



AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY

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What Was Caught at Prime Catch?

We had a lovely luncheon at Boynton Beach's Prime Catch on March 21. Sonia Hedrick spoke to us about Learning Ally, a group of volunteers who have been reading for the blind since 1948. Initially started to help blind soldiers returning from WWII, the organization has broadened to reading textbooks for K-12, college and graduate students. People with dyslexia, visual impairment or physical disability can use the service. Volunteers are trained to read different kinds of material used by the service and either read at a studio or at home. The closest studio is at FAU in Boca. If you have interest in volunteering contact Sonia at 561-297-4443 or sHedrick@LearningAlly.org.

April's General Meeting

The General Meeting will be at SFWMD at 3301 Gun Club Rd. The speaker will be Ms. Terrie Bates, Director of Water Resources, a member of the SFWMD Executive Leadership Team and adjunct Professor at Broward State College. She will be giving an excellent talk entitled "Bird Watching 101 in South Florida". This presentation has been given rave reviews by the groups to which it has been presented!

Notes

HAPPY HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!

Lila Mae Flounders
Bernadette Russell

General Meeting

**April 22, Wednesday, 2015
6p.m.-7:30p.m.**

**South Florida Water
Management Dept.**

**3301 Gun Club Road
Across the street from the
Sherriff's Dept.**

Parking is Free

**Talk will be in the Storch
Conference Room on
the third floor of South
Florida Watermanagement
Headquarters.**

**Bring your own beverage or
you can purchase from on site**

vending machines.

TRICKED

On March 18 and 19 there were two showings of the film "Tricked" in the area. This is a clear look at sexual slavery as it is practiced in North America. That slavery is big business world- wide as well as in North America – in fact there are more enslaved people today than at any other time in our world's history – is repeatedly shown during the film.

Tricked opens with an interview with a pimp who clearly instructs the viewer that there only two types of women – whores and prostitutes. One gives sex away for free and the other sells it. He then calmly proceeds to instruct us that all the different charge cards he has, the jewelry, the houses, the expensive limos and cars, the ostentatious clubbing, are all needed to run his business. His victims expect him to live the high life. There was only one woman pimp interviewed – she gives her girls jeweled cups so they feel part of the family. This business model is repeated over and over again by hundreds of pimps or CEOs as they see themselves.

Juxtaposed against this business model is the soul deadening exploitation of the pimps' employees. Whether it is forcing the prostitutes to walk the streets or entertaining big spenders in luxurious hotels, sexual slavery is as carefully organized as any big business. The pimps have perfected the ability to spot vulnerable women, girls, young boys (earliest in the film was 5 years old) and to seduce them using a repeatable, duplicatable business model. First, the victim is befriended, which often means several days of talking, touching, isolating the victim, buying dinners or gifts while letting the victim know how valued he/she is. Next, the victim is given alcohol and/or drugs and forced to have sexual encounters while being assured nobody would welcome the victim but the pimp. Then there is some physical violence, after which the pimp is sad to have had to discipline the victim, but it is the victim's fault after all. The victims are threatened with death or maiming if they try to leave the 'family'. The pimps instill in their employees the idea that they are part of a group or family – they belong. It's like a cult.

Historically the perception of the victim was someone who came from a fractured home and was most likely abused as a child. The current business model is reaching out to kids in schools, working after school jobs, etc. If the child is vulnerable, the pimps can spot them. Pimps use other kids to invite their friends to 'parties' where they can be introduced to seduction.

Once the victim/employee has been inculcated into the group, terror and helplessness and often drugs keep them there. The victims who are able to leave often experience PTSD symptoms for years



Join us on Tuesday, April 14, as we mark Equal Pay Day with best **unhappy** hour!

On this symbolic day when women's pay finally "catches up" to men's from the previous year, we gather to hear discuss the gender pay gap, the Paycheck Fairness Act while enjoying some libations.

Beverages are 25% off **for WOMEN ONLY!!!!!!**

Come eat, gripe, bring signs and discuss how to change things. Bring a friend or two, or three or more!



Jordan's Steak Bistro

10140 W Forest Hill Blvd. Ste 170

6:00-8:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Deborahnesbit@bellsouth.net

or syberlin@bellsouth.net

after leaving. When the victim outlives her usefulness to the pimp she is kicked out with no education or skill, often with a baby and an addiction, to fend for herself. There is no sense of remorse from the pimps since they view their employees as less than human, and justify their positions by “taking care” of a girl if she gets pregnant (bad for business – nobody wants sex with someone whose belly is out to here[said with appropriate gestures]). And unfortunately many victims come to view themselves as worthless too. We met one woman who had been in the life for two years, is now out, and currently married and mother of two. She was inducted into the business when she was 17 and a freshman in college – away from home the first time, excited about living in the big city(Boston), and alone. She has been working to try to help other young women in the life, but as the movie progressed, she looked like she was losing her focus.

POAST has been working very hard to bring a bill, HB369, to a vote in the FL legislature that will mandate the posting of a national hotline phone number in train and bus stations, massage parlors, places where pimps cruise for vulnerable bodies. The hotline can offer help to the victims and information to help worried friends or family. It is really a good resource. As of March 20, the bill was passed in a watered down version, mandating it be posted in “rest areas, turnpike service plazas, weigh stations, welcome centers, and public toilet facilities in the State that are open to the public.” Since much trafficking goes on along the interstate, this bill even in its limited form, is an important first step.

Public Policy – April, 2015

Susan D. King

Florida’s Legislature is halfway through its two month session. Many bills have passed committee hearings and budget hearings are in process. During the Lobby Days in March, Susan Berlin, Virginia Farace and Maurcy Selko were in Tallahassee and spoke with our representatives.

