



# AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH

1734 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs, FL 33461  
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## Was It a Bird or a Plane?

April 22, 2015 we had our general meeting at South Florida Water Management's facility hosted by Sharon Trost. Sharon introduced Ms. Terrie Bates, an Executive running the Water Resources Division, who also happens to be a veteran bird watcher. Ms. Bates gave a talk entitled "Bird Watching 101 in South Florida" and had us all wanting to get a birding guide and our binoculars to head out to enjoy the fascinating world of birds. Not only was Ms. Bates very entertaining, but she offered many practical tips for beginning bird watchers as well as more sophisticated helps for those who were already familiar with birds. The SFWM facility offered the speaker multimedia resources as well as quiet so we could all enjoy and follow the speaker.

## Remember to Renew Your Membership!

There are two ways to renew your membership – (1) You can renew your membership with a credit card online at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and click on "membership"; or (2) You can send a check payable to Palm Beach Branch AAUW to Susan Berlin, 1734 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs, FL 33461. Dues renewal is \$75.00

## Notes

### **HAPPY HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS!!**

Freda Brehm

### **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!!**

Gigi Alexander  
Cheryl Lohse  
Suzanne Turner

### **General Meeting May, 16 Noon**

#### **Callaro's Steak House**

717 Lake Ave., Lake Worth FL

Next to Lake Worth Playhouse

195 to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave S Exit 63; then  
left onto US1 North then; right  
onto Lake Ave

Or

10<sup>th</sup> Aven North to right onto  
Route 1 South; and then left  
onto Lake Ave

Street parking – J Street is  
one way heading South

## Public Policy Report for May, 2014 – Susan King

The Florida Legislature is polarized over a major health insurance plan and may have to extend their session. With a May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline neither side has bridged the \$4.2 billion difference between them. The Senate is pushing to provide health care to 800,000 low income Floridians. The House Speaker, Steve Crisafilli, says he will not go along with the Senate's Florida Health Insurance Exchange (FHIX). FHIX is a privatized Medicaid expansion plan. Governor Scott sides with the House Speaker. This impasse affects monies provided by the Federal government to repay hospitals which treat the poor. There is talk of extending the legislative session to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

A bill which would require a 24 hour waiting period for a woman seeking an abortion passed both houses. Exceptions would be made for a victim of rape, incest, domestic violence or human trafficking. They would need documentation such as a police report to get the exemption. The governor has signed all previous abortion bills and is expected to sign this one too.

A bill to allow on-line voter registration has been postponed. It would allow Floridians with driver's licenses or state issued identification cards to submit application on-line. To be verified their name, date of birth and signatures would have to match Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle records.

In Washington, Loretta Lynch was confirmed as Attorney General. She will be sworn in next week. She becomes the first African American woman to serve in this position.

An anti-human-trafficking bill passed unanimously in the Senate. It had been delayed over questions of funding of abortions. The bill previously would have forbidden the use of restitution funds for abortions. Democrats felt that this was an extension of the Hyde amendment which forbids tax money being used for this purpose. The restitution funds are a fine not a tax. A compromise was reached which divides victims' restitution fund will be used for law enforcement and legal support for survivors but not health care. Health care funds will be subject to the Hyde amendment.

The woman who posed for Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter" passed away this week. Mary Doyle Keefe was 92. She had been working as a telephone operator when she posed for the iconic painting.



### **Remember It's**

### **Time to Renew**

### **Your Membership!!**

\$75.00

You can go online:

[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and  
click on "membership"

or

You can mail your  
check,

Made out to

AAUW Palm Beach  
Branch

Mail to:

Susan Berlin

1734 S. Congress Ave.

**You can also bring your  
check and renew at the  
May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting!!**



Bring your  
money for the 50/50  
raffle May 16<sup>th</sup>. Part of  
our ongoing fundraising  
for our Branch.

## Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting was called to order at the South Florida Water Management District third floor conference room in suburban West Palm Beach by President Deborah Nesbit at 7:12 pm.

The Chair read the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee at the March meeting and as printed in the April newsletter.

Those nominated are:

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 Asencio

The Chair asked for any additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the nominations were closed and the slate was unanimously elected.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 16. The location is to be determined and listed in the next newsletter.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Susan Berlin announced the decision of the Florida Board of Directors that the Tech Trek 2016 location will be on the southeast coast. We are currently in discussion about a joint camp at Palm Beach State College / FAU in Boca Raton.

Virginia Farace announced that the 2016 AAUW Florida Convention will be at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott on PGA and I95.

Members were reminded of the importance of voting in the AAUW National election. All information is in the OUTLOOK received about two weeks ago and also on the National website. Each member with email received an email with voting instructions last week. Those without email,

## May General Meeting

Will feature the installation of officers for the coming year!!

Come to salute and cheer them on (and to volunteer to help our branch)



## Wondering How To Help?

- Phone calling
- Hostess for an event – Check people in; Take tickets; Sell 50/50 tickets
- New Member mentor – greet them, make them feel welcome
- Be the Happy Hour Queen
- Volunteer to pick members up who don't drive

Contact Deborah Nesbit to volunteer

[deborahnesbit@bellsouth.net](mailto:deborahnesbit@bellsouth.net)

should have received a printed ballot. Our board will assist anyone who needs help in accessing the online voting at our next meeting in May.

Virginia F and Virginia B distributed packets of "POAST-IT in TEAL" notes that are printed with the Human Trafficking Hotline Number. These are to be posted in areas where trafficked women may find them such as public restrooms. This is being done this week in conjunction with Victims' Rights Week but should continue until all "POAST-ITS" are used.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Submitted by:

Virginia Farace  
Secretary

**Remember to vote in the  
AAUW National Election!!**

**You can vote online or  
via the printed ballot sent  
to those without email.**



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

BY Virginia Farace

The AAUW Book Club will meet on the third Friday, May 15, at 2 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Donna DiSesa will lead the discussion of *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

"Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.

Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles—and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

An unforgettable journey into one man's remarkable life, and an epic story about the power, intimacy, and curious beauty of the work of healing others."

**Future Planning:**

**April 2016** – The State Convention will be held locally and it will be our General Meeting for the month of April. Plan to attend since everyone who has attended in the past feels they have learned so much about AAUW!

**Tech Trek Camp for Girls June 2016:**

This will be at FAU and we are looking for volunteers to help in all sorts of ways. It is a terrific investment in our country's future!

Deborah Nesbit

deborahnesbit@bellsouth.net

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