



# AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH

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## Information for November 21 Meeting

AAUW's November meeting will be held at Palm Beach College in Boca Raton and will be filled with information delivered by an exciting and accomplished woman speaker. We will be carpooling for those of you who don't want to drive or are unfamiliar with Boca.

Sex and labor trafficking has become a \$32 billion world-wide industry. Florida ranks third in the nation in number of trafficked victims. Most of these victims are U.S. citizens and a very disturbing number of them are children as young as 11 and 12 years old. This presentation will explain the nature and extent of the problem of human trafficking in the U.S. and the excellent film "Chosen" will be shown to open the discussion on how we can get at the root of the problem, including introducing educational programs in the schools and new legislation. You will hear about all the wonderful work the coalitions in Palm Beach County are doing to combat human trafficking in our midst.

Dr. Linda Geller-Schwartz will be presenting the program. Dr. Geller-Schwartz's leadership and perseverance has been an important factor in raising community and government awareness of human trafficking in Florida. Prior to her retirement, Dr. Geller-Schwartz was an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University in the Women's Studies Center and the Department of Sociology. Her principal areas of focus were problems facing Women in the workplace, including sexual harassment, pay equity and occupational sex segregation. Over twenty years ago, before moving to Florida, Dr. Geller-Schwartz was the Director General of the Women's Bureau in the federal Department of Labor in Canada, and a senior policy advisor in the government. The University of Toronto awarded Dr. Geller-Schwartz her PhD in political science and the London School of Economics awarded her M.Sc.

## Notes

**Happy Happy November Birthdays!**

**Rosalie Almborg  
Gay Konnagan  
Cheryl Lohse  
Mary Jane Range  
Betty Rigdon**

**November 21, 2015**  
**Join us for our third meeting of this 2015-2016 season!**

**Where:** Palm Beach State College,  
Humanities/Technologies Building, Room HT 102

**When:** Saturday, November 21, 2015

**Time:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Direction:** Parking is in front of the building. See the main article for more specific information. We will be carpooling if you don't want to drive. Call Virginia B 561-271-5277



One of the scholarships Dr. Geller-Schwartz received in London was from the International Association of University Women.

Currently Linda is actively involved in the community as Florida State Policy Advocacy Chair for the National Council of Jewish Women. She also heads up POAST – Partner Organizations Against Sex Trafficking – which is a Palm Beach County-based

coalition that combats human trafficking through awareness, education and advocacy activities.

State Rep Dave Kerner also plans to attend and speak about his new legislative initiative concerning Sex Trafficking.

### Two Different Directions to Palm Beach State College

1. Take I95 South to Exit 48 for FL 794 toward Yamato. Keep left at fork and follow signs for Boca Raton. Use any lane to turn left onto FL 794/NW 51<sup>st</sup> St/Yamato Road. Turn right onto NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave/NW Boca Raton Blvd. Turn right onto NW 40<sup>th</sup> St/Spanish River. Turn left onto NW 8<sup>th</sup> and then right onto NW 32<sup>nd</sup> St.
2. Take I95 South to Glades Rd. Turn left (east) onto Glades Rd and go about 1.4 miles to the third entrance, E. University Dr. Turn left onto E University Dr and follow signs to PBSC.

Park in the Aqua Lot and the HT building is immediately to the east across from the Aqua Lot. We will be in meeting room HT 102, There will be no luncheon, just light refreshments.

Remember we will **car pool** – so if you wish to car pool meet at Susan Berlin’s office 1734 Congress Ave., Palm Springs FL 33461 at 9:45 a.m. Nov. 21, so we can leave at 10 a.m. Please let Virginia Brooks know at [vmackk69@gmail.com](mailto:vmackk69@gmail.com) or call 561-271-5277 to let her know how many people want to car pool. Please let her know by Wednesday, November 18. We want to make sure there are enough cars for everyone.

There is a map of the campus below – the HT building is the northern most aqua colored building.

