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Good Day AAUW Tampa,

I hope this message finds you well. AAUW Tampa is thriving, and we look forward to a wonderful February as we celebrate Black History Month. Despite upcoming policy changes in the US, we will persevere. Remember, we are mighty together, and all things are possible.

Inside this edition of the newsletter:

- **President's Message (Pgs. 2-3):** Reflecting on the legacy of African Americans. Black History Month honors their contributions. Key events: Mar 22 Fundraiser, Ribbon of Honor nominations (due Feb 28), 2026 membership renewals, and leadership roles.
- **Calendar and Birthdays (Pg. 4):** Happy Birthday to our Feb Gems! Celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb 14 and other special observances. Don't miss the Super Bowl on Feb 9! Special shout-out to our Feb Birthday Gems!
- **Happening this Month and FYI! (Pg. 5):** Don't forget to join us on Feb 15 at 11 AM at The Children's Board of Hillsborough County for a program on Heart Health and Salary Negotiations. Also, take a look at the upcoming meetings: member gatherings, public policy forums, regional meetings, and our Mar 22 fundraiser.
- **Standing Strong (Pg. 6):** AAUW is dedicated to defending equity in education, even in the face of laws that hinder access and threaten women's economic security. We are reminded to stay informed, advocate, volunteer, donate, and educate to support this cause. Together, we can drive progress forward.
- **Advertisements for our upcoming Fundraiser (Pg. 7):** Get your tickets or table today! Check out the ad for more details and share within your circles.
- **Application for the Tampa Branch 2025 STEM Scholarship (Pg. 8):** Due Feb 14. Get the word out! Scholarship recipients earn \$1000 to support their academic pursuits.

Our efforts make a difference. With many opportunities for involvement and growth, we can drive progress. The future of gender equity relies on our commitment and action. Together, we can achieve great things!

Cheers and Happy February!
Demetrix Rostick-Owens, Ed. D.
AAUW Director of Communications

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Shella Miller
President
AAUW Tampa Branch
2024-2026

Dear AAUW Members,

As we honor Black History Month, I want to take a moment to reflect on the profound contributions and enduring legacy African Americans throughout our nation's history. This month serves as a crucial reminder of the resilience, creativity, and strength that have shaped our country and continue to inspire.

African Americans have made an indelible impact on shaping America across numerous fields, from science and technology to culture and social justice. During Black History Month, it's important to recognize and celebrate these contributions, as they have been pivotal in the progress and development of our society. Read on to see the impacts!

Inventors and Innovators:

African American inventors have changed the face of science and technology with their groundbreaking work. Pioneers like George Washington Carver revolutionized agriculture with his crop rotation methods and innovative uses for peanuts and sweet potatoes. Garrett Morgan invented the three-position traffic signal, making roads safer around the world. More recently, Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, a physicist, has contributed to advances in telecommunications technology, enabling developments such as the touch-tone phone, portable fax, and fiber optic cables.

Civil Rights Leaders:

The fight for civil rights in America owes so much to trailblazers like Rosa Parks, whose courageous act of defiance became a symbol of the struggle against racial segregation. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision and leadership during the Civil Rights Movement advanced monumental legislative changes, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, ensuring greater equality and justice. The work of Fannie Lou Hamer and John Lewis, among others, continues to inspire activism aimed at reducing racial disparities.

Cultural Icons:

In arts and culture, African American influence is profound. Authors like James Baldwin and Maya Angelou have deeply enriched literature,

while musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Nina Simone, and, more recently, Beyoncé have shaped global music trends and held significant cultural sway. The Harlem Renaissance, led by figures like Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston, gave voice to Black culture and is considered one of the high points in American cultural history.

Contemporary Change-Makers:

Today, influential African Americans continue to change the world in various fields. In politics, figures like Kamala Harris, the first African American and South Asian Vice President of the United States, pave the way for new generations. In business and technology, leaders like Ursula Burns, the first Black woman to lead a Fortune 500 company (Xerox), and Robert F. Smith, a prominent venture capitalist, are influential in driving economic change. Activists like Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, and Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, are leading important discussions around justice, gender, and equality.

These contributions, among countless others, reveal the intricate ways African Americans have not only shaped society but continue to propel it forward. As we recognize Black History Month, let us honor these achievements, reflect on the past, and commit to building a future that acknowledges and celebrates diversity and inclusion in all its forms.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT...

In today's volatile environment, our nation finds itself at a pivotal moment during political shifts in philosophy and approach to social issues. We stand in solidarity with communities that have been marginalized. It is essential that we remain vigilant and engaged as we navigate the changing social and political dynamics that surround us.

Thank you for your continued dedication and passion. Let us use this month to uplift and deepen our commitment to meaningful progress.

