**MAY GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2013**

**Callaro’s Steak House**

**717 Lake Ave, corner of ‘J’ Street**

**12:00 noon**

**Choice from $10 (lunch item & beverage)**

**and $19.13 (soup/salad, entrée, dessert, coffee/tea) menus**

**Parking available on street**

**or lot south of restaurant on ‘J’ Street**

**Diane Cochran, former AAUW-FL President**

**and current Port St. Lucie branch President, will conduct**

**Installation of Newly-elected Officers**

Director for Program: Rosalynd Homer

Director for Finance: Barbara Hadsell

Director for Public Policy: Susan King

Secretary: Katie Zanartu

**One of the AAUW Callers**

 **-- Susan King, Vivian Fahey, Ann Hudnall or Virginia Brooks, Chair --**

**will call or email you; if you prefer or decide later to join in,**

 **please call Virginia Brooks at 271-5277**

FINAL RESERVATION DEADLINE: Friday a.m. May 17

**Guests welcome**

**President's Message**

**May 2013**

Dear Members

*“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who have learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.”* Charles Darwin

This April 16th was the 77th anniversary of the establishment of AAUW Palm Beach County. The first charter members were wonderful, brave and progressive women. Esther C. Holt, one of the two women who organized our branch, became the 6th president of AAUW-FL and served from 1937-1940. Pat Robinson, a dual branch member, was elected as president in 1990. It is my great pleasure to announce that Virginia Farace and I have been elected as AAUW-FL C0-Presidents Elect at the recent state convention. This is a one year term, commencing July 1, 2013, during which we will assist state president Eileen Recchia. We will become state co-presidents on July 1, 2014. I am looking forward to working with Virginia and guiding AAUW-FL. I welcome questions, suggestions and advice.

Virginia served as president of Boynton Beach branch for a number of years until our branches merged together. This was a wonderful experience for members of both branches and has strengthened us not only in numbers but in spirit. I am truly excited to announce that we will also be merging this summer with the Boca Raton branch. Branch president Susan Holzschuh and her members are well known to us as they have attended many of our events. We hope to retain the essence and character of Boca Raton branch. We will be known as Palm Beach County branch – one true branch representing Palm Beach members from Boca Raton through West Palm Beach. We believe that this merger will allow to expand our programming and to touch more members in our community.

Finally, do not forget to exercise your right to vote in the national AAUW elections. The offices of President and Vice President as well as several Director positions are open. Voting is open through June 10th. If you have email, you should have received a link to the voting site as well as your unique pin number. For those who do not receive emails, please refer to your recent edition of *Outlook.* Please contact me if you have any difficulty in voting. Remember to use your vote and choose who you would like to lead our organization.

Susan

*“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is a progress. Working together is success.”*

Henry Ford

**TIME FOR DUES**

**Please use the attached membership renewal**

**form or send a check for $73 to:**

**Barbara Wagner, Membership Chair,**

**6218 Ranches Rd., Lake Worth, FL 33463**

Keep your membership active and continue receiving local, state and national publications.

Book Club News

by Virginia Farace

Can a woman ever really know herself if she doesn’t know her mother? This is at the heart of the story to be discussed at the Palm Springs Library on Friday, May 17, at 2 pm. Moderated by Virginia Farace, **Winter Garden** by Kristin Hannah is a powerful novel that illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past.

“Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard; the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between them was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told the girls at night. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time—and all the way to the end. Thus begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya’s life.” -- goodreads.com

 “.. this is a story that women, their daughters, their friends, and most men will enjoy; it is a story of hope, fear, death, friendship, sacrifice, honor, and history. It is also about fate, second chances, and personal redemption; it is a profoundly satisfying reading experience.” -- reviewer

At the April meeting, the group discussed **The Submission** by Amy Waldman, moderated by Amy
Schwed. The June book will be selected at the May meeting.

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**

**May 2013**

**by**

**Susan King**

The Florida Legislature is in its final weeks. The last day is May 5, 2013. Many bills have been passed by committees and will reach the floor shortly. Some bills have been passed and sent to Gov. Scott.

One of these is the education bill which the governor signed into law on Monday, April 22.

This bill will revamp high school graduation requirements and key phases of higher education. It creates two types of high school diplomas each with different requirements. It encourages some students to work toward industry certification. It also eliminates some math and science requirements and reduces the importance of end-of-course exams.

For universities it would set standards allowing the University of Florida and Florida State to be declared “pre-eminent universities”. UF is likely to be chosen to run an online institute education.

State budgets are also being considered. Teachers who are supposed to get across the board raises are skeptical about actually receiving them since the legislators favor merit pay increases.

Meanwhile in Washington, bills on immigration and gun control have been in the news. The Senate defeated a bill to require universal background checks on gun purchases by a 54-46 vote. To pass it needed 60 votes. Also an amendment to ban assault weapons failed 40-60.

Congress also began discussion on the Higher Education Act set to expire at the end of 2013. Both houses held hearings to discuss next steps for the legislation governing financial aid programs and other aspects of post secondary education.

President Obama revealed his budget proposal for FY2014 which starts on

October 1 this year. It includes protecting the current maximum award level for Pell grant and increasing funding for Title X family programs. However it also introduced changes in the consumer price index for social security beneficiaries that would reduce the benefit so for the most vulnerable. It would also cut funding for programs meant to benefit women in the workforce.

Many states legislatures have passed stricter abortion laws. Alabama and Kansas are the latest to do so. Kansas passed a strict abortion law that defines life as starting at fertilization. Alabama restricted out of state doctors from performing abortions North Dakota banned abortions after six weeks or when a fetal heart beat is detected.

Sylvia Matthews Burwell, President Obama’s nominee for director of the Office of Management and Budget won approval of several Senate committees. A confirmation vote is likely this week. Two women were confirmed to executive branch positions, Mary Jo White as head of the Securities and Exchange Commission and Sally Jewell as Secretary of the Interior.