**Say “Hello” to new members of our Branch!!**

**Dr. Marie Gabrielson**

**Joan Sutera**

**Linda Newton**

**Gonzalee Ford**

**Diane Belleville**

AAUW Palm Beach Branch is so pleased to welcome you all to the interesting and challenging world of AAUW!

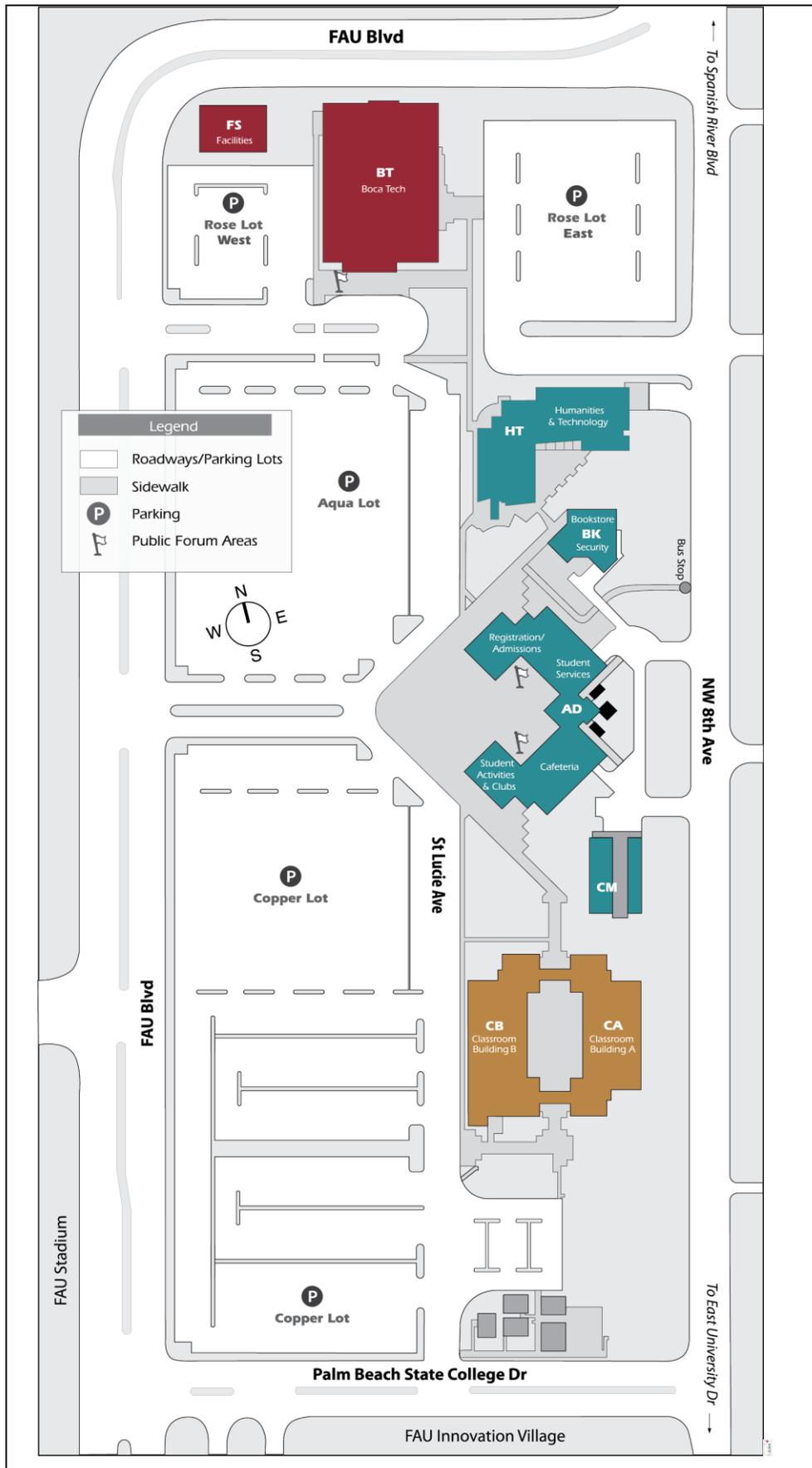
### Keep These Dates Open

- December 12- Annual Holiday Party
- January 16 – Tea at the Chesterfield – Fund Raiser
- February 20 – Meeting

Remember to greet everyone at your table and look for new members to welcome!