As we look ahead to the next few months, here are some important highlights you won't want to miss:

- **March 22nd Fundraiser: Let's Make a Difference Together!** Mark your calendars for our big event! Join us on March 22nd, from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Florida College - The Review Center. We need you to sell tickets and spread the word far and wide. Your efforts directly support scholarships, Tech Trek, and AAUW Tampa programs. Let's make this fundraiser a tremendous success. Remember, we will have a successful event with your contributions and ticket sales. **INVITE! INVITE! INVITE!** We need your help.
- **Nominate a Trailblazer for the Ribbon of Honor!** Do you know an exceptional leader making a difference in gender equity and advancing women and girls in our community? Nominate them for the prestigious Ribbon of Honor Award! Celebrate those who embody our mission. Nominations are open until February 28, 2025. [**Submit your Ribbon of Honor Award nomination\(s\) today!**](#)
- **Renew Your Membership for 2026!** Stay a vital part of our community! If you haven't renewed your AAUW membership for 2026, head to the membership hub and take action. We've made it easy for you to renew your membership. [**Click here to renew your membership!**](#) Need help navigating the site? Check out the [**tutorial PDF**](#). Let's keep our vibrant community growing and thriving!
- **Become One of AAUW Tampa's Future Leaders!** We're on the lookout for enthusiastic members to step into leadership roles. The secretary position is open, and officer positions will be available soon. Those who are interested in shaping our future, reach out by contacting Dr. Shella Miller or Dr. Ebony Shoemo to explore our mentoring opportunities to step into a Board of Directors role.

Dive into this month's newsletter and stay connected. We can't wait to see you at our February Membership Meeting and our March 22nd Fundraiser! Together, we make incredible strides.

With warm regards,
Sheila Miller, PhD, FACHE
President, AAUW Tampa



See you Feb 15 (11am) for the next meeting!

CALENDAR & BIRTHDAYS

February

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Happening in February...

Week 1

- 1st: Freedom Day
- 2nd: Groundhog Day
- 3rd: Women Physicians Day
- 4th: Homemade Soup Day
- 5th: Weatherperson's Day
- 6th: Frozen Yogurt Day
- 7th: Send a Card to a Friend Day

Week 4

- 22nd: George Washington's B'day
- 23rd: Banana Bread Day
- 24th: Tortilla Chip Day

Week 2

- 8th: Iowa Day
- 9th: Super Bowl Sunday
- 10th: Umbrella Day
- 11th: Inventors' Day
- 12th: Abraham Lincoln's B'day
- 13th: Tortellini Day
- 14th: Valentine's Day

- 25th: Clam Chowder Day
- 26th: Pistachio Day

Week 3

- 15th: AAUW Tampa Meeting
- 16th: Almond Day
- 17th: Presidents' Day
- 18th: Battery Day
- 19th: Chocolate Mint Day
- 20th: Love Your Pet Day
- 21st: Sticky Bun Day

- 27th: Strawberry Day
- 28th: Tooth Fairy Day

Happy Birthday

**Valeria
Bembry**

1st

Happy birthday to our February gems!
May each of have a year as
bright and beautiful as you are!

Adapted from the work of an unknown author.

**Gloria
Hilton**

8th

**Patricia
Tabone**

20th

**Shella
Miller**

24th

**Paula
Stewart**

25th

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

February 15 Membership Meeting



Don't Miss Out! Join us for our upcoming membership meeting on February 15 at 11 AM at The Children's Board of Hillsborough County. This month, we're thrilled to present an exciting program on Heart Health and Salary Negotiations. See you there!

FYI...

- **Feb 5:** AAUW National Winter Member Gathering- [Register](#)
- **Feb 12:** AAUW Florida Treasurers Talk (for Branch Finance Directors and all who want to learn)-[Register](#)
- **Feb 13:** AAUW Florida Public Policy Forums- Overview of Bills for Lobby Days- [Register](#)
- **Feb 15:** AAUW Tampa Monthly Membership Meeting
- **Feb 28:** Deadline to [Submit a Ribbon of Honor Award nomination!](#)
- **Mar 15:** South East Branches Regional Meeting
- **Mar 18-19:** Lobby Days in Tallahassee
- **Mar 22:** AAUW Tampa Fundraiser
- **Mar 29:** Northern Branches Regional Meeting
- **Apr 17:** Southwest Branches Regional Meeting

Inspirational Corner

Luke 7:36-39 NIV

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. [37] A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. [38] As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. [39] When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Jesus knows your heart, period! He sees in you what no one else can see.

