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Hello AAUW Tampa Members,

I hope this newsletter finds each of you well. It's amazing that we are already in the last month of 2024. Reflecting on the past year, we have accomplished so much together. AAUW Tampa's Board has been actively meeting, various committees have been diligently working, and new fundraising endeavors have successfully commenced.

Our Tampa Branch is growing, with several new members joining our ranks. It's exciting to see things moving in such a positive direction, and I am confident that this momentum will continue as we enter the new year.

Reflecting on our achievements, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication and hard work each of you has contributed. From organizing events to participating in discussions and supporting our initiatives, your efforts have made a significant impact, some of which are highlighted in this month's newsletter.

Here are a few additional reminders:

- **December Calendar and Birthdays:** Check out page 2 for all the important dates and birthdays this month.
- **December Holiday Party and Meeting:** Join us for a festive celebration and gift exchange on December 21 at 11am at The Children's Board of Hillsborough County. Don't forget to RSVP and pay \$25 by December 4 (page 2).
- **Inspiration Corner:** Read about the Cyber Security experience of Carolyn Austin, Director of Programs.
- **STEM Scholarship:** Spread the word about the \$1000 STEM Scholarship (page 5).
- **Women's Economic Empowerment Initiatives:** Learn about the initiatives offered by AAUW National (page 6).
- **AAUW Tampa 2024 In Review:** Reflect on our achievements and milestones from the past year (pages 7-10).
- **Connect, Like, and Share:** Stay connected with us on social media (page 11).

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. Let's keep this spirit alive and continue to make a difference in our community. Here's to a successful and fulfilling 2025!

Happy Holidays,
Demetrix Rostick-Owens



Goodbye
2024
Hello
2025

CONTACT US: tampa-fl.aauw.net; AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com; PO Box 172715 Tampa FL, 33672

December 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRID	SAT	
1 World AIDS Day	2 Cyber Monday	3 Giving Tuesday 5 Ways → →	 <p>1 GIVE YOUR VOICE Sign a petition, speak up for a cause or issue.</p> <p>2 GIVE YOUR TIME OR TALENT Volunteer or donate your skills to help a nonprofit thrive.</p> <p>3 GIVE MONEY Donate to a nonprofit or run a fundraiser for a cause that matters to you.</p> <p>4 GIVE GOODS Organize a supply drive or donate clothes or you don't need anymore.</p> <p>5 INSPIRE OTHERS When we share our generosity, we inspire others. Share how you took action on social with #GivingTuesday.</p>				
8 Bodhi Day	9	10 Human Rights Day	 <p>Accessibility Independence Justice Dignity Cooperation Equality Rule of Law</p>			14 National Wreaths Day	
15 Bill of Rights Day	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21 Holiday Party 11am	
22 	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day, Hanukkah Begins	26 First day of Kwanzaa	27 National Fruitcake Day	28 National Call a Friend Day	
29 	30 National Bacon Day	31 New Year's Eve	<p>December is Known for: Older Driver Safety Awareness, National Influenza, National Cooke Cutter Week, World Choral Day, World Violin Day, and the 12 days of Christmas</p>				



Happy Birthday
Lee Schmoll (Dec 3),
Berthenya Dunbar (Dec 5), and
Paula Thomas (Dec 15)



December 21, 2024 (11am)

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Details:

December 21, 2024
(11am-1pm)
The Children's
Board of
Hillsborough
1002 E Palm Ave,
Tampa, FL 33605

RSVP Reminder for the AAUW Tampa Holiday Party!

December 4th is the extended deadline, to RSVP for our party, so fine. On December 21st, we'll gather with cheer, but if you can't meet this deadline, never fear!

Just call or text Carolyn, our Programs Director, at 954-817-4883, she's our party planner. Do this by December 14th, don't delay, so we can celebrate in a merry way!

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/nxNN4JVghnEDE4d29> or
Contact Us: (813) 418-9882 or aauwkampfinance@gmail.com



Gift Exchange

If you want to join in the gift exchange fun,
Please limit the gift value to \$20, everyone.



Inspirational Corner

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Psalm 37:23-24 NIV

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; [24] though he may stumble, He will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

If you missed the November meeting about Cyber Security, here is a personal experience that I can share!

I finally arrived in Banner, Wyoming for my long-awaited writing fellowship, a three-week writing sabbatical. It was a great reprieve until my eSIM card for my iPhone was hacked! I think the vulnerability and access occurred when I used the hotel's WiFi for both my laptop and my cell phone twenty-four hours prior to my arrival. They always give a disclaimer that the WiFi connections are not secure.

I have, we have, way too much financial information on our phones! Hacking my eSim card gave them access to my email where I receive paperless cell phone statements. Apparently, they used my passcode from the statement and the direct billing attached to my account to pay off my current iPhone and buy another phone, transferring my phone number to their new phone, and thus changing my passwords.

When my phone stopped receiving and sending text messages around 11am Saturday morning, I thought it was just the bad reception. In actuality, my phone number was no longer my phone number. They took over my Amazon, Apple Pay, and Wells Fargo accounts. They purchased stocks, shopped at Footlocker and the on-line Adidas store. The only reason I caught this is because of the \$833 Spectrum automatic withdrawal from my checking account which I knew was wrong, and coincidentally viewed on my banking app.



It took me 4 - 6 hours on the phone with Spectrum and the banks cancelling my phone service and setting it up again and closing my bank accounts. I was even getting text messages from Amazon asking me to confirm my identity because the perpetrators were attempting Amazon purchases while I was on the phone with Spectrum transitioning my cell phone number and account back to me!

The double-edged sword is had I not had the banking app on my phone, I would never have caught this early. It was a nightmare! I can only go up from here!

Lord God, thank You for allowing us to see things in the nick of time. Father, help us find that happy medium between using the banking apps, phone apps, and overuse of those same apps. Father, we love You and praise Your holy name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Authored by Carolyn Austin, AAUW Director of Programs

STEM Scholarships

Page 5

Are you a rising undergraduate junior, senior, or a graduate student at a local university? The AAUW Tampa Branch is thrilled to announce a **\$1,000 scholarship** opportunity just for you! This is your chance to shine and secure some extra funds for your education. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to support your academic journey!

AAUW Members, we need you to spread the word!!! Please share this exciting news with any students who might be interested. Details are below. Let's make this scholarship a huge success and help our students achieve their dreams!



Application due by Friday, February 14, 2025

The American Association of University Women Tampa Branch 2025 STEM Scholarship



Eligibility

- Female Undergraduate Junior, Undergraduate Senior or Graduate Student in 2025-2026
- Full time enrollment (Undergraduate must have minimum of 12 credit hours)
- STEM Major
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Resident of the State of Florida
- U.S. Citizen
- Financial Need

Apply TODAY

<https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/scholarship/>



Award \$1,000

&

One year local membership to AAUW Tampa Branch

Questions? Email us at AAUWTampaScholarships@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Underrepresentation



Women earn **57.3%** of all bachelor's degrees but only **38.6%** in STEM.

Scholarships



About **33%** of private scholarships go to STEM students.

Employment



Women make up just **27%** of all STEM employees as of 2019.

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee: Gloria Hilton (Chair), Connie Fountain, Kim Rostick, Pat Tabone, and Paula Thomas



women's economic empowerment initiative



As the year draws to a close, AAUW wants to end 2024 on a high note and unlock opportunities for personal and professional growth with the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Join empowering webinars, continuing into December, designed specifically for women, to enhance career and financial skills and to achieve success in the new year.

AAUW Work Smart: Refresher

Date: December 3, 2024

Time: 3 – 4 p.m. ET

If you've previously participated in any Start Smart, Work Smart or Work Smart Online programs, this is a perfect opportunity to brush up on your skills.

[Register Now](#)

Fundamentals of Saving for Retirement

Date: December 5, 2024

Time: 12 – 1 p.m. ET

This session provides info for retirement planning. Participants make informed financial decisions. FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

[Register Now](#)

Developing Your Value Statement

Date: December 10, 2024

Time: 3 – 4 p.m. ET

Understanding your value is key for salary negotiation. This session covers developing your Value Statement, the first step in Knowing Your Value.

[Register Now](#)

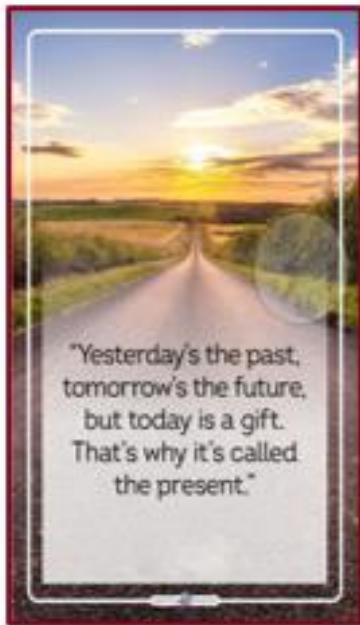
AAUW National Webinars

AAUW webinars are designed not just to educate but to transform. They provide practical, actionable strategies that empower MEMBERS and VISITORS to take charge of your career and financial future.

To schedule for additional Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative webinars can be found [HERE](#).

AAUW Tampa 2024 In-Review

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In 2024, oh what a year, women in America had much to cheer. From boardrooms to ballots, they made their mark, with courage and strength, they lit up the dark.

In the C-suites, they rose, breaking the mold, More women in leadership, stories bold. The gender pay gap, though still in sight, narrowed down to its smallest height.

In politics, they stood tall and proud, breaking barriers, drawing a crowd. Reproductive rights, fiercely defended, fighting for freedoms that shouldn't be ended.

In classrooms and labs, they led the way, inspiring young minds, day by day. With laughter and love, they paved the way, For a brighter, more equal, future day.

So, here's to the women, their stories bold, 2024, their tales were told. With laughter and love, they paved the way, For a brighter, equal, future day.

Winter 2024

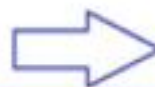
As the year draws to a close, we reflect and cheer, the moments we have shared,
and the memories we hold dear.

In January, with hope and delight, we gathered, our future in sight. In February, challenges came, yet we stood tall, moved our meeting to Zoom, celebrated one and all. In March, Dr. Lee-Smith inspired and taught, on equity for women, her wisdom we sought. Our scholarship winners brought joy and blooms, as we navigated change and brightened our rooms.



A Call to Action- Urgent Membership Update

AAUW Tampa members, have you ever taken the time to read our tag line?
If you haven't let me remind you with a simple picture...



AAUW Tampa: Making A Difference for over 100 years

[View 2024 Proposed Bylaws Changes](#)

[Celebrating the Academic Achievements of Girls & Women](#)

Spring 2024

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In April, we gathered with purpose and care, Dr. Poddar spoke on children, a cause so rare. She shared the need for mentors and volunteers, to support foster kids and calm their fears.

We marked important dates and birthdays too, Reviewed the election ballot, our duties to pursue. Nominations for the Ribbon of Honor were sought, as we prepared to vote, with much to be taught.

In May, Mrs. Paula Thomas took the stage, Sharing SCORE's mission, wisdom to engage. Helping entrepreneurs with guidance and cheer, to start, grow, or exit, their goals made clear.



VOTING
OCCURS
APR 3-MAY 15



Thank You!!!

Thank you AAUW Florida for meeting the need of keeping girls in STEM! It is with great appreciation, we proudly send 5 young 7th graders to the [2024 TECH TREK CAMP!!!](#)



Critical Need for Volunteers and Mentors for Children in Foster Care

Submitted by Dr. Rakmini Poddar, AAUW Tampa Member



Summer 2024

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SWOT Analysis

S: Leadership board is strong, inclusive for newcomers; Relationships members and friendship & Strong women

W: Not checking on people consistently, Lacking Fundraiser; & Inconsistent location

O: Need projector for meetings & AI learning more about this process- how to integrate and or understanding

T: Leadership training or binders & Considering information for all levels of tech ability

Fall 2024

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In September, we gathered with cheer, celebrated birthdays, events drawing near. A meeting at the library Tech Trek in sight, a mystery dinner fundraiser, a night of delight.

October brought insights, updates to share, fundraisers, pay gap issues, showing we care. Public policy matters, voting rights in view, preparing for elections, with much to pursue.

In November, cooler weather, and holidays near, we reflect on challenges, our resilience clear. World Kindness Day calls for acts so small, checking on neighbors, uplifting all.



OCTOBER 18, 2024
 Doors open: 10:30AM
 Show time: 11:05AM - 8:30PM

AAUW TAMPA BRANCH
 ...hosts the Pelican Players in partnership with THE CHILD CHILD

World Our Restaurant (Lafayette Church Hall)
 250 Grand Hills Road, Tampa, Florida, FL
 Tickets: \$75.00
 Mail check to:
 AAUW Tampa, P.O. Box 200376,
 Tampa, Florida, FL 33687
 *OR purchase tickets through Ticket
<https://tampabrand.org>
 Questions about ticket sales:
aaupatterson@tampabrand.org
 ATTN: Sue Morris, Finance Officer




November 16 (11AM)
 at the Children's Board of
 Hillsborough County,
 1002 East Palm Avenue,
 Tampa, FL 33625.

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	FOCUS GENDER EQUALITY FAIR WAGES HEALTH WELLNESS	MANAGE Stay focused on the mission and your goals
NOT IMPORTANT	DELEGATE Take action with your allies, those who can/will help	LIMIT Unfair Practices that Target Women's Health

Stay Connected, Like & Share



Tampa (FL) Branch

Making A Difference for over 100 Years

Learn More AAUW

Tampa:

<http://tampa-fl.aauw.net/>



AAUW Tampa Membership:

<https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/membership/>

Access the AAUW Tampa Branch

Bylaws:

<https://tampa-fl.aauw.net/bylaws/>

Share the benefits of membership with others:

aauwstampamembership@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: aauwstampatechtrek@gmail.com

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



Do you have questions?

Want to share an idea?

Email Us @

aauwstampainfo@gmail.com