**Pick up your Branch Yearbook/Directory at the meeting if you did not get one last month.**

**Contains branch dates/information as well as membership list.**



## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

AAUW's 2011-2013 Public Policy includes the statement, "AAUW advocates freedom from violence in homes, schools, workplaces and communities." There was a member-adopted resolution in 2001 that urged members to engage in "gun violence prevention." Currently, AAUW Florida's 2016 Legislative Agenda is focusing on (2016) FL H4001 and (2016) FL SB68, proposed legislation that deals with concealed weapons carry on campus, a very polarizing and disturbing topic. AAUW's stance is to oppose such legislation. The rationale is that most educators and campus employees oppose concealed carry on campuses and AAUW respects the judgment of our educators.

For years I have avoided this whole gun violence prevention issue and speaking out about this subject. My personal views were early in my life shaped when a close friend's life tragically ended at the age of 18. She was my high school "little sister" and her new boyfriend wanted to show her his father's gun. I sat through the funeral home visiting hours, the service, and witnessed the lives torn apart because of senseless actions.

Please take a moment to remember the victims of our recent college, high school and church massacres. It is time for all of us to realize violence is stealing our youth and this crisis is spreading. Those of us who support gun violence prevention also advocate anti-bullying and harassment legislation. Reducing gun violence in schools and creating a safe school environment go hand in hand. Removing guns from the educational equation is an important starting point.

Our youth are dealing with a crippling fear – is school safe? Are we secure in movie theaters and at malls? The escalating violence also reflects the issue that mental health problems need to be addressed and services must be available and easily accessed. Violence and massacres used to be a very distant worry, another country's problem. The unthinkable has occurred and this epidemic is growing and must be addressed.

I hope this recent tragedy will spur meaningful dialogue and lead to societal change. We must recognize and treat mental illness. We must be proactive in our schools. We must teach tolerance, compassion and show our legislatures that laws must be changed to address the problems that are crippling our nation.

Susan –

## PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

by Maurcy Selko

U.S. Supreme Court convened for 2015-2016 term with a docket full of cases important to AAUW including voting right cases – union case in California has potential to limit unions to stop collective bargaining, potential abortion regulations case – in Texas there would be limited access to safe legal abortions, and potential birth control coverage cases – religiously affiliated groups are challenging affordable care act contraception coverage provisions.

State Spotlight – California became state with strongest equal pay protection in nation which was signed by Governor Jerry Brown's Fair Pay Act.

Cheer of the Week - Justine Siegel became the 1<sup>st</sup> female MLB coach after being hired by Oakland Athletics. Justine has a Ph.D in sport psychology and also is the first woman to pitch at a batting practice for an MLB team!

Your Rep needs to hear from you – about 28% of college women are targets of attempted or completed assault. AAUS's own research revealed that two thirds of college students experience sexual harassment.

Urge your rep to cosponsor the HOLD ACCOUNTABLE AND LEND TRANSPARENCY (HALT) to Campus Sexual Violence Act!

AAUW ELECTS NEW NATIONAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL. Every year, ten outstanding collegiate leaders are elected from all over the country to serve on this board. They not only organize advocacy projects on campus, but they also serve as peer leaders and planners of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

AAUW CHEER The U.S. Census released a report stating the for the first time in 75 years, women are now more likely to attain a Bachelor's Degree than men!