Lord, we humble ourselves before You. Father, there are still some things in our lives that we are wrestling with, desperate to fix. Lord, help us to accept that we can't change the past, help us to move forward and embrace the future You've planned for us. Lord, we thank You in advance for all things and we praise Your holy name. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

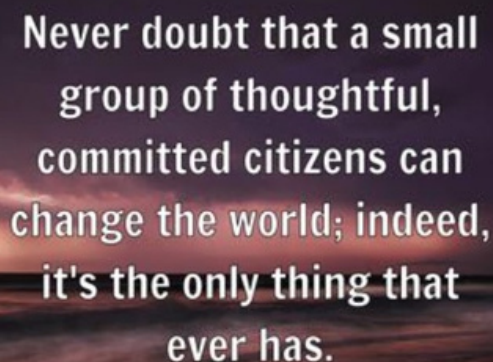
Contributed by Carolyn Austin
AAUW Director of Programs

STANDING STRONG

AAUW is “Standing strong to defend equity in education.” This is what was communicated by CEO Gloria Blackwell in an email from membership on January 23, 2025. As stated in her email, we are at a critical moment in time that may test one’s personal values and more broadly adversely impact women’s economic equity. She highlighted the following significant challenges:

- Our reality: Across the nation, laws and policies hinder equal access to quality education. From budget cuts to legislative rollbacks, the road ahead is tough.
- Our resolve: Our efforts to advance women’s economic security through higher education remain critical. The progress we’ve made is at risk — and we must be vigilant in fighting back.
- Our advocacy: We are ramping up our efforts to influence policy surrounding enforcement of Title IX civil rights protections and supporting essential college-access programs.
- Our support: Our Fellowships & Grants programs will continue to support women scholars globally.
- Our community: We will strengthen our network to create a united front for change.

What does this all mean? It means that we can’t give up; we have to keep doing the work based on our mission “to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.” As Margaret Mead wisely said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”



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group of thoughtful,
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Margaret Mead



This is a call to action for each of us with practical steps we can take today:

- Stay Informed: Go to know the latest policies and legislation affecting women’s education and economic equity. (Resource: [AAUW Weighs In: Policy Updates](#))
- Advocate: Contact your local representatives to express your support for policies that promote gender equity and oppose those that hinder it. (Resources: [Find Your Legislators - The Florida Senate](#) & [Find Your Members in the U.S. Congress](#))
- Volunteer: Offer your time and skills to organizations that support women’s education and economic security.
 - Hope for Her Florida; www.hopeforherfl.org
 - The Centre for Women; thecentre.org
 - Dress for Success Tampa Bay; tampabay.dressforsuccess.org
 - The Spring; thespring.org
 - Alpha House of Tampa; [Alpha House Tampa - Transitional Housing in Tampa, FL](#)
- Donate: Contribute financially to [AAUW’s Fellowships & Grants programs](#) to support women scholars globally with their dissertations, research, career development, community action, and projects. (Resource: [Donate to AAUW](#))
- Network and Educate: Share information about gender equity issues with your community and local groups to raise awareness and inspire action.

Our collective efforts can and will make a difference. Let’s be the change-makers, the advocates, and the supporters who drive progress forward. The future of gender equity depends on our unwavering commitment and action.

Demetrix Rostick-Owens, Ed. D.
AAUW Director of Communications

**GET
INVOLVED
TODAY**

SMALL AND WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESSES FUNDRAISER

MARCH 22, 2025

Expand Your Business | Enhance Your Brand | Empower Your Legacy

AAUW is hosting its annual event supporting our local small and women - owned businesses - and we need you! Here's how you, your friends, family, nail techs and even your pickleball club can support this event.

GET YOUR TICKETS

Grab a ticket for yourself, a friend, and maybe sponsor one for someone in need. **\$50pp or \$350 for table of 8.**

DEADLINE MARCH 8 (Discounted tables available)



DOOR PRIZES

We want everyone to have a chance to win! Ask your nail tech, salon, local grocery store, or favorite retailer for a gift card. These can also be grouped for larger baskets.



BASKET DRAWINGS / SILENT AUCTION

We've had lottery tickets, designer purses, a Smore's Grill Kit, and an Outdoor Camping Set as a basket or silent auction item. Use your imagination and reach out to your community!



PROGRAM BOOKLET

All featured vendors will be included, and additional ad space is available for purchase. \$12.50 for business cards, \$25 for a 1/4 page, \$50 for a 1/2 page, and \$100 for a full page.



**Questions?
Contact Carolyn Austin at
954-817-4883**

**Want to be a featured vendor?
Contact Sue Morris at
aauwtampafinance@gmail.com**



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

Stay Connected

AAUW Tampa

- Info: **<http://tampafl.aauw.net>** and **aauwtampainfo@gmail.com**
 - Membership: **<https://tampafl.aauw.net/membership>** and **aauwtampamembership@gmail.com**
 - Bylaws: **<https://tampafl.aauw.net/bylaws/>**
 - Tech Trek: **aauwtampatechtrek@gmail.com**
- Learn more or find out how to donate to AAUW

Florida:

- Info: **<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>**

National:

- Info: **<https://www.aauw.org>**
- Membership: **<https://my.aauw.org/onlinejoin>**