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POST HASTE

Palm Beach County Branch, AAUW

President, Susan Berlin

January 2013

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**JANUARY GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 19**

**12:00 noon**

**Atlantis Country Club**

**Entrance on JFK Blvd. off Congress; Turn at light just north of JFK Hospital**

**SPEAKER: Ron Wiggins, retired travel columnist Palm Beach Post**

**TOPIC: *Florida Authentica,* places and processes**

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Ron Wiggins has written several excellent books, including his latest, *Florida Authentica*,

 which summarizes fifty-two wonderful, offbeat spots to visit or things to do in Florida.

He is a well-known, humorous and engaging speaker.

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**Ron will have his books available for purchase**

**Luncheon includes choice of entrée;**

**coffee, tea or iced tea.**

 **$20 including tax and tip**

**President's Message**

**January 2013**

“*You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give*.” Winston Churchill

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope the coming months are happy, healthy ones for you and your families.

Our February fundraiser is fast approaching and needs the support of every member. This year’s event will be held on February 16 at Benvenuto Restaurant. Our guest speaker is Leslie Gray Streeter – pop culture writer, columnist and reviewer for the Palm Beach Post. Leslie writes about music, movies, food, drinks and nightlife and her articles are featured in the Accent and TGIF sections of the Post. She is well-versed about life in Palm Beach and is a dynamic and witty speaker.

Proceeds from the luncheon fund our local scholarship fund as well as national AAUW’s Educational Funds and Legal Advocacy Fund.

Your support is needed in several ways. First and foremost, we need for you to attend the luncheon and to bring friends, family and co-workers. This is a wonderful way to share AAUW and our message with others. Benvenuto’s elegant setting, along with the professional wait staff and sumptuous food, make this a not–to-be-missed culinary adventure. We are also in need of larger prizes and gift certificates for our auction and drawings. Gift certificates for restaurants ($40.00 value and higher), pedicures, manicures, massages, and theater tickets are always crowd pleasers. New, unused, items of significant value are also needed – electronics, books, linens, framed pictures. We would like to have just a few baskets, such as a kitchen/cooking basket and a spa-themed one, and items are needed for them as well.

The Board of Directors is hoping to combine all of our major fundraising for local scholarships, Educational Funds and Legal Advocacy Fund into one large event. This will allow us to spend more of our meeting time on topics that interest you instead of asking for donations each month.

Our branch has been awarding local scholarships since the 1970s. We have helped numerous young women achieve their goal of receiving a college degree. We will continue to support college-aged women, but would also like to impact younger girls earlier in their academic development and encourage them to consider a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The Educational Fund has encompassed some newer programs that we would like to support. Florida AAUW has received a national grant for Tech Trek – a week long STEM residential experience on the University of Central Florida from July 21-26, 2013. The camp offers interactive activities and hands-on experiments for girls entering 8th grade. The cost of the camp is $50.00 and we would like to send some local girls to this camp.

Our November fundraiser with North Palm Beach County and Boca Raton branches for NCCWSL was very successful and we almost have enough money raised to send one student to the event. The National College Conference for Women Student Leaders is a weekend-long conference held in June in Washington, D.C. that helps build leadership skills and provides practical, life-skill mini seminars.

I want to thank each of you for your commitment to AAUW and to ask you to continue your generous support of our programs.

Susan

“*Life is an echo – what you send out comes back*.” Anonymous

February - annual scholarship luncheon

Speaker: Leslie Gray Streeter, Pop Culture Columnist/Writer, The Palm Beach Post

Leslie’s articles and observations on life in Palm Beach County

 are featured in the Accent and TGIF sections

**Saturday February 16, 2013**

**Benvenuto’s, Route 1, Boynton Beach**

The event will include both a silent and a live auction

Tickets are $45.00.

 The luncheon will include iced tea, salad, choice of entrée, dessert, coffee or tea.

Menu is listed on reservation page at end of this newsletter

Last year’s event raised over $2,000.00 for local scholarships and AAUW Funds.