Here are a few items of interest to AAUW members:

As of March 19th, a key Senate panel approved a sweeping education bill. This bill would allow parents to send their children to schools in other counties and demand their children get new teachers in some situations. It was approved on a party line vote. Other provisions include changes to charter school laws. Also parents would have to pay for transportation costs if their child went to a school out of district. The bill has two more committee stops before going to the full Senate.

The Florida House unanimously approved the end of some of the many standardized tests public students still take. They would

**AAUW Palm Beach County
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2015**

The membership meeting was called to order at Prime Catch restaurant in Boynton Beach by Susan Berlin at 12:15 pm and turned over to President Deborah Nesbit when she arrived a few minutes later.

Virginia Farace gave a report on the AAUW Florida’s successful Legislative Days of March 17 and 18. In addition to Virginia and Susan B, Maurcy Selko also represented out branch in Tallahassee.

Susan Berlin reminded everyone and encouraged member to attend the AAUW Florida’s Leadership Conference on April 17 and 18 in Melbourne. Members can carpool and share rooms to save on cost.

Donna Artes introduced the speaker, Sandra Hedrick, who spoke about “Learning Ally”, formerly known as Recording Books for the Blind. The recording studio is in Boca Raton and welcomes volunteers to read books and textbooks for the blind, dyslexic, and learning disabled.

After lunch, the Nominating Committee report was given by Barbara Wagner:

For two year Terms:

Co-Directors for Membership: Sharon Trost and Barbara Wagner

Director for Finance: Susan King

Director for Public Policy: Maurcy Selko

Secretary: Virginia Farace

For the completion of one year terms:

Co-Presidents: Deborah Nesbit and Susan Berlin

Co-Directors for Program: Donna Artes and Betty Rigdon

Director for Development: Maria Ascencio

eliminate the test for 11th graders for English and Language Arts and the postsecondary educations readiness test. It would also reduce the amount of weight given to student performance as part of teacher evaluation.

An amended bill on Human Trafficking passed committee and will be sent to the full House. Changes reduced the locations to post required notices for the National Trafficking Hotline number. Places required will be all rest areas, turnpike service plazas, weigh stations, welcome centers and public transit facilities. Since much of the trafficking goes on along the interstates this can make a huge difference.

The US Congress is also working on a bill on human trafficking. It has stalled in the Senate because of antiabortion language in the bill.

The Florida Legislature is proposing new alimony bill. It is opposed by First Wives Advocacy Group. The group is supported by many women's groups including League of Women Voters, and Florida National Organization for Women. Many state newspapers also voiced objections to the bill It is considered detrimental to women.

Among objections the bill would retroactively modify the financial consequences of divorce. It could limit the time alimony would be paid. When alimony ends there is no provision for seeking a modification despite any changes in circumstance, need or ability to pay. Alimony recipients need to save for retirement. This is not considered in this bill. Finally, the bill does not take into account the difficulty for someone to enter the job market after a 15-30 year gap in employment.

Keep up with news of the Florida Legislature with your favorite source: Smartphones, iPads, TV or newspapers. Contact you representatives and let them know how you would like them to vote.

Minutes continued

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the April membership meeting, followed by the election.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Virginia Farace

Secretary

BOOK CLUB NEWS

BY Virginia Farace

The AAUW Book Club will meet on the fourth Friday this month, April 24, at 2 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Susan King will lead the discussion of ***Sycamore Row*** by John Grisham.

Has your birthday been missed? It means that that bit of information has been missing from our records. So, please email Virginia Brooks at vmackk69@gmail.com and leave her a note with your name and birthday.

"John Grisham's *A Time to Kill* is one of the most popular novels of our time. Now we return to that famous courthouse in Clanton as Jake Brigance once again finds himself on the line, fighting against a corrupt judge and a

BOOK CLUB NEWS

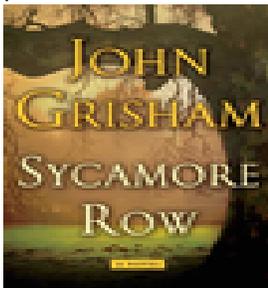
BY Virginia Farace

“John Grisham's *A Time to Kill* is one of the most popular novels of our time. Now we return to that famous courthouse in Clanton as Jake Brigance once again finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial—a trial that will expose old racial tensions and force Ford County to confront its tortured history.

Seth Hubbard is a wealthy man dying of lung cancer. He trusts no one. Before he hangs himself from a sycamore tree, Hubbard leaves a new, handwritten, will. It is an act that drags his adult children, his black maid, and Jake into a conflict as riveting and dramatic as the murder trial that made Brigance one of Ford County's most notorious citizens, just three years earlier.

second will raises far more questions than it answers. Why would Hubbard leave nearly all of his fortune to his maid? Had chemotherapy and painkillers affected his ability to think clearly? What does it all have to do with a piece of land once known as Sycamore Row?

In *Sycamore Row*, John Grisham returns to the setting and the compelling characters that first established him as America's favorite storyteller. Here, in his most assured and thrilling novel yet, is a powerful testament to the fact that Grisham remains the master of the legal thriller, nearly twenty-five years after the publication of *A Time to Kill*.” (From the publisher.)



At the March meeting, Donna Artes led the discussion of *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick. Also at April's meeting, Donna DiSesa will present three titles for the selection of the May book.

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.

Remember

April 1, 2015 the Celebrate
Equal Pay Day!

April 22, 2015
General Meeting
See you there!!