



# AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY

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## President's Message by Susan Berlin

AAUW Palm Beach County is having a busy winter season, promoting STEM and the many projects supported by AAUW Funds. Our STEM event for middle school girls, **Girls + STEM = Future Success**, will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Eagles Landing Middle School. Our annual Style Show and Luncheon fundraiser for AAUW Funds is rapidly approaching.

I would like to highlight a few of the areas that are supported by AAUW Funds. AAUW funded the research for the 2013 publication, *Women in Community College: Access to Success*, which examines the needs of student mothers; the barriers women face in nontraditional and high-demand STEM fields; and the challenges women have in completing a certificate or degree or in transferring to a four-year institution. As a result, AAUW is awarding \$45,000.00 in grants to 11 campus projects that aim to implement programs that deal with these issues. Seminole State College in Florida is one of the recipients of these grants.

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) supports plaintiffs in discrimination suits in the workplace and on campus. *Hoffman et al v. Panetta et al* is probably the case that most people are familiar with. Nineteen plaintiffs in the Air Force and Army who were sexually assaulted or raped while on active duty filed suit. These plaintiffs are supported by AAUW.

Continued next page

## Upcoming Events

### February 8 workshop

Girls + STEM = Future Success  
To volunteer contact Susan Berlin

### March 15

Style Show and Luncheon  
Chesterfield Hotel

### AAUW FL Convention

April 4 -5

Sheraton Tampa East  
More information will be available in the next edition of FloriVision

## Member News

Long time branch member Phyllis Rouzer is living in Longwood, FL and enjoys hearing about branch activities by reading Poste Haste.

Jean Matula's son, Chris, passed away recently. Chris attended many branch meetings and will be missed.

Susan Yinger's husband, David, passed away. David was an educator and spent many years at Palm Beach State College.

President's Message continued:

In *Glaser v. Fulton Community College* an associate professor of mathematics sued for denying promotion and retaliation. Our goal, as AAUW members is to positively affect society and to bring about change. The greatest impact we can make is by supporting AAUW Funds and the projects it encompasses. Please join us on March 15 and contribute to societal change.

*"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."*  
Harriet Beecher Stowe



### Computer Science Education Week Proclamation



Jerri Muoio, mayor of West Palm Beach, put forth an official proclamation on behalf of AAUW Palm Beach County declaring December 9 – 13, 2013, Computer Science Education Week. The proclamation was presented to Betty Rigdon, Director for AAUW Funds, and Barbara Wagner, co-Director for Program. Mayor Muoio recognized AAUW Palm Beach County's dedication to STEM education for young women and girls.

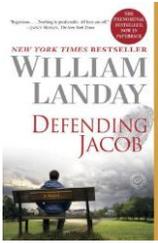
### Style Show 2014 - Leopards and Leprechauns at the Chesterfield Hotel

Our annual style show and luncheon will be held at noon on March 15th, in the Leopard Lounge at the Chesterfield Hotel. Ticket price is \$50.00 and includes a choice of entrees, coffee or tea and dessert. Proceeds benefit AAUW Funds, which include the Legal Advocacy Fund, Tech Trek Florida summer camp for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and Campus Action Grants. Valet parking is available. There will be an opportunity to bid on restaurant gift certificates, baskets, and custom jewelry.

Luncheon includes a choice of entrees: Grilled Chicken Paillard (baby arugula, feta cheese, Kalamata olives, tomatoes, cucumbers, red onion, and Greek lemon vinaigrette) or Fresh Lobster Salad on a crispy baguette. The first course is a choice of salad or soup and dessert is a warm apple tart with vanilla bean ice cream and bourbon caramel sauce.

Tickets are \$50.00 and reservations are required. Tickets will be mailed to each member and additional tickets are available. A reservation form is attached to the newsletter.

We need members to ask local merchants they frequent for donations of gift cards and items for auction. A donation form is included in this newsletter to facilitate this request.



**Defending Jacob** by William Landay is the book to be discussed by the Third Friday Book Club on February 21, 2 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Susan Berlin will lead this discussion of Entertainment Weekly's "one of the best books of the year."

From Barnes & Noble:

*For the past twenty years, Andy Barber has been a happily married, respected assistant D.A. in a small Massachusetts town. Within weeks, his professional situation and marriage crumble under the pressure of a case involving the stabbing murder of a teenager. Barber's suspicions originally focus on a neighborhood pedophile, but before long, damaging evidence mounts that incriminates Jacob, his own 14-year-old son. Caught between desperation, loyalty, and instinct, the tenacious prosecutor struggles to make sense of disturbing revelations. Already a Dagger Award winner, William Landay's **Defending Jacob** brilliantly combines the best features of a gripping psychological thriller, a realistic courtroom drama, and a moving portrait of a family in meltdown.*

At January's meeting, Virginia Farace moderated the discussion of **The Secret Keeper** by Kate Morton. Donna Artes presented three titles and the non-fiction book **The Telling Room** by Michael Paterniti was selected for either March or April depending on the Read Together Palm Beach County selection (see article below). Cheryl Lohse will present three titles at the February meeting for a future discussion.

