



# MESSENGER

## PROGRAM



### Women in Islam

Our speaker, Amani Makarita, has a scheduling conflict and has asked her husband to step in for her for our talk on women in Islam. He certainly will provide an interesting point of view. Here is a little background on Hassan Hares.

Hassan came here in 2004 and runs his own business, ekeyUSA Systems, which specializes in Biometric Fingerprint Access Control Systems and Home Automation. Previously, Hassan worked with private and public companies and banks and has 25 years of technical, business, and project management experience. He is a Muslim-Arab-American, having the distinction of being the 48th Palestinian refugee to be born in Beirut, Lebanon. He has traveled extensively and has lived, studied and worked in Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, as well as the US. This gives him a good insight into many cultures and he can certainly speak to the challenges Muslims face here and abroad, especially Muslim women.

Hassan is an active member of the Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton and is the treasurer of the Universal Crescent Clinic in Sarasota, which provides free health care for the uninsured on Saturdays. He and his wife, Amani, have also become US citizens.

### MEETING LOCATION

Westminster Towers  
1533 4th St. W., Bradenton, FL

### RESERVATIONS

Call or email Vicki Waters  
753-9741 / [vwaters@earthlink.net](mailto:vwaters@earthlink.net)  
By April 5

### CANCELLATIONS

Same—by April 7

### COST

Buffet \$10.00  
Coffee 3.00

### HOSTESSES

Marilyn Newsham and Rosemary Leas

### EF PARTNERS

Marilyn Newsham and Rosemary Leas

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We need to raise some money for Tech Trek, so I am planning a Tea Party at the Harrington House. The date is Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 PM. The cost will be \$35.00 per person with a limit of 24 people. Send your request to join us to me at 758-4610. Pat Benson

**MATH SUPERSTARS**— The competition will take place at the MTC Auditorium, 6305 SR 70 E on April 22 from 9:00 to 11:30. All who can help serve refreshments, handout T-shirts, or monitor the competition would be appreciated. We still have 5 schools that have not been sponsored yet—\$20 per school. Make check to MCBAUW and send/give to Barb Andrews @ 1235 Edgewater Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209.

For news and articles to be included in future newsletters, please submit to me by the 20th of month preceding publication @ [floridaboop@gmail.com](mailto:floridaboop@gmail.com) Betty Ens, Editor, Messenger

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT. .



This month on April 11, we will be having an Equal Pay for Women Event. While thinking about this and Michelle Madden's wonderful STEM presentation at our March meeting, here are some examples of how women are still treated unequally! I won't say enjoy, but, be aware.

1. 52% of female students (grades 7-12) admit to having been sexually harassed in person, compared with 35% of male students reporting the same.
2. An online tool called *Rate My Professor* found that evaluations by both male and female students were more likely to refer to male teachers as "brilliant" or "smart" and to women professors as "rude" or "strict."
3. Out of the Standard and Poor's 500, only 5% of the CEO's are women and only 17% of the board seats are held by women.
4. Only one in five mayors (19%) of the 100 largest cities in the US are women.
5. More than 3/4 (76%) of public school teachers are women, but a mere 20% of superintendents are women.
6. The US is the only industrialized nation not to have paid leave for mothers of newborns.
7. More than half of mothers with infants under 1 year are in the workforce.
8. The poverty rate for women 65 and older is 12%, compared with 7% for men 65 and older.
9. The poverty rate for women 65 and older who are living alone is 19% compared with 11% for men.
10. One year after college, women graduates make only 82% as much as their male counterparts.
11. The pay gap involves more than just wages. Employers are less likely to offer health insurance, retirement savings plans, and access to paid leave to women workers.
12. The gender pay gap could cost women more than \$430k throughout the course of their careers. For women with college degrees, losses can be much higher.

(Source: AAUW 79 Examples of how women are still treated unequally)

We have made progress but there is still so much to be done. That's why we join and work with the women of AAUW!

With respect and admiration,

Fay



## MEMBERSHIP

**Sunshine News** - **Charlotte Ortiz's** husband is facing health issues and is demanding all of Charlotte's time. Please send cards to let her know you miss her. **Julianne Sills** is moving back to Pennsylvania permanently—we wish you well, **Shirley Zemmer** is now permanently in "The Inn" at Freedom Village.