We need the help of members in obtaining prizes for our auctions -- gift certificates to restaurants or

 for services (massages, pedicures, etc.) and other suitable items (electronics, new books, wine or alcohol).

For your convenience, a letter to give to merchants is at the end of the newsletter.

Your support will make this luncheon a success.

Please send in your reservation this month, if you can.

BRING GUESTS!



 ◾ Want to explore classic literature you haven’t read?

 ◾ Want to look highbrow, even if you’re still a work in progress?

 ◾ Want to just hang out with some cool folks?

Consider becoming a member of the Palm Beach Branch Classics….reader that is. A book club about classic literature…however we define it. Interested? E-mail Roz Homer at HomerR@pbso.org

**Public Policy Report**

**January 2013**

**by**

**Susan King**

This is being written before the deadline for the “Fiscal Cliff “is to take effect.

Congress and the president are working on reaching a solution. If they can’t reach a solution then the new Congress will have to work on the problem. The new Congress will be sworn in on January 3.

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President Obama will be inaugurated on January 21.

Obama is filling vacancies in his cabinet for his second term. Sen. John Kerry (D.MA.) is rumored to be nominated as Secretary of State. This will leave an empty seat in the Senate to be filled by the governor. Other appointments will be made soon.

The shootings in Newtown, CT have affected many people including gun owners. They feel that some restrictions, especially on assault weapons, are needed. Vice President Biden has been appointed to investigate solutions to these problems. Some stores have removed certain guns from their shelves and internet sites. Michigan had passed a bill (the same day as the shootings) which allowed concealed weapons in public schools, day cares and hospitals. It was vetoed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Michigan’s legislature also passed controversial legislation making the state a right to work state even though Michigan is a strong union state where the UAW was formed. This will affect wages for many workers. In addition they passed extreme anti-choice measures to take effect immediately. It is a 45 page bill which bans certain types of abortions and imposes unnecessary physical plant requirements on abortion providers. These could shut down most clinics in the state. .

December 15th was the deadline for all states to decide if they will set up their own health insurance exchange or let the federal government create and run and exchange for them. This is part of the Affordable Care Act which requires all exchanges to be operational on Jan 1, 2014. Twenty-five states have decided to default to a federally run exchange.

House Democrats named three members including two women to the Ways and Means Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over taxes, Social Security, Medicare and other major programs.

Florida Secretary of State, Ken Detzner, is investigating what went wrong during the election to cause long lines for voting. He has said that state supervisors need to use all spaces available to them for early voting. Democratic lawmakers have introduced new legislation to increase days and hours available and provide more locations for early voting.

![MC900439903[1]]() Book Club News

by Virginia Farace

Happy New Year from our AAUW sponsored Book Club! The group will meet on the third Friday, Jan 18.

The book chosen to be discussed is **Flight Behavior** by [Barbara Kingsolver](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3541.Barbara_Kingsolver). Set in a small town in Tennessee, a young woman's narrow experience of life is thrown wide open with the force of a raging fire. According to the website Goodreads, “Barbara Kingsolver bares the rich, tarnished humanity of her novel's inhabitants and unearths the modern complexities of rural existence. Characters and reader alike are quickly carried into the unsettled ground of science, faith, and everyday truces between reason and conviction.”

Donna Artes will moderate the discussion. Carmen Stratos will present three titles for the selection of the February book and Martha McMullen will present for the March selection.

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.

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DEBORAH NESBIT**

I have been married for forty years. I have two daughters. Both are married and live in Michigan. I moved to Florida eight years ago. I was involved in AAUW in Ann Arbor, Michigan. One of the first things I did was to find the Boynton beach branch. which later joined Palm Beach County branch.