AAUW JEER The Women in the Workplace 2015 report found that almost half of female executive claim that they have had fewer career opportunities based on their gender.

The Office of Social Security had determined that with consumer prices down this year there will be no cost-of-living adjustment made for 2016 and therefore no increase in Social Security and SSI benefits.

AAUW signed a letter urging President Obama to act on campaign finance reform. AAUW and 40 other organizations encouraged the president to issue the "End the Secret Money" executive order which would require federal contractors and corporations to disclose the election-related spending.

Governor Andrew Cuomo(D-NY) signed eight bills into law that are part of the Women's Equality Agenda which is a package of bills first introduced in 2013 addressing a wide range of issues which AAUW-NY worked tirelessly on for two years to advance the agenda. More than 850 businesses and organizations across the state signed on the help with the push.

AAUW CHEER High School graduation rates have risen in 36 states!

AAUW JEER Texas ended its Medicaid contract with Planned Parenthood.

AAUW signed on to a letter to Congress opposing the delay of the Education Department's gainful employment regulation which protects students from debt.

One thing we must do.....Some member of the House Education and Work Force Committee celebrated a Working Families' Day of Action. AAUW has long promoted positive work-life balance policies but many of our favorite measures are currently stuck in Congress.

Find out which five bills would improve the economic security of millions of families and urge your representative to support them. AND MORE.....The U.S. women's national soccer team was honored for winning the 2015 World Cup....two days later the Senate blocked a resolution that urged FIFA to eliminate gender pay inequity. The women's team earned \$2million for the World Cup: The German men's team earned \$35million for their win in 2014.....tell Congress to take up this resolution to implement equal pay for women's and men's teams!

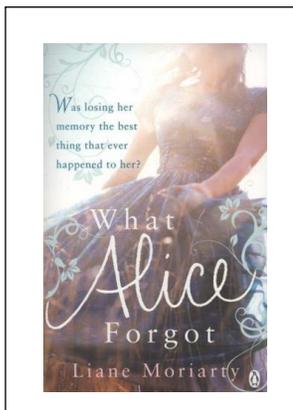
Paul Ryan, 54<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House, received 236 votes: at age 45 he is the youngest since 1869: 184 votes were cast by Democrats for Nancy Pelosi. Rep Ryan proposes to overhaul Medicare as well as restructure the tax code.

AAUW CHEER The South by Southwest Interactive Festival announced that it would host a full day of programs addressing online harassment. Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations, applauded the numerous technology companies who expressed their disappointment that previously the festival had cancelled panels on sexual harassment in video game culture.

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Virginia Farace

The AAUW Book Club will meet on the third Friday, November 20, at 2:00 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Maurcy Selko will lead the discussion of **What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty.**



***Alice Love is twenty-nine, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child.***

*So imagine Alice's surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over — she's getting divorced, she has three kids and she's actually 39 years old. Alice must reconstruct the events of a lost decade, and find out whether it's possible to reconstruct her life at the same time. She has to figure out why her sister hardly talks to her, and how is it that she's become one of those super skinny moms with really expensive clothes.*

*Ultimately, Alice must discover whether forgetting is a blessing or a curse, and whether it's possible to start over.*

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.

## Notes on Future Meetings – More Information Will Follow

December 12 will be our Holiday Party/Luncheon. It will be celebrated at Callaro's with an optional gift exchange. If you want to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped, new \$10 gift.

January 16 we will be taking Tea at the Chesterfield. This will be a fund raiser for our Branch's support of AAUW. More information will be forthcoming. Also, a merchant's letter is attached so you can solicit contributions for the fund raiser.



### Co – Presidents:

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### Save These Dates

**November 21 – Human Trafficking**

**December 12 – Holiday Party**

**January 16 – Tea at the  
Chesterfield**

**February 20 – Title IX**

**March 19 – Palm Beach State  
College**

**April 14 -17 – State Convention**

**May 13 - Officer Installation**