of Central Florida Professor Amanda Koontz will join us to share her research on an NSF- funded project on gender and racial equity for women in STEM at UCF.	RSVP for this session!



Join Us!

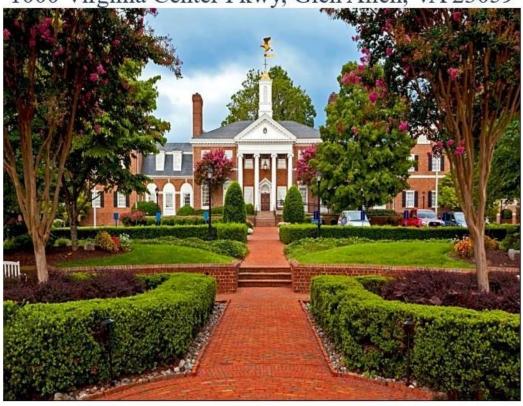
for the

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference in Glen Allen, Virginia

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

September 27th-29th, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center 1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059



AAUW Tampa Calendar of Events- 2024-2025



Stay Connected, Like & Share



Making A Difference for over 100 Years

Learn More AAUW Tampa:

http://tampafl.aauw.net/

Access the AAUW
Tampa Branch
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https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/bylaws/



AAUW Tampa Membership: https://tampafl.aauw.net/memb ership/

Share the benefits of membership with others:

<u>aauwtampamembe</u> rship@gmail.com

Access the AAUW Community Hub to renew membership: https://my.aauw.org/onlinejoin

Learn more or find out how to donate to AAUW Tampa Tech Trek: aauwtampatechtrek@gmail.com

Share your interests related to forming a Special Interest Group: aauwtampainfo@gmail.com

Stay in the Know with AAUW Florida: https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/

Stay in the Know with AAUW National:

https://www.aauw.org/

