POST HASTE

Palm Beach County Branch, AAUW

President, Susan Berlin

December 2012

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 8**

**12:00 noon**

**Callaro’s Steak House**

**717 Lake Ave.(at J Street), downtown Lake Worth**

**Park on J Street or Valet Parking available**

**1913 Menu offers**

**Choice of 10 Entrees, soup or salad**

**Dessert de jour, coffee or tea**

**$24 including tax and tip**

**CASH ONLY, (one bill per table)**

**Please note: sandwich and side option available**

**(off the lunch menu)**

**Entertainment facilitated by Ros Homer**

**Please bring a wrapped white elephant**

**for gift exchange**

January -- General meeting on Saturday January 19

12:00 Noon

program on the environment

Location: Atlantis Country Club

Price: $20

**President's Message**

**December 2012**

Dear Members,

The AAUW community is dedicated to ensuring equity for all women and girls. We are fortunate in the United States to have laws that prohibit discrimination in educational opportunities but internationally, women face unique challenges to achieving equality.

In Afghanistan, women and girls are subjected to some of the most draconian laws. Victims of rape and domestic abuse are regularly jailed after seeking help, often accused of abandonment and adultery. In March, the Afghanistan’s government-funded supreme religious authority decreed that Afghan husbands were allowed to beat their wives if they showed disobedience. Although some progress has been made in the eleven years since the Taliban regime was ousted – women can attend university and hold office - much remains to be done. Women activists fear that the U.S. and coalition withdrawal of troops by 2014 will cause the collapse of these fragile achievements.

I am sure that you are aware of the brutal assassination attempt on Malala Yousafzai, the fourteen-year-old Pakistani girl who was targeted because of her vocal criticism of girls’ access to education. Her tragedy has forced the topic of education as a fundamental right for all people to the forefront and also brought a renewed awareness of the practice of child marriage.

In October, the U.N. held its first-ever International Day of the Girl Child and issued resolution that “recognizes girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the globe.” The U.N. pointed out that each year, 10 million girls are forced into marriage and pregnancy is the leading cause of death for young women ages 15-19. One in every 3 girls is denied a secondary education, a mind-boggling statistic in this day and age.

Education is the key to development and global change. We, as AAUW members, can use our powerful voices to influence our national leaders and have an impact on the global community as well. Your support of our branch activities provides the support that AAUW needs to accomplish this. Thank you for being a part of this organization and supporting our cause.

Susan

*“I don’t mind if I have to sit on the floor at school. All I want is education. And I am afraid of no one.”* Malaya Yousafzai

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 section of the Palm Beach Post.

**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.

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).

Your support will make this luncheon a success.

**Educational News from National AAUW**

Ten women selected for National Student Advisory Council

Council promotes AAUW and its programs

Council plays a key role in NCCWSL

“Elect Her” to be presented on 39 campuses next year

National program to train college women to run for campus elections and beyond

Presented by AAUW and Running Start: Bringing Young Women to Politics

University of Central Florida one of the sites

Read more at [www.runningstartonline.org](http://www.runningstartonline.org)

$tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshops to be held on 29 campuses this semester

Presented by AAUW and the Wage Project

Teaches women how to negotiate salary and benefits

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Study guides available at [www.itvs.org/women-and-girls-lead/half-the-sky](http://www.itvs.org/women-and-girls-lead/half-the-sky)

Study guide topics: maternal mortality, education, economic empowerment,

Gender-based violence, sex-trafficking and intergenerational prostitution

Reminder-deadlines for fellowships and grants are almost here

Deadlines vary from Nov. 15-Jan. 15

**Public Policy Report**

**December 2012**

**by**

**Susan King**

The election is finally over. The Republicans retained their majority in the House and the Democrats retained control of the Senate gaining two more seats. More women were elected to both houses of the Congress: 28 women elected to the Senate and 78 women to the House. It is a new record for both chambers.

AAUW president,Carolyn Garfein, commented on the show of force by women and millennials (voters under the age of 29) in electing these women. She cited the work of AAUW’s campaign IT’S MY VOTE I WILL BE HEARD in helping to bring out the vote.

Now it is time for the Congress to return to work and try to reach agreement on the “fiscal cliff”. This is a series of tax and budget changes which are due to take effect in January 2013. AAUW supports a balanced approach to prevent the fiscal cliff. If the automatic spending cuts take effect programs supporting educational opportunities, women’s health and civil rights would suffer massive funding cuts.

The lame duck session could also approve 19 judicial nominations which had been stalled until after the election. Any nominations not confirmed now would have to be nominated again in the next Congress

Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, encouraged colleges, universities and scholarship programs to extend their application deadlines. This would help accommodate students impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Many programs have early November deadlines More than 70 institutions have adjusted their deadlines.

A change to Pell Grant eligibility has been hitting transfer and returning students hard. The change reduced the amount of time a student can receive a Pell Grant for 18 to 12 semesters (the equivalent of six academic years). The hope was to encourage students to complete college more quickly thus saving money for the Pell Grant program. However, these students are finding themselves unable to complete their degree since they no longer qualify for a Pell grant. AAUW is strongly opposed to the change in the time limits.

The Department of Education finalized regulations for a new Pay-As-You-Earn plan for student loan repayment. The new option will offer