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

#### READ TOGETHER PALM BEACH COUNTY 2014

PURPOSE: To involve 10,000 – 20,000 adults throughout Palm Beach County in reading the same book at the same time. This community reading campaign will entice adults who can read, but often don't, to get involved in the habit of reading again. It will also promote community dialogue and engagement as citizens gather together to discuss key themes.



HISTORY: Based on the success of similar campaigns in Seattle and Chicago, the Campaign Coordinating Committee has conducted Read Together Palm Beach County in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012. In each campaign, thousands of adults read and discussed with great enthusiasm the chosen community book: *Fahrenheit 451*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, *The Book Thief*, and *Last Train to Paradise*.

This year's candidates are: *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier; *Life Is So Good* by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman; *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh; *The Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman; and *The Last Policeman* by Ben Winters.

You can vote at any public library or online at <http://readtogether.palmbeachpost.com/> The winning title will be announced on Monday, February 24. Our AAUW Third Friday Book Club will be discussing the winner in March unless it has already been read and discussed by the group. (See Book Club News above.)

## Educational Highlights from AAUW National by Betty Rigdon

Hear from Elect Her participants at #ElectHer on Twitter

Women from 50 campuses receive encouragement and are trained in campaign skills for campus elections

NCCWSL 2014 – empowers women to create their futures

Learn how you can support this conference:

[www.nccwsl.org/supporters/](http://www.nccwsl.org/supporters/)

Annual meeting of American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held Feb. 13-17 in Chicago

AAUW will be there to promote our STEM programs for girls

Stop by on Family Science Day

Read more : <http://meetings.aaas.org/public/family-science-days/>

AAUW selected to be part of Giving Library's charity comparison site:

AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman gives overview of AAUW on video

Watch: [www.givinglibrary.org/organizations/american-association-of-university-women](http://www.givinglibrary.org/organizations/american-association-of-university-women)

Your philanthropy \$ at work: former AAUW Fellows and Grantees in the news:

Otgontugs Banzragch, International Fellow and International Project Grantee, appointed Dean of Graduate School and Dean of School of economics at National University of Mongolia

International Fellow Dictynna Hood has released "Wreckers", her first film

Read about this year's International Project Grantees

[www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/international-projects-grants/](http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/international-projects-grants/)

Support these projects by donating to Carolyn Joslin Donovan International Project Grants

Fund: [www.aauw.org/gift/?treatment=AAUW4377-1](http://www.aauw.org/gift/?treatment=AAUW4377-1)



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Peterfreund 2/5

Jackie Winchester 2/7

Anne Hudnall 2/15

Karen Lippe 2/15

Marsha Endahl Kramer 2/18

Jean Matula 2/27



**Style Show Donations** of gift cards for restaurants, spa, hair and nails etc are needed for the March 2014 Style Show and Luncheon. Show your support by asking local merchants for a donation. A letter of introduction is included in the newsletter for you to use.



**Public Policy Report** by Susan King

This year Congress sent the President a bipartisan budget which scaled back cuts on programs ranging from the Pentagon to the National Parks system. Many of these cuts were to take effect as a result of the sequester. Money would be restored to Head Start, education and the Pentagon. To offset additional spending the bill increased savings from an increase in airline ticket tax, a fee corporations pay to have pensions guaranteed by the government, and curtailing cost of living increases in benefits to military retirees.

Both houses then passed a bipartisan spending bill. This bill does not address the debt limit, or fully eliminate the sequester cuts. It also does not extend the long term unemployment insurance. The House voted 359-67 on January 15 to approve a \$1.1 trillion spending bill for the current fiscal year. The Senate passed it a few days later. Unemployment benefits and SNAP (food stamps) still must be funded. Food stamps cuts could leave recipients unable to buy enough food to last to the end of the month. AAUW recommends that we contact our legislators and urge them to reinstate food stamps and unemployment payments.

In other news the Supreme Court is hearing cases of interest to women. One concerns "buffer zones" around abortion clinics. These zones keep protestors 35 feet away from the clinic allowing patients to enter safely without being harassed or physically intimidated. The anti-choice woman who brought the suit says the law prevents her from having "quiet conversations" with patients entering the building.

The court also declined to reconsider a lower court ruling that found Arizona's 20 week abortion ban unconstitutional. This decision means that Arizona is unable to enforce the ban.

In Pennsylvania state judge struck down the state's 2012 law requiring voters to produce a state – approved photo ID at the polls. He ruled that the law hampered the ability of hundreds of thousands of qualified Pennsylvania voters to cast their ballots. The law affected most heavily the elderly, disabled, and low income. The reason for the law –to prevent voter fraud- was unsupported by the facts.

After many months of a vacancy, Florida's governor Scott has appointed Carlos Lopez-Cantera as Lieutenant Governor. He will serve the rest of the present term and will be Gov. Scott's running mate in the upcoming election.

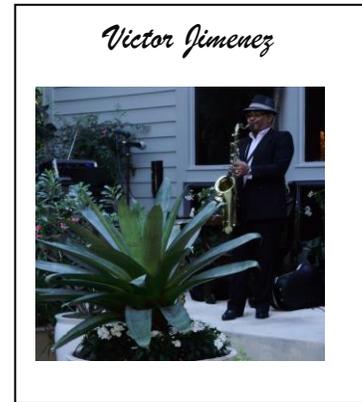
**Florida Lobby Corp and Lobby Day**

2014 offers AAUW-FL a great opportunity to move forward on expanding its reach as well as its commitment to public policy. This year we will be working diligently within our state to advocate for the issues that are relevant to women and girls. This type of work will set the stage for generations of women to come and forming a sustainable state wide lobby corp will be vital to the success of this work. We will be moving forward with a Lobby Day on March 24th and would really like to establish a group of people to help us lead our lobby day and other policy work to take place afterwards. If you are interested in being a part of the Lobby Corp please email Susan at [svberlin@bellsouth.net](mailto:svberlin@bellsouth.net)

**Jazz in the Garden Report** by Susan Berlin

I wish that everyone could have attended the *Jazz in the Garden* event on January 18<sup>th</sup> that benefited our STEM programs. It was a

magical night in Ocean Ridge. Victor Jimenez entertained us with his soulful tunes and smooth vocals as guests wandered throughout the spectacular themed gardens, sipping wine and indulging in decadent hors d'oeuvres.



*President Susan Berlin greeted guests at the registration table*



The success of the evening was due to the hard work of so many individuals. Special recognition must be bestowed on Donna Artes, co-Director for Program, who designed the menu and made the appetizers. Betty Rigdon and Barbara Wagner assisted in the

kitchen and served the food. Somehow, they had the Supervisor of Ocean Ridge under their magical spell, serving platters of food!

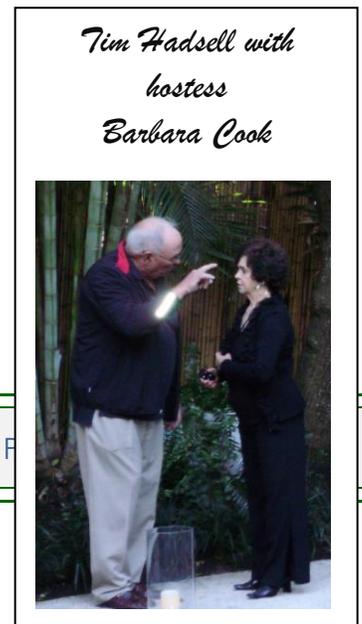


*Fenece Russ spoke about STEM*



Many thanks to Barbara Hadsell for organizing this event. Many hours were spent in finding a location and planning the evening. Sharon Trost secured the entertainment and Virginia Farace designed the tickets, press release, and name badges, and took the pictures. Deborah Nesbit was early on the scene, assisting on set-up. Many thanks to the husbands, Tim Hadsell, James Nesbit and Richard Wagner for supplying muscle power. The Elks organized valet parking with cool efficiency

I am most grateful to our hosts, Barbara and Stan Cook, for donating their beautiful gardens for our use. Barbara is a Master Gardener who designed and manages the gardens. Barbara eagerly agreed to host the event and support our mission of STEM education for middle school girls.



*Wine was served at poolside*



**Profits from this event surpassed \$1,400.00 and will be used to finance: Girls + STEM = Success.**



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Dear Merchant,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a powerful community that breaks through barriers facing women and families today. AAUW empowers women through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Our annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at the The Chesterfield Hotel in Palm Beach. Proceeds benefit AAUW Funds and AAUW- Palm Beach County's STEM event for middle school girls, **Girls + STEM = Future Success**. This program allows participants to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math and encourages girls to pursue a career in STEM. Each year, AAUW awards \$4 million in scholarships and grants to women pursuing higher education and implementing community programs.

Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please consider donating a gift certificate or item for our auction. The success of our fundraiser depends upon the generosity of our community and people like you.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Susan V. Berlin*

Susan V. Berlin, D.D.S.  
President, AAUW-Palm Beach County

## AAUW-Palm Beach County Officers 2013-2014

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Susan Berlin  
1734 S. Congress Ave  
Palm Springs, FL 33461



Palm Beach County Branch

Dear Members,

AAUW Palm Beach County's Style Show and Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 11:30 am in the Leopard Lounge of the Chesterfield Hotel. Tickets are \$50.00 each. Please prepay your reservation.

Return this reservation form, listing your guests' names, along with the name of any other member with whom you would like to be seated. Everything possible will be done to accommodate your requests. **The deadline for reservations is March 7, 2014.** Please reserve as soon as possible.

The luncheon includes a choice of soup or garden chopped salad, a choice of Grilled Chicken Paillard or Fresh Lobster Salad on a Crispy Baguette and Warm Apple Tart with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream and Bourbon Sauce. Coffee, tea and iced tea are included and a cash bar will be available.

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Total # of guests \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50.00 per ticket      total amount enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to AAUW Palm Beach County**

I would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Susan Berlin, 1734 South Congress Avenue, Palm Springs, FL 33461

Further information: (561)642-4720 or [svberlin@bellsouth.net](mailto:svberlin@bellsouth.net)