**April Birthdays:** Barbara Andrews **4/5**, Carolyn Reynolds **4/7**, Marie Peterson **4/8**, Jo An Webb **4/12**, Nancy Carson **4/13**, Sylvia Price **4/14**, Beverly Neville, **4/17**, Charlotte Ortiz **4/19**, Mary Ann Jenson **4/24**.

**Please change the information for the following member in your directory:**

**Pamela Parmenter**

2400 Winding Creek Blvd,  
Bldg. 25, Unit 102  
Clearwater, FL 33761  
(no landline, just cell)

## INTEREST GROUPS



**Chapter One Writing Group.** **April 11**, 6:30 p.m. in the home of Marilyn Steele, 7208 Pointe West Blvd.. Everyone is welcome. Shirley Foor facilitates the group. Please see a sample of Marilyn's writing at the end of this newsletter.

**Cultural Affairs Group.** **April 13** is our last trip for this year—going to the Lipizzaner Training Ground at Myakka City, 32755 Singletary Road at 3:00. Donation \$5: We will have dinner at Bob Evans, 7393 SR 70 (in a private room) sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 pm. Up to 30 people can be accommodated. Minnie Lee Jones, 739-2250 or [vatt22@aol.com](mailto:vatt22@aol.com)

**Craft Group.** Our group meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month for 2 hours at the home of Vicki Waters, 2724 Florida Blvd., at 9:30 am. **April 4 and 18.** We'll have safety pins for sale decorated in AAUW colors at our next meeting. Contact .Betty Ens, 794-1885 or [floridaboop@gmail.com](mailto:floridaboop@gmail.com)

**Early Risers Bridge.** We meet in the 2nd floor lobby of The Towers and have 12 members who have agreed to be our core group. However, they are often not able to come, so a list of substitutes is essential. If you love to play and want a group that is welcoming no matter your level of competence, please give me a call. Donna Raper at 747-1156.

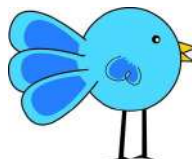
**Lunch Bunch.** **Thursday, April 27** at 11:30 am at the much-loved restaurant, Edelweiss Restaurant, 611 Manatee Ave. E. How about a schnitzel, sauerbraten, goulash, bratwurst or more for lunch? Family and friends are always welcome to join us. Contact Vicki Waters at [vwaters @ earthlink.net](mailto:vwaters@earthlink.net) or 753-9741.

## PUBLIC POLICY



No current news—thank you for your past involvement!

## COMMUNICATIONS



The following has been placed in the historical file for our Branch:

February 2017—*Messenger*

1888-2017—"Our History" - AAUW 136 years old

March 2017—AAUW Action Network

Registration for AAUW FL conference annual meeting

Please continue to bring in news clippings of interest to our AAUW branch. Please contact: Minnie Lee Jones, Historian 730-2250 or [vatt22@aol.com](mailto:vatt22@aol.com)



## DEVELOPMENT

No current news—thank you for your past involvement!

**Facilitator's Note: Marilyn Steele is chronicling the major events from her life and there are many engaging ones, as Chapter One participants have learned. She has condensed one portion for the Messenger.**

## Adolescence

Adolescence is a period of physical change and intellectual growth. Both conditions were deeply rooted in my close and loving relationship with my mother. Though I discouraged her affection, perhaps because my emotional being is more akin to father than to my wonderful mother, Norma Littlejohn Harger. Mother was reared by the Victorian childrearing practices that Mary Frances Mark Littlejohn experienced from her mother, Sara Jane Jenkins Mark. Invariably, my mother referred to the Jenkins clan as "white trash," perhaps because they had crossed the Monongahela River in a Conestoga wagon not from Virginia but from West Virginia .

There is no evidence that Sara Jane had more than a rudimentary education. However, she had enough sophistication to support her husband as he developed from a rural schoolteacher to become the owner of a highly successful barrel-stave factory.