I attended Eastern Michigan University and University of Michigan for my Masters. I am a School Social Worker. I volunteer at the Harmony House, a shelter for domestic abuse. I feel very passionate about empowering women and men who have been abused and tossed aside. My goal is to assist and support any individual, to re-claim lost goals, and dreams, and work toward re-claiming their life. Because I believe so strongly in empowerment, I started a life coaching business to provide enouragement and support to this group of individuals.

I love AAUW because it promotes women and those issues that are dear to women. I believe that organizations like AAUW are vital for women now and for those who will follow us. We have come a long way, but we need to continue to be watchful to prevent any and all discrimination against women and those citizens who have less power and are more vulnerable. My long term goal is continue to support the AAUW agenda and work to strengthen women's rights for the next generation.

**Happy January Birthdays: Francesca Huneeus on the 8th**

 **Martha McMullen on the 19th**

Palm Beach County AAUW Officers 2012 - 2013

 President: Susan Berlin

 Membership VP: Barbara Wagner

 Program VP: Freda Brehm

 Finance: Roz Homer

 Corresponding Secretary: Betty Rigdon

 Recording Secretary: Sharon Trost

 Educational Funds: Betty Rigdon

 LAF: Deborah Nesbit

 Public Policy: Susan King

 Communications/Newsletter:  Martha McMullen

 Dates for Board meetings (all are Saturdays):

 January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4.

Meetings are at Friendly’s in Palm Springs at 9 a.m. All members are welcome.

January and February Events

provide a great opportunity to include guests and

prospective members

JANUARY 19 - ATLANTIS COUNTRY CLUB

SPEAKER: Ron Wiggins, retired travel columnist, Palm Beach Post

FEBRUARY 16 - BENVENUTO

AAUW-PBC ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

SPEAKER: Leslie Gray Streeter, Pop Columnist, Palm Beach Post

Silent and Live auctions

Members of the public welcome -- please share the invitation



Palm Beach County Branch

American Association of University Women

Palm Beach County AAUW’s annual scholarship luncheon will be held on February 16, 2013, at the Benvenuto Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Leslie Gray Streeter, noted pop culture writer, columnist and reviewer for the Palm Beach Post.

AAUW is a national organization committed to helping women by advocating education and equity. AAUW offers nearly $4 million a year in fellowships and grants to graduate women through our Educational Foundation. The Legal Advocacy Fund supports plaintiffs challenging sex discrimination at colleges and universities.

Locally, we have established the Palm Beach County Branch AAUW scholarship. All proceeds from the fashion show fund this annual scholarship. Last year we were able to award over $3,000.00 in scholarships at Palm Beach State College. This program is rewarding for our group as we help young women further their education and pursue careers within our community.

We are asking local business owners for donations of gift certificates, services or items which will be used in our auction . Any help you can provide will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,

Susan V. Berlin, D.D.S.

President

Palm Beach County AAUW

 

 Palm Beach County Branch

Dear Members,

 Please reserve the date for Palm Beach County AAUW’s scholarship fundraising event. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 11:00 am at Benvenuto Restaurant***.*** Leslie Gray Streeter, noted columnist for the Palm Beach Post, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are $45.00 each. Please prepay your reservation.

Return this reservation form, listing your guests’ names, along with the name of any other member that you would like to be seated with. Everything possible will be done to accommodate your requests. **The deadline for** **reservations is February 12, 2013**. Please reserve as soon as possible.

The luncheon includes Smoked Salmon and Dill Spread with Onion Rolls, a salad of Mixed Greens, Gorgonzola, Granny Smith Apples and Toasted Spiced Pecans, a choice of Chicken Breast Piccata or Seared Salmon with Chinese Five-Spice and Asian Vegetables, choice of Key Lime Pie with Coconut and Toasted Macadamia Nut or Warm Chocolate Lava Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream. Coffee, tea and iced tea are included and a cash bar will be available.

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total # of guests \_\_\_\_\_\_ X $45.00 per ticket total amount enclosed$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Palm Beach County AAUW**

I would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return to Susan Berlin, 1734 South Congress Avenue, Palm Springs, FL 33461

Further information: (561)642-4720