



AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY

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President's Message by Susan Berlin

"The fact that I was a girl never damaged my ambitions to be a pope or an emperor." Willa Cather

Dear Members,

The New Year is a time for reflection and for resolutions. AAUW-Palm Beach County's resolution is to focus our branch activities on STEM projects that impact young girls. Traditionally, our scholarship programs have been geared to helping displaced homemakers return to school and acquire a college degree. Over the years, we have helped hundreds of women achieve this goal and we are proud of our past accomplishments. Our future focus will be to expose middle school girls to the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) and to encourage these girls to pursue a course of study in one of these fields and to ultimately achieve a career in one of these areas.

I eagerly awaited two yearly events as a student at St. James Grammar School. The first was the annual book sale. I very clearly remember purchasing J. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and feeling as if I were the luckiest girl in the fourth grade. The science fair was my other favorite event. I loved making volcanoes erupt with dry ice, meticulously assembling a model of a cell (mitochondria included) and categorizing rocks and minerals. These two events greatly influenced my decision to attend college and pursue the study of biology.

AAUW- Palm Beach County's STEM event for middle school girls, Girls + STEM = Future Success, will be held on February 8th at Eagles Landing Middle School. *Continued next page*

Upcoming Events

January 18

Jazz in the Garden

February 8

Girls + STEM = Future Success

March 15

Fashion Show and Luncheon

Important Announcement

***Jazz in the Garden* sponsored by AAUW Palm Beach County January 18, 2014 4:00 – 6:00 pm 6062 N. Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge, FL**

Tickets \$25.00, includes appetizers and one glass of wine

Music by Victor Jimenez

Proceeds benefit local STEM projects

Valet Parking

Contact:

palmbeachcountyaauw@gmail.com

Susan @ (561)642-4720

President's Message continued:

Dr. Fenee Russ, branch member and Assistant Principal, is developing a program that will include computers, robotics and other interactive workshops. The girls will also have the opportunity to interact with STEM role models. This is our chance to show middle school girls that there are no limits to what they can achieve. I hope that every branch member will be able to attend and participate in some way.

On January 18, we will hold our fundraiser for this event. **Jazz in the Garden** will take place in the beautiful Ocean Ridge gardens of Barbara and Stan Cook. This wonderful couple has donated the use of their home because they believe in AAUW's mission of education.

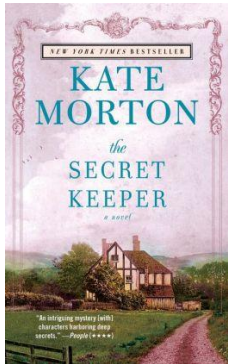
Music will be provided by talented local musician Victor Jimenez. This event is open to the public and I urge everyone to attend and to bring guests. Please support our STEM project and invest in our youth. See the separate **Jazz in the Garden** article in this newsletter.

Book Club News

by Virginia Farace

After the Holiday recess, The Third Friday Book Club resumes on Friday, January 17, at 2 pm in the Palm Springs Public Library. Susan Berlin will lead the discussion of **The Secret Keeper** by Kate Morton.

During a picnic at her family's farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel Nicolson witnesses a shocking crime, a crime that



challenges everything she knows about her adored mother, Dorothy. Now, fifty years later, Laurel and her sisters are meeting at the farm to celebrate Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. Realizing that this is her last chance to discover the truth about that long-ago day, Laurel searches for answers that can only be found in Dorothy's past. Clue by clue, she traces a secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds thrown together in war-torn London—Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy—whose lives are forever after entwined. A

gripping story of deception and passion, The Secret Keeper will keep you enthralled to the last page.

Defending Jacob by William Landay, was selected for February. Virginia Farace will moderate that discussion. Donna Artes volunteered to present three books in January for the March selection. Cheryl Lohse will present three titles in February for the April 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.

Take note



Book Club

Friday, January 17,
2 pm
Palm Springs Library

Board Meeting

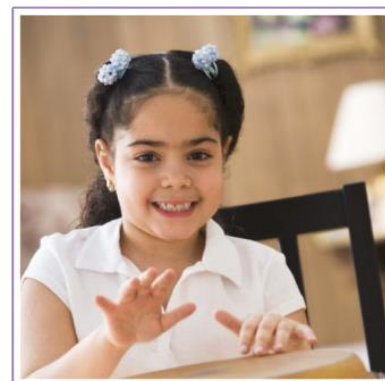
Thursday, January 9,
5:30 pm
1734 S. Congress Ave

AAUW-Florida Convention

April 4 and 5, 2014
Sheraton Tampa East

Educational Highlights from AAUW National

by Betty Rigdon



Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 9-15

Participate in Hour of Code

Introduce girls to computer coding

Self-guide tutorials

<http://csedweek.org/>

Interested in becoming a NCCWSL presenter?

Submit proposals by Feb. 10, 2014

Site opens Dec. 6

www.nccwsl.org/2013/11/18/call-for-workshop-proposals/

Learn more about NCCWSL at www.nccwsl.org/about/schedule-and-features/workshops/

Applications for students to participate in Clinton Global Initiative University now open

Will be held March 21-23, 2014 at Arizona State University

Application deadline is Jan. 17, 2014

Email aauw-cgiu@aauw for more information

Help create a state student advisory council in six steps

State councils help students make a difference in their communities

www.aauw.org/article/empower-student-leaders-in-your-state/

Follow what is happening at Elect her-Campus women Win at #Elect Her on twitter

Website at www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/elect-her-campus-women-win/

Holiday gift guide for girls

Gifts that defy stereotypes encourage children to explore careers and hobbies in engineering, science and sports

www.aauw.org/2013/11/05/gift-guide-for-girls/

Tech Savvy Pilot sites announced

Ten sites selected to receive \$8,000 grants (none in Florida)

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-savvy/

Learn about STEM programs conducted by AAUW branches, over 10,000 girls served nationally

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/branch-programs/

Download report of programs

www.aauw.org/files/2013/09/STEM-Survey-Report-2013.pdf

AAUW Fellowship and Grant applications now open through Jan. 15, 2014

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/



Fashion Show Donations of gift cards for restaurants, spa, hair and nails etc are needed for the March 2014 Fashion Show and Luncheon. Show your support by asking local merchants for a donation. A letter of introduction is included in the newsletter for you to use.

Public Policy Report

by Susan King

Congress will go on recess December 13 and resume business in January. It is on track to be the least productive Congress in modern history. Congress has passed 52 public laws since January, 2013 with only 44 of these being “substantive” according to the Pew Research Center. The number of substantive bills usually passed in Congresses from 1999 to 1212 is 70.

On December 10th the evening news reported that House and Senate budget committees had reached a bipartisan budget agreement. It must still be voted on by both houses. The agreement would ease some automatic cuts in the sequester and replace them with smaller cuts. Details will be announced later.

The Senate recently changed the rule on requiring 60 votes to approve the appointment of judges and department heads. The new rule is a simple majority vote of 51. This change was pushed by the Senate Democrats. They are hoping to confirm 3 federal judgeships and 3 executive nominees before they break for the holidays. The nominees are Janet Yellen to head the Federal Reserve, Jeb Johnson to lead Homeland Security and Mel Watt to head Federal Housing Finance Agency

The Affordable Care Act website for enrollment has been reworked and more people have been signing up for insurance. The Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to the Act's contraceptive coverage requirement. Hobby Lobby objected to the requirement that all insurance sold under the act must provide contraceptive coverage. Hobby Lobby argued that their religious liberty under the First Amendment was being denied since their religious beliefs do not include contraception.



To date 23 states have opted out of the federal requirement that health plans sold in the state exchanges need to cover abortions, while eight states have banned abortion coverage in public and private plans. Michigan was set to vote on banning coverage shortly.

Fast food workers walked off the job recently to gain attention to raising the minimum wage. It is now at \$7.25 per hour. Working a 40 hour week at this wage brings in less than \$20,000 which is below the poverty level for a family of four. A recent Gallup Poll showed 70 per cent of Americans support increasing the minimum wage. AAUW urges us to contact our legislators to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act now.



Holiday Fun

Santa arrived early and was assisted by Donna Artes in distributing gifts at our December Luncheon held at the Atlantis Country Club.

From the smiles on our faces, you can tell that everyone had a wonderful time!





Jazz in the Garden

6062 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge, FL

Saturday, Jan 18, 2014, 4 to 6 pm

Music by Victor Jimenez

Tickets \$25

appetizers and a complimentary glass of wine

proceeds to benefit our local STEM project

get tickets and directions by calling 561.642.4720 during business hours

VALET PARKING

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Palm Beach County Branch, is offering a rare opportunity for visitors to tour the private garden world of Barbara and Stan Cook in Ocean Ridge. Throughout this exclusive tour, noted local musician Victor Jimenez will entertain with "Jazz in the Garden" while guests enjoy a glass of wine and delicious appetizers. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds will benefit the branch's STEM project for local middle-school girls.

Guests will enter the garden through a red gate which leaves the outside world far behind and evokes a peaceful venue to stroll past fountains and down paths that leads one through the maze of exotic plants and sculptures. A huge bass chime hangs from a half-century old Strangler Fig announcing the arrival of visitors to Barbara Cook's tropical garden.

Barbara will lead guests along the many rock lined paths that wind through her property. Plantings of native palms, sea grape, gumbo limbo, satin leaf, areca palms, marlberry and cherry trees set the stage for themed garden rooms on an acre of Florida hammock. Jungle animals and bird sculptures lead to "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." Then a turn down Birdhouse Lane with 16 artisan houses of whimsy leads to a Palm Alee and many bromeliads.

Tired of replacing plants in a section of the garden that wouldn't accept luscious growth for any length of time, Barbara decided to turn the area into a hardscape design and created an imaginative mountain stream using broken pieces of glistening turquoise glass stones from Turkey and tiny black river rocks to create a peaceful feature that brought another element of interest to the garden.

After moving to Florida 24 years ago, Barbara and her husband developed this Ocean Ridge property, turning it from an absolute jungle on a hammock to a tropical garden rife with native trees and plants. Barbara became involved with the Mounts Botanical Garden, earning her Master Gardener certificate in 2009. Always a doer, not a viewer, she was on the Board at Mounts, has been vice-president and president of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club, and was an active member in the FL Federation of Garden Club's District X, as a Corresponding Secretary. She was recently inducted into the FFGC Hall of Fame for Distinguished Service to her Ocean Ridge Garden Club.

Proceeds of this event will go toward an AAUW one-day workshop for middle-school girls to excite them about the STEM areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Call Susan @ 642-4720 for tickets.



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Dear Merchant,

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a powerful community that breaks through barriers facing women and families today. AAUW empowers women through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Our annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at the The Chesterfield Hotel in Palm Beach. Proceeds benefit AAUW Funds and AAUW- Palm Beach County's STEM event for middle school girls, **Girls + STEM = Future Success**. This program allows participants to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math and encourages girls to pursue a career in STEM. Each year, AAUW awards \$4 million in scholarships and grants to women pursuing higher education and implementing community programs.

Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please consider donating a gift certificate or item for our auction. The success of our fundraiser depends upon the generosity of our community and people like you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan V. Berlin, D.D.S.
President, AAUW-Palm Beach County

AAUW-Palm Beach County Officers 2013-2014

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