The time was four generations ago, at the turn of the 20th century, when the Ford Motor Co. was starting. One of Henry Ford's brothers asked Grandpa Mark to invest \$3,000 in this venture. That investment would have grown to many millions. Grandpa declined in the belief that poor men would never be able to afford an automobile. Instead, he invested his money in real estate, an investment that largely disappeared during the Great Depression. There was enough left, however, to educate my sister and me, my daughter, with a modest education fund set aside for my granddaughter.

When I was nine years old, I asked by Mother where babies came from. Without missing a beat, she answered factually in a way I could understand. She had me well prepared for the normal physical changes of adolescence. Our ugly barn-framed house covered with dark gray stucco, which we rented for \$6 a month, had three bedrooms and a bath upstairs, which was the site of my frightful discovery.

I have not forgotten the home-from-school lunch hour the day I saw blood in the toilet and screamed, "Mother!" Calmly, she came to the rescue with preparations in hand. And I returned to my seventh-grade classes as if nothing had changed in my life. Later, Mother told me about her menstruation experience. Her Victorian mother sent her across the street to the neighbor lady who hand-

ed my Mother a clean rag! About this same time, my Mother informed me that I was born menstruating (I actually had blood in my vagina), an indication, she said, that I would have monthly difficulties. I do not know how my physiological development compared with that of my contemporaries, but my intellectual curiosity was more important in my life than my physical difficulties.

My intellectual growth was slower. I failed to talk until I was three years old, but once I started I spoke in sentences. I have not been silent since. I was a slow learner at reading. But my fourth-grade teacher treated me as if I were superior, thus stimulating my quest for knowledge. She singled out two of her students, Bob and me, and publicly praised us for our accomplishments on a regular basis.

At some point, my parents bought me a new bike, perhaps for the next Christmas. It was maroon in color, with a wire basket on the handlebar. Despite the understanding that my father would teach my Mother to drive when Grandpa Mark gave her the Studebaker, my father never found time to teach her. So, my bike became the family transportation for Mother, my sister, Eleanor, and me.

Every Saturday during good weather, I rode my bike four miles to the library. God bless Andrew Carnegie! The library stimulated my zest for reading. I would fill the wire basket with books for the three of us and pedaled the four miles home. Mother had given me a list of authors from which to select for her. This list became a model for me. I selected easier books, ones that I liked, for Eleanor. We all loved to read and reading occupied our leisure time in summers and winters.

I attended Washington Gardner Elementary School in Albion, Michigan, for grades four, five, and six. My reading whetted my appetite for history in Washington Gardner Junior High. I did not like mathematics at all, but I adored history. I listened intently to the portly, mature, and very good history teacher and pursued every extra reading assignment that she suggested. At the end of the school year, I won the history prize for best performance among eighth graders. It was one more stimulus that prodded my adolescent growth.

**F Y I**



(From Elaine Graham)

Manatee Educational Television (METV) and 8TN Films are proud to announce that their new documentary, *American Dreams...Stories of Immigration*, has been selected as an Official Entry of the 2017 Sarasota Film Festival. This film will premier on April 9th at 6 pm at the Hollywood 20 in Sarasota. Tickets can be obtained by either going on-line to [www.SarasotaFilmFestival.com](http://www.SarasotaFilmFestival.com) (service fees apply), calling (941) 366-6200 or (866) 575-FILM (service fees apply), or going directly to the box office at the Hollywood 20 at 1900 Main Street in Sarasota to purchase tickets.

*American Dreams* is an intimate documentary that discusses the history of our country's immigration and examines the driving forces of fear, poverty and persecution that make men and women risk everything to come to America. The one common thread in all stories of immigration is...hope.

METV and the team of Charles Williams and Durand Adams of BTN Films have collaborated on a series of thought-provoking documentaries including: *On Any Given Monday*, *Through the Tunnel*, *The Enduring Beauty of Memory*, and *A Way Out*.

Join us for the world premiere of *American Dreams...Stories of Immigration*, on **April 9** at 6pm at the Hollywood 20 in Sarasota. Reserve your tickets today. Seating is limited.

American Association of University Women  
Manatee County Branch  
PO Box 1694  
Bradenton, FL 34206