

AAUW Palm Beach County Branch Program Meeting

**Saturday, September 21, 2013
12 Noon**

Callaro's Steak House

**717 Lake Avenue
Downtown Lake Worth
SE corner of Lake Ave and J St**

PATTI W. HAMILTON will update us on happenings at the **Florida Commission on the Status of Women**.

The Commission is dedicated to empowering women in achieving their fullest potential, to eliminating barriers to that achievement and to recognizing women's accomplishments. The Commission's mandate is to study and make recommendations to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature on issues affecting women.

OTHER PROGRAMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- State of Education in Palm Beach County
- Elder Law
- Voter Legislation Update
- Affordable Healthcare Act
- Human Trafficking

Post Haste
September, 2013



Palm Beach County Branch

Susan V. Berlin, President
1734 South Congress Avenue
Palm Springs, FL 33461

The Year at a Glance

Board Meetings

2013

- October 12th
- November 9th
- December 7th

2014

- January 4th
- February 1st
- March 1st
- April 12th
- May 3rd

Branch Meetings

2013

- September 21st
- October 19th
- November 16th
- December 14th

2014

- January 18th
- February 15th
- March 15th
- April 26th
- May 17th

Palm Beach County Officers 2013-2014

President - Susan Berlin	642.4720
Email: svberlin@bellsouth.net	
Director/Program - Roz Homer	649.7621
Email: HomerR@pbso.org	
Director/Membership - Sharon Trost	582.2465
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Co-Director/Membership - Barbara Wagner	965.8426
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Director/Finance - Barbara Hadsell	439.4607
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Director/Public Policy - Susan King	582.6216
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Director/Communications - Karen Lippe	439.0650
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Director/Development - Betty Rigdon	964.5926
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Co-Director/Development - Deborah Nesbit	792.6731
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Secretary - Vacant - Please consider volunteering	
College University Relations Liaison - Dr. Bernadette Russell	
Phone: 561.862.4400 Email: russellb@palmbeachstate.edu	

Book Club News by Virginia Farace

After taking the summer months off, the AAUW Book Club will start its new season on **Friday, September 20, at 2:00 PM at the Palm Springs Public Library**. Susan King will lead the discussion of **The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul** by Deborah Rodriguez. It was originally published with the title **A Cup Of Friendship** and can be found in local libraries under either title.

Goodreads.com calls it “a fiction debut as compelling as real life: the story of a remarkable coffee shop in the heart of Afghanistan, and the men and women who meet there — thrown together by circumstance, bonded by secrets, and united in an extraordinary friendship.”

The author has a “gift for depicting the nuances of life in Kabul and fills the book with vibrant characters that readers will truly care about ... the best kind of fiction—full of heart yet smart and thought-provoking.”

Lillian Ostiguy will present titles at the September meeting for selection of the October book. At the June meeting, the group discussed **Unaccustomed Earth** by Jhumpa Lahiri with Susan Berlin as moderator.

All AAUW members are invited to join the book discussion group. If you are interested, please email Virginia at faracevk@bellsouth.net to receive a copy of the Book Club Guidelines and a list of past titles.

President's Message
September 2013

Dear Members,

"You will discover that you have two hands. One is for helping yourself and the other is for helping others." Audrey Hepburn

In June, I attended the AAUW national convention in New Orleans and in between eating massive quantities of scrumptious food, attended some wonderful workshops about STEM, membership and mentoring. One important key to membership was stressed – retention of current members. My goal for 2013-2014 is to achieve close to 100% membership renewal by helping our members rediscover what AAUW-Palm Beach County has to offer. Our program committee has been busily working throughout the summer to provide meetings and activities that are relevant to our branch and stress the AAUW mission of education, advocacy and research. I would also challenge each member to become an ambassador for AAUW-Palm Beach County to help me achieve the second item on my 2013-2014 wish list – to increase our membership by 10%. This would amount to 5 new members throughout the year which we can easily accomplish by spreading the word about our programs and interest groups.

AAUW-Palm Beach County welcomes our "new" members from the Boca Raton branch. These women bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of AAUW to our branch. I welcome their comments and look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Our branch is applying for a grant from Praxair to host a one-day STEM event - Tech Savvy. The conference will be open to 6th – 9th grade girls from the Palm Beach County School District. Tech Savvy will be held on the Boca Raton Campus of Palm Beach State College. This conference encourages girls to pursue a career in STEM fields through hands-on science workshops and discussions about public speaking, communication and career choices. Parents are involved in the event and receive presentations about financial preparedness for college and the advantages of pursuing a career in STEM related fields. This is an ambitious undertaking for our branch but one that I know we will excel at. Keep your fingers crossed and hope for the best! If we are awarded this grant, there will be opportunities available in planning, execution and staffing of Tech Savvy.

I hope your summer has been peaceful and productive. I am eager to see each of you soon!

"He who cannot give away cannot feel anything either." Friedrich Nietzsche

~ Susan

"The tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

– Benjamin Mays

Legislative Corner
By Susan King

<http://www.aauw.org/>

Public Policy Report

August, 2013

Both houses of Congress are on August recess. They are home meeting with their constituents and looking to the 2014 elections.

Here is some of what has happened in the last few months:

In June, the Supreme Court adjourned and announced their rulings.

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) Section 3, which only recognizes spouses of the opposite sex, was declared unconstitutional. This ruling now allows medical and housing benefits to same sex couple in the military and is expected to have broader implications for all couples in the future.

Also affecting gay couples is the ruling that petitioners who were seeking to uphold California 's ban on same sex marriage had no standing to appeal the case. This means that the lower court's decision stands and same sex marriage will be legal again in California.

In civil rights, the Court struck down the section of the **Voting Rights Act of 1965** that enables the federal government to monitor states with a history of voter discrimination more closely than other states. This section has been used to stop biased redistricting, purging voter rolls too close to elections, requiring difficult to obtain voter ID and cutting the number of early voting days. Shortly after this ruling some states reinstated some of the above laws.

The Court upheld the use of race and ethnicity as one of many considerations that may be appropriate in school admissions, but only when that policy is carefully crafted and narrowly tailored to meet the school's interest in a diverse student body. The case (Fisher v. The University of Texas) was returned to the lower court and judges were ordered to re-hear the case using stricter standards. The decision has no overall effect on affirmative action policies nationwide.

Congress has been working on Immigration Reform. The Senate passed a bill with 14 Republicans joining all Democrats to vote for it. One provision of the bill will help women and minorities by creating a STEM training and education fund. This will expand access in grade K-12 to these programs.

The House will take up Immigration Reform when they return on Sept.9

Student loan rates were allowed to rise when legislation was not passed by the deadline for renewal. Congress finally passed the bill to reinstate the lower rates and sent it on to the President for his signature.

Unable to pass any pro-life bills at the federal level, many states have passed laws which limit the length of time for a legal abortion, increased requirements on doctors and clinics which cause many of them to shut down and require invasive medical tests before having an abortion.

While the Congress is on recess, it is a good time to go to voter meet and greet meetings, to call their local office and to let them know what you want them to pass when they are back in Washington.

Highlights of AAUW Educational News
By Betty Rigdon

AAUW expanding Tech Trek camp model based on AAUW California

Three new sites for 2014 planned

Applications available now-deadline is Sept. 1

Email questions to stem@aauw.org

Tech Savvy-daylong science programs for girls

10 branches and states to hold events based on AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch program

Apply by Sept. 15

Travel to India with AAUW Nov. 2-16-ignaural AAUW Effect Trip

Meet former Fellows and International Project Grant recipients

Tour New Delhi

Spend mornings volunteering in local school

Learn of AAUWS's impact in afternoon session

www.crossculturalsolutions.org/discover-what-you-can-do/travel-india-aauw-and-ccs

Travel to Cuba, Jan. 4-12

Learn about women's issues, challenges and opportunities

Havana, UNESCO World Heritage site Cienfuegos

www.betchartexpeditions.com/cen-sa_cuba2014.htm

Four convention workshops presentations available online

Fellowships and Grants (have recipients speak a branch meetings)

www.aauw.org/resource/workshop-fellowships-and-grants-engagement-tools/

Local Scholarships: Best Practices for Best Results

www.aauw.org/resource/workshop-local-scholarships-best-practices-for-best-results/

Global Empowerment- Empowering Women and Girls: The Key to Global Progress

www.aauw.org/resource/workshop-empowering-women-and-girls-the-key-to-global-progress/

International Briefing

www.aauw.org/resource/group-session-international-briefing/

AAUW - one of largest sources for graduate level scholarships-will award \$3.7 million this year

Eligibility requirements and deadlines online

Branches encouraged to reach out to women at local universities

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards

Interested in joining selection panels to analyze fellowship and grant supplication?

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/selection-panels/

Screen movies that empower women

Over 1500 titles

Could show in branch's local area and use it as a fundraiser

<http://pages.tugg.com/aauw>

Recap of AAUW's Student Leadership Programs

National Student Advisory Council-applications open Aug. 21

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Elect Her

\$tart \$mart

Student Organization

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs

Director of Finance Report

On August 12, 2013, we received a letter of financial review from Diane Boyce, former Director of Finance for AAUW-FL (pro bono). She found no discrepancies. This review, done in the odd years, complies with our by-laws.

A proposed budget for 2013-14 has been reviewed by the officers. If you have any questions, please speak with an officer at the September meeting. The vote to approve will be held during the October 12th Board Meeting.

Barbara Hadsell

Director of Finance - AAUW Palm Beach County Chapter

Director of Membership Report

Membership for our branch for the years 2013-2014 is 45 members. For our general meeting in September, we are encouraging our members to bring something that represents the university or college where they were graduated. This can be either a tee shirt, hat, coffee mug or any other piece of memorabilia.

The September meeting should prove to be a fun meeting so try and bring a friend who might be interested in joining.

Submitted by Barbara Wagner
Co-Director of Membership

Member News

Recognition goes to Lisa Peterfreund and her family foundation, The Merrill G. & Erita E. Hastings Foundation, for a \$1,000.00 contribution to LAF this month.

~~ Thank you, Lisa!