

AAUW Palm Beach County

<http://Palmbeach-fl.aauw.net/> T: (561)642-4720

Dear members,

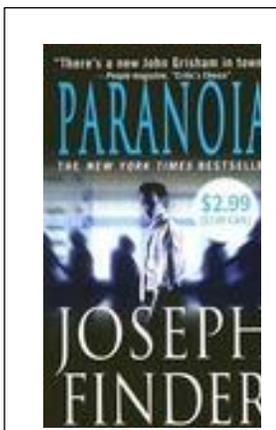
Thank you for supporting our fundraiser at the Chesterfield Hotel last month. We raised almost \$1,800.00 which will be used to support

- Tech Trek, our state STEM camp for girls entering eighth grade,
- NCCWSL – the nation's premier leadership conference in Washington, D.C. for college women student leaders,
- The Legal Advocacy Fund which supports plaintiffs in sexual discrimination cases

BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Virginia Farace

The Third Friday Book Club will meet on Friday, Feb 20, at 2 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Amy Schwed will lead the discussion of **Paranoia** by Joseph Finder.



“It was only a prank: diverting cash from Wyatt Telecom's executive slush fund to throw a retirement bash for a member of the loading dock crew. But when corporate security catches up with Adam Cassidy, a low ambition junior staffer at the high-tech behemoth, they call it something else: embezzlement, to the tune of nearly \$80 grand. Ruthless CEO Nick Wyatt is impressed by Adam's scheming, and offers him one way out-take on the role of a rising corporate hotshot and infiltrate Wyatt's rival, Trion Systems. His mission is to get close



Upcoming Events

February 21

Luncheon, The Beach Club, 12:00 pm

March 21

Branch Meeting, Prime Catch, 700 E. Woolbright Rd, Boynton Beach \$23.00

April 17

AAUW Leadership Conference, Melbourne

April 25

Branch meeting

May 16

Branch meeting

Important Announcement

The February meeting will feature:

Fenee Russ, Tech Trek 2016 Camp Director

Chardonnay Singleton, AAUW Regional Field Rep for FL, GA and AL

The Beach Club at the Lake Worth Country Club, 1 7th Avenue, Lake Worth 33460

to Trion's legendary founder Jock Goddard, and his ultra-secret "Project Aurora," and report back to Wyatt. With Wyatt pulling the strings and a dramatically improved identity, Adam is set up as Trion's new boy genius. Suddenly, he's got a sweet new Porsche, a closet full of \$1,500 suits, and even a lovely lady who thinks he's a dream. But it's all just a mirage, because Adam is about to learn that nothing is what it seems and that it isn't paranoia...everyone is out to get him... "-- Goodreads

The March book is **A Reliable Wife** by Robert Goolrick led by Donna Artes. At January's meeting, Cheryl Lohse moderated the discussion of **The Sense of an Ending** by Julian Barnes. At February's meeting, Susan King will present three titles for the selection of the April 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.

Public Policy Report by Susan King, Director for Public Policy

President Obama's State of the Union address covered many topics which are being called "middle class economics".

The term is new, but the issues are those that AAUW has been working on for many years. These include ending gender pay discrimination, expanding child care tax credits, paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more affordable and raising the minimum wage. A new poll showed that voters of all political parties supported many of these policies. The question is how many of the policies will get through Congress.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension committee held its first hearing on reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind act. The meeting focused on annual testing requirements. AAUW believes the tests are essential to assessing an individual student's progress. AAUW Lobby Corp members attended the meeting.

The House Republicans dropped plans to vote on a 20-week abortion ban after two dozen Republican member and other GOP women voiced opposition to a provision which required a rape victim to report the assault to law enforcement in order to get an abortion after 20 weeks. However the house then passed a more far-reaching anti-choice bill that would restrict both public and private insurance policies from covering abortion regardless of a woman's circumstances.

In another area, lawmakers reintroduced the "Democracy for All" constitutional amendment aimed at reversing the five year old Citizen's United decision of the Supreme Court. This decision recognized corporations as people and gave them virtually unlimited influence in campaigns in federal elections through the ability to contribute large amount of money to campaigns

During the recess before the 114th Congress started, President Obama announced that the United States and Cuba would resume diplomatic relations. This would end a 50 year embargo against Cuba. An embassy will be built in Cuba, and trade and travel restrictions will be reduced. Many of South Florida's Cuban population welcome the chance to send more money to family still in Cuba as well as a chance to visit.

In March, the Florida legislature will meet for two months. Many bills are already being formulated.

Also in March many municipalities will hold elections to pick councilmembers, and mayors.

Check your local news sources for up-to date information on these.

More Important News

Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way

Join fellow AAUW Florida members in AAUW Florida's leadership conference, Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way, at the Hilton Rialto, Melbourne, Florida on April 17 and 18. This information packed day and half conference is open to all AAUW members, not just branch leaders. The cost for attending is only \$70.00 and includes a luncheon featuring Mollie Lam, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund senior manager. Mollie will be discussing the many cases that we as AAUW members support through our generous donations. Erica Stout from Washington D.C> will lead workshops that can help you sharpen your leadership and volunteer skills. Carpooling from the branch can be arranged by contacting Susan @ svberlin@bellsouth.net. The registration form is located on the state website, <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>.

Lobby Days 2015

AAUW members from around the state will be gathering in Tallahassee March 17 and 18th to meet with politicians to discuss pending legislation. Local Representative Lori Berman (D-Lantana) has proposed legislation that would mandate equal rights for men and women. Other bills deal with education, women's health issues and violence against women and children. Attendees will receive training on how to meet with an elected official.

Other planned events include a tea with the First Ladies of Florida (which may lead to rousing discussions) and a reception for legislators and their aides. Other highlights include a press conference in the Capitol rotunda and a tour the old Capitol.

A block of rooms have been set aside at the Baymont Inn and Suites for under \$67.00, including breakfast. Members will receive a stipend from AAUW Florida's Public Policy Impact Grant to offset expenses. Carpooling will be facilitated to make this a tolerable road trip. More information is available at <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>.

Come show your support and LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!