



AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY

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President's Message by Susan Berlin

"It is in vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquility: they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it." Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre

Dear Members,

Last month we gathered at the Chesterfield Hotel and wore our "green" to support our branch fundraising efforts for AAUW Funds and for our Local STEM events. This month, I am asking our members to wear red on April 8th to publicize Equal Pay Day, the date in 2014 that women must work until, to match men's earning for 2013 – over three extra months.

On Tuesday, April 8th, AAUW members are being asked to wear red shirts or jackets and a sticker siting the difference between men's and women's hourly pay throughout the day to publicize the wage gap. Nationally, women working full-time are only paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. AAUW has been battling this problem since 1913, when we published a report on U.S. Civil Service job classifications and compensation. Many of you may have seen the 1963 photo of AAUW members standing the President John F. Kennedy when he signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963 into law. In 2013, U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi addressed our branch and discussed current efforts to close the pay gap and achieve gender equity. The battle rages on.

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Upcoming Events

April 8

Equal Pay Day

Wear "Red"

April 26

Annual Meeting: noon

Atlantis Country Club

Human Trafficking

AAUW FL Convention

April 4 -5

Sheraton Tampa East

IMPORTANT VOTE!

At the April annual meeting, members will be asked to consider a \$2 increase in local dues. This would bring the Total Dues from \$73 to \$75.

This small per person increase will help us to cover the rising costs of everyday business.

Did you know?

- Women of color are impacted even more, with African American women earning 32% less, and Latinas earning 42% less than men
- Pay equity is closely linked to poverty eradication. One study found that if women were paid the same as men doing comparable work, their family poverty rate would fall from 2.1% to 0.8%
- A lifetime of lower wages for women means women have less income they can save for retirement and less income that counts in a Social Security or pension formula.
- The median income of older women is almost half of what is for older men.

Join me on April 8th when we “see red” and wear red to raise awareness about the pay equity gap. And remember, wear a red shirt or pants, never both together, and offset your red with some really funky accessory.

“If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which have no voice, or Representation.” Abigail Adams



Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's earnings finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. Thanks to the gender pay gap, it takes women an extra three months of wages to make up that 23-percent difference. Equal Pay Day 2014 will fall on Tuesday, April 8, so mark your calendar!

Equal Pay Day 2014 is particularly significant because it falls between two legislative anniversaries that have helped women make progress in the workplace —

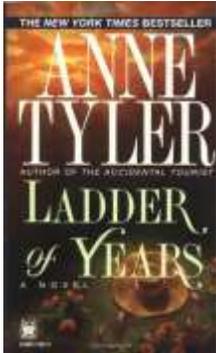
but not quite enough progress. January 29, 2014, is the fifth anniversary of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and July 2, 2014, is the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

Median earnings for men in Florida were \$40,889 compared to women's median earnings of \$34,202

—
An earnings ratio of just 84 percent.

Book Club News by Virginia Farace

The Third Friday Book Club will meet on the fourth Friday, April 25, at 2 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. (The library is closed on the third Friday in recognition of Good Friday.) New member Cheryl Lohse will moderate the discussion of Anne Tyler's *Ladder of Years*.



"BALTIMORE WOMAN DISAPPEARS DURING FAMILY VACATION, declares the headline. Forty-year-old Delia Grinstead is last seen strolling down the Delaware shore, wearing nothing more than a bathing suit and carrying a beach tote with five hundred dollars tucked inside. To her husband and three almost-grown children, she has vanished without trace or reason. But for Delia, who feels like a tiny gnat buzzing around her family's edges, "walking away from it all" is not a premeditated act, but an impulse that will lead her into a new, exciting, and unimagined life" AMAZON.com

"TYLER DETAILS DELIA'S ADVENTURE WITH GREAT SKILL . . . As so often in her earlier fiction, Tyler creates distinct characters caught in poignantly funny situations. . . .Tyler writes with a clarity that makes the commonplace seem fresh and the pathetic touching." --The New York Times

Chosen by "Time" magazine as One of the Ten Best Novels of 1995" and A New York Times Notable Book

Also at April's meeting, Susan King will present three titles for the selection of the May book. At March's meeting, Donna Artes moderated the discussion of **The Telling Room** by Michael Paterniti.

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.

Read Together Palm Beach County FINALE!

"The Language of Flowers" author Vanessa Diffenbaugh will discuss her book via Skype on Wednesday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. at the Harriet Himmel Theater, City Place, West Palm Beach. Attendance is FREE.

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.
RSVP is required.

RSVP to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County at (561) 279-9103.
<http://readtogether.palmbeachpost.com>



April Program

The April 26th meeting will be held at the Atlantis Country Club, noon, order off the menu. The guest speaker is Becky Dymon, CEO and founder of Hepzibah House, a nonprofit residential facility for women to go to after being freed from trafficking. She will address recovery, restoration and release from the nightmare of human trafficking and we will hear the story of human trafficking from a local survivor.

Educational Highlights from AAUW National by Betty Rigdon

AAUW presence at 24th Global Summit of Women, June 5-7 in Paris

Summit to discuss ways women can re-shape business world, re-engineer communities, Re-define global leadership, re-create sustainable futures and restore peace worldwide
AAUW to be represented by our national president, Linda Hallman

Travel to Tuscany Oct. 16-25

Tour features fine dining, good wines and architecture of Tuscany

More information: www.travelsmartpartners.com/resources/Tuscany2014.html

Or call 1-800-892-9681

Consider giving to National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarship Fund NCCWSL to be held June 5-7 at University of Maryland, College Park

https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/index_aauw_donation.cfm?CorpCode=NCCWSL&FundCode=2504

Recommend book for Adelante!: Book of the Month Club by May 15

Tech Trek Florida 2014



Even if you are unable to attend this year's convention in Tampa on April 4 and 5, you can still support your branch, make a tax-deductible donation for the Tech Trek FL camp and enter a contest to win a hotel stay at the Sheraton Tampa East! Each \$5.00 increment gives you one chance to win the grand prize. Please contact Virginia Farace or Susan Berlin to participate.

Nominating Committee Report

At the March luncheon, the nominees for 2014-16 were announced.

President: Betty Rigdon

Director for Membership: Sharon Trost

Director for Development: Deborah Nesbit

Director for Communications: Virginia Brooks

Nominations from the floor will be entertained at the April meeting prior to the election.

On March 25th the Supreme Court heard arguments regarding religious exemption for corporations who have to provide contraceptives under the Affordable Care Act. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties owners say this goes against their religious beliefs. Opponents say that only people, not corporations have a religion. A favorable ruling would open the door to allow any business to not pay for whatever they objected to, such as vaccinations or medication for AIDS. The Court is expected to rule by June.



The White House announced that 5 million people have enrolled in Affordable Care Act coverage. Florida had the highest enrollment of the states. March 31 is the deadline for open enrollment.

In a speech in Florida, President Obama talked about equal pay, increasing the minimum wage paid family and medical leave and access to higher education.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio signed into law a paid sick leave bill the week of March 21.

A bipartisan group of 10 senators announced that they had reached a deal to restore and extend expired unemployment benefits. The benefits were allowed to lapse at the end of 2013. Since then more than 2 million people have lost these benefits. The proposal would restore retroactively the benefits for the first 3 months and extend them through the end of May

President Obama's budget for 2015 was released by the White House. The 3.9 trillion proposed budget includes tax changes targeted at the middle class and increased education spending.

The College Board which administers the test announced changes in the SAT by spring 2016. The test makers intend to align the test with the Common Core Standards which have been adopted by 45 states.

Two important studies released this week show that Common Core states which actively engage teachers and schools experience higher teacher approval of this reform.

Florida Legislature

The Florida Legislature proposed a bill which would have sent millions of dollars more to private schools through the use of vouchers. The bill has been withdrawn as of March 20.

Reuben Askew Governor of Florida from 1971 to 1979 passed away recently. He was considered to have brought Florida from a "good old boy" type of government into a modern state. He was 85.

Leopards and Leprechauns Style Show and Luncheon



The Chesterfield hummed with excitement as 54 people enjoyed a scrumptious lunch and participated in the various fundraising activities.



Mary Lisa Peterfreund and Michelle McGovern after Michelle discussed Senator Nelson's agenda for gender equity and the environment.



Member Lisa Peterfreund pictured with Michelle McGovern was recognized for her family's trust fund donation of \$1000 to Tech Trek.



The artistic women from Giorgio Armani cosmetics presented the latest products and applied make-up to willing volunteers.



This was followed by a fabulous fashion show by Fashion Scoop, featuring designer inspired pieces at an affordable price.



The event raised close to \$1800 for AAUW Funds and our local STEM projects. A big thank you to all who participated in this event!

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