

Happy New Year AAUW Tampa!

As we usher in 2024, I would like to wish each of you, your family, loved ones and friends a very productive, peaceful, and fulsome year filled with joy and successes.

As you will read in President Miller's message **(pgs. 2-3)**, we are gearing up for many great things between January and May of 2024. Be on the lookout for upcoming events and activities on the calendar **(pg. 4)**

including our first meeting of the year **(pg. 5)** on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11am at the Temple Terrace Golf Club, where we will hear about SCORE Tampa from our very own, Paula Thomas.

In the remainder of the newsletter, you will find:

- Upcoming Executive Board position availability and a call for nominations **(pg. 6)**
- Reminders regarding Self-Care, Tech Trek, and AAUW Lobby Days **(pgs. 7-8)**
- A look at New Year's Day Traditions **(pg. 9)**
- A recap of top stories from 2023 **(pgs. 10-11)**
- Pictures of the 2023 Holiday Party and Meeting **(pgs. 12-15)**
- Resources for staying connected with AAUW Tampa **(pg. 16)**

I look forward to seeing each of you in the new year! Until we meet again, have a wonderful beginning to this new year!

Sincerely,

D. Rostick-Owens, EdD



2023-2024 BOARD

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PARLIAMENTARIAN: Dr. Gloria Hilton

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SECRETARY: RECORDING: Paula Huzella

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER: Solana Rostick

CONTACT US:

tampa-fl.aauw.net or AAUWTampainfo@gmail.com or PO Box 292275, Temple Terrace, FL 33687

A Message from the President



Shella Miller,
President
AAUW Tampa
2022-2024

Dear AAUW Tampa Members:

Happy New Year!!!!!! Over the holidays, I hope you were able to find some well needed downtime for self-care, rest, and relaxation as you charged up for the 2024 year. As we end one year and enter another, I would like to take an opportunity to give thanks and appreciation to our Executive Board and the dedicated members of AAUW for your unwavering support and contributions to ensure our branch is successful. I am excited about finishing our 2024 membership year strong, as we set sights to accomplish our vision and goals in the New Year.

We continue to strive to become a 5 STAR AAUW Branch that brings value to its community by achieving progress in our three focus areas: 1) Membership Experience, 2) Quality Programs, and 3) Increased Collaborations. This year we have much to look forward to, including participating in our upcoming meetings. This year, Ms. Paula Thomas, AAUW Tampa's Corresponding Secretary and Board Member, will kick-off our 2024 meetings by sharing details about SCORE in our January meeting. We also are gearing up for hosting our annual fundraiser in March, conducting elections in April, and greeting our newest members during the New Member Social in May! We also look forward to awarding our STEM scholarships, selecting our Tech Trek participants, and enjoying the fellowship of Colors Day and New Officer Installations.



Shared leadership is an important part of any organization's governance, and it takes a team to bring AAUW into the future. We look forward to working with and developing new leaders to help conduct plans and actions for AAUW Tampa. If you are interested in running for office, please contact AAUW Tampa's Vice President, Ms. Catherine Clark Martin to share your interest in a position that will become vacant. Impending vacancies include: President, Vice President, Director of Tech Trek, Director of Finance, Correspondence Secretary, Director of Membership, Director of Communications, Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian, Director of Social Media, Director of Public Policy, and Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI).



I am also extremely excited about the State of Florida's Pathway to Leadership training that will be rolling out some leadership development training this year. I highly recommend and encourage everyone to take part in the training if you can. It will be helpful to everyone, current leaders, future leaders, or anyone curious about leadership. I had a chance to preview the training, and it was highly informative and well done.

In addition to the items mentioned above, I would like to bring your awareness to a couple of other items.

1. It is the new year, so it is time to consider your membership renewals.
 - a. New Members: You should plan to renew your membership on the anniversary of your "Join Date."

A Message from the President, cont.

- b. For those of us whose memberships were grandfathered in at the time updated requirements, our anniversary date is June 30th.
 - c. In both cases, members will submit renewal through the community hub. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Ms. Tara Perkins, Director of Membership at hammond tara@aol.com or Dr. Ebony Shoemo, Director of Finance at aauwtampafinance@gmail.com.
2. AAUW Lobby Days in Tallahassee will be January 16 and 17th, 2024. This is an opportunity to observe and take part in the legislative process and connect with legislators on pressing issues on AAUW's agenda.
3. In lieu of a traditional statewide convention, the AAUW Florida (AAUW FL) will host Four Regional Conferences between March and April. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with other branches, share and learn about best practices, and gain a wider perspective of AAUW and the work being done. Our conference will be held at The Villages, Saturday, March 16th, 2024. As more details are released, I will share the information. It would be great for Tampa AAUW to have a good turnout. Last year Ms. Kim Rostick and I represented Tampa. We would love to see more people from our branch attend this year.
4. Special thanks to everyone who participated in our first ever toy drive for kids in the foster system. We had over twenty (20) toys donated and delivered to Voices for Children before the Christmas holiday.
5. I am very excited about AAUW Florida's Pathway to Leadership Program, which was the vision of our current State of Florida President Ms. Bea Holt. This is an effort to build leaders and leadership knowledge within AAUW and to train members to feel more comfortable about the leadership roles at the state and branch levels. AAUW FL has planned a preview and demonstration of one of the modules for the Presidents' group which covers Governance, Finance, and Leadership, the collective responsibilities of the board of directors.



Enjoy the first issue of the New Year! We look forward to seeing everyone at the January 13th meeting, where we will welcome as our speaker our very own Executive Board Member, Ms. Paula Thomas. Let us have a room full to represent her. Please text or email your RSVP and meal choices to Rev. Martha Vaguener at 813-362-5799 or mvaguener@aol.com!

Regards,
Shella M. Miller, FACHE
AAUW Tampa Branch President

Friendly Reminders:

- Invite, Invite, Invite to Monthly Meetings
- We are looking for candidates for several officer positions. Elections are coming in April. See the flyer included in this newsletter.
- Please remember to check your membership renewal anniversary dates and renew your membership when it comes due.
- You may Process New Memberships, Membership Renewals and Donations in the Community Hub by following the step-by-step instructions made available on the [Community Hub Tools and Resources](#) page. You can also find answers to your most [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

January-at-a-Glance

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 <u>New Year's Day</u>	2 <u>World Introvert Day</u>	3 <u>Fruitcake Toss Day</u>	4 <u>Trivia Day</u>	5	6
7	8 <u>Bubble Bath Day</u>	9	10 <u>Houseplant Appreciation Day</u>	11	12 <u>National Hot Tea Day</u>	13 AAUW Monthly Meeting
14	15 <u>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</u>	16	17	18 <u>Thesaurus Day</u>	19	20
21 <u>National Hugging Day</u>	22	23	24 <u>Compliment Day</u>	25	26 <u>Spouse's Day</u>	27 <u>Chocolate Cake Day</u>
28 <u>Fun at Workday</u>	29 <u>National Puzzle Day</u>	30	31 <u>Inspire Your Heart with Art Day</u>	National Days were retrieved from <u>Holiday Insights</u>		



Carolyn Eberhart

January 10

Yvette Williams

January 14

Cindy Hovi

January 19

January 13 - Meeting

Join Us!

Save the Date!

JANUARY
13
2024



11 o'clock



Mrs. Paula Thomas, AAUW Tampa's Corresponding Secretary and Board Member, will kick-off our 2024 meetings by sharing details about SCORE in our January meeting.

"Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE's 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources, and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. ...

No matter where you are on your entrepreneurial journey, our SCORE mentors are ready to assist. Our mentors are highly successful and seasoned business professionals and entrepreneurs with the experience and knowledge to help you achieve your business goals."



(Find more info at <https://www.score.org/tampa>)

AAUW Tampa Board Opportunities

Shared leadership is an important part of any organization's governance, and it takes a team to bring AAUW into the future. We look forward to working with and developing new leaders to help carry out plans and actions for AAUW Tampa.

Looking for a few good members

Elections are coming! Consider joining the team!



It's time to think about elections and your opportunities to serve Tampa's AAUW branch. If you are interested in running for a position, or would like to nominate someone for a position, please fill out the Google form. All positions can have co-chairs, and this includes the President's position.

Open Positions:

- President
- Vice-President
- Director Tek-Trek
- Director Finance
- Correspondence Secretary
- Director Membership
- Director Communications
- Recording Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Director Social Media
- Director Public Policy
- Director DEI

If you are interested in running for office, please contact AAUW Tampa's Vice President, Mrs. Catherine Clark Martin to share your interest in a position

Looking Ahead

Wow, the year 2024 is upon us! I first would like to personally wish everyone a wonderful new year, filled with many blessings; much happiness and love.

As we embark in the customary New Year's Resolution, please do not forget to care for yourself as well. Many will want to lose weight. Some would like to travel more. Others may want to read more books. Whatever you decide to do, the question should be: "Who are you making these decisions for"? Yes, we do these things, for our families, children, and significant others. But if you don't do it for yourself first, your loved ones will not benefit from all your efforts.

I AM ENOUGH, I AM LOVED, I AM WORTH IT!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Florida Atlantic University and Stetson University

AAUW Tampa Branch appreciates Hillsborough County science and math teachers who nominated students for Tech Trek 2024. Phase I is complete with a total of 14 student nominations from the following schools: (6) Dorothy C. York Innovation Academy (6), Girls of the World, Incl (4), Jennings Middle School (1), Rampello Downtown Partnership (1), Trinity School for Children (1), and Young Middle Magnet School (1).

Phase II begins now. There will be a Parent Information Session on January 13th. Nominated students must complete individual applications by January 31.

Tech Trek takes places at Stetson June 9-15 and Florida Atlantic University June 16-22.

ACTION ITEM: Please consider supporting Tech Trek through a donation to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. The cost per camper will be \$1200 in 2024. Families are asked to pay \$50 only. Checks should be made payable to AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. with Tech Trek on the memo line. Mail checks to Tech Trek Florida, P.O. Box 126, Palm City, FL 34991.

View AAUW Tech Trek video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldHrgdn290M>

Lobby Days: January 16 & 17, 2024

Our Opportunity to be Heard!

AAUW Florida Lobby Days are our opportunity to observe and take part in the legislative process and to influence it in the direction of equity, especially for women and girls. AAUW Florida offers significant monetary assistance to those willing to travel to Tallahassee, which not every comparable organization does, but it does represent a financial commitment for those participating.

However, this is one of the most important things we do as a state AAUW affiliate and is explained in our policies. Legislators, including Rep. Anna Eskamani who spoke with us on the November 16 Public Policy Issues Forum, tell us that being present in Tallahassee to advocate for our priorities is very important.

Here's a link to the recording of that Nov. 16 Forum, which also contains tips on lobbying and discussion of four bills: <https://vimeo.com/886233850?share=copy>

If you are considering joining us in Tally, please register at the link below. There is no obligation; when you register you will be kept in the loop as to plans.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6kapEWxd0O_0p6qlgsDdAPUA65fH6WAMFwXrh2nik0DL0ag/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Lobby Days will be January 16-17, with arrival on the 15th. The hotel is Wyndham Garden, 1355 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee. Here is the link to register at the hotel: [Wyndham Garden Tallahassee Capitol Rooms & Rates \(wyndhamhotels.com\)](https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/tallahassee).
- Half the room cost of \$120 will be subsidized by AAUW Florida, so with a roommate there would be no cost for the participant for lodging.
- We will offer a small allowance for travel for the driver. Please try to share. Meals including one group meal are on one's own.
- Activities during Lobby Days will include a group dinner on Tuesday evening and meetings with legislators who support our priorities. We want to thank and encourage them! Please arrange a meeting with your own legislator(s) during our time at the capitol whenever you can.
- You will be provided with position papers to leave behind and talking points on the bills the Public Policy Committee has identified to support or oppose.



Lobby Week at Home!

We encourage branches to plan to visit your local legislators during the weeks leading up to the 2024 legislative session. Free weeks are: January 1-5, 2024

In addition, please consider approaching legislators who may not usually be supportive, asking them questions about our areas of concern such as pay equity and personal control of health care.

For information contact:

Bea Holt - AAUW Florida President: aauwflbholt@gmail.com or

Kay Lee Smith - AAUW Florida President-Elect: aauwflksmith@gmail.com.

New Year's Traditions

(*Retrieved from <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/g25360543/new-year-traditions/>)

Seeking Peace



"Many believe that anyone who makes this dish of black-eyed peas, pork and rice on January 1 will experience luck and peace for the rest of the year."* **Add to your menu, greens for future dollars and cornbread for bars of gold!**

Setting Goals



"You might think that making resolutions for the new year is a relatively recent trend, historically speaking, but the tradition is very old — and likely dates back more than 4,000 years." **What are your resolutions? Eating better, exercising more, or changing jobs?**

Seeking Good Luck



"To Greeks, onions are a symbol of good luck & fertility, because they sprout even when no one is paying attention... On New Year's Eve, families in Greece hang bundles of onions above their doors... inviting prosperity into the home."*

Chasing Bad Spirits Out



"While lots of countries have food-related traditions, Ireland's most interesting tradition doesn't involve eating. Instead, the Irish bang Christmas bread on the walls of their homes" ... chase any bad spirits out"*

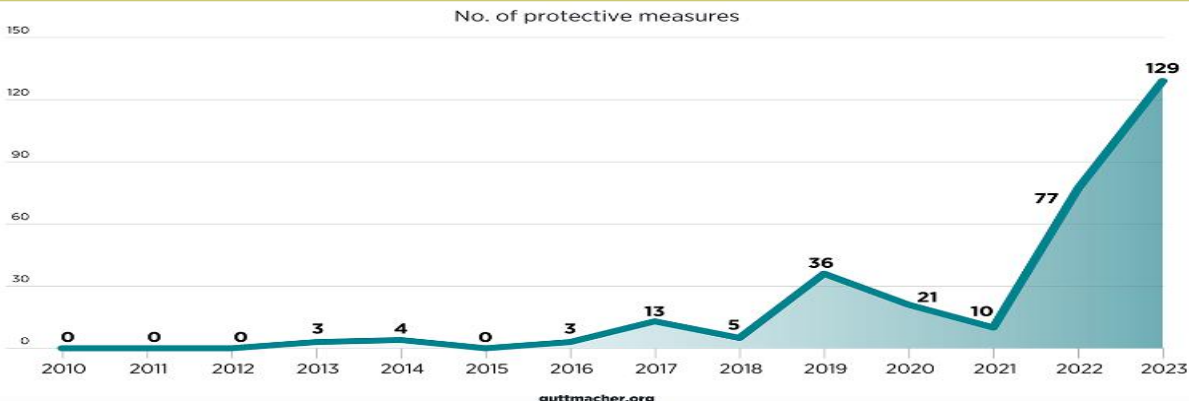
Welcoming in the New Year



"It's a common superstition that opening the doors and windows will let the old year out, and the new year in unimpeded."*

Top News and Stories of 2023

A record number of state-level abortion protections passed in 2023



Retrieved from/Read more:

<https://www.guttmacher.org/2023/12/state-policy-trends-2023-first-full-year-roe-fell-tumultuous-year-abortion-and-other#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20four%20states%E2%80%94Minnesota,their%20support%20for%20reproductive%20autonomy>

The New York Times® Best Sellers



Retrieved from/Read more:

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/the-new-york-times-bestsellers/_/N-1p3n

What is the future with AI?



Retrieved from/Read more:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-12-28/ai-2024-predictions-more-powerful-tools-a-little-less-hype>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/dec/30/ai-artificial-intelligence-2023-long-term-impact-nvidia-h100-microsoft>

Top Stories of 2023

The gender pay gap is still pretty wide...

In 2023, women are earning 77 cents for every dollar earned by White men, the racial group with the highest pay across occupations. That figure takes the average pay for all full- and part-time working women and compares it with the average pay for White men. Mar 14, 2023



Retrieved from/Read more:

<https://19thnews.org/2023/03/equal-pay-day-2023-charts-gender-pay-gap/>

The Dow's trip to 37,000



Retrieved from/Read more:

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/14/the-dows-trip-to-37000-and-how-long-it-may-take-to-get-to-38000.html>

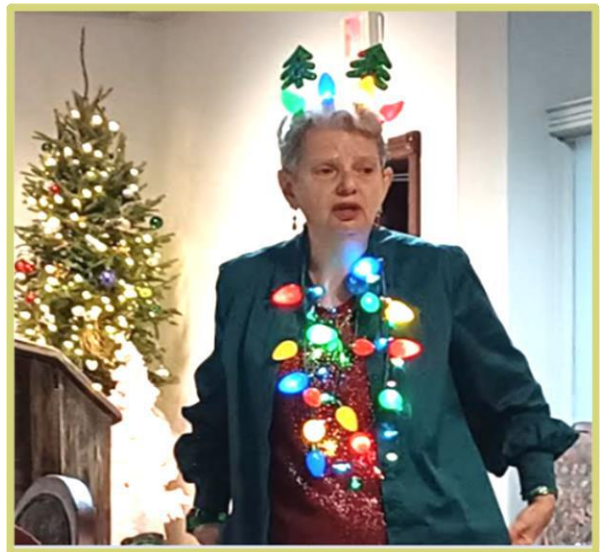
Number of women in Congress hits record-high in 2023



Retrieved from/Read more:

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/03/118th-congress-has-a-record-number-of-women/>
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/23/politics/election-2022-record-women-in-congress/index.html>

Happy Holidays 2023



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Happy Holidays 2023



Stay Connected, Like & Share

AAUW Tampa: <http://tampafl.aauw.net/>

AAUW Tampa Membership:
<https://tampafl.aauw.net/membership/>

Access the AAUW Tampa Branch Bylaws:
<https://tampafl.aauw.net/bylaws/>

Share the benefits of membership with others:
aawtampamembership@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: aawtampatechtrek@gmail.com

Share your interests related to forming a Special Interest Group: aawtampainfo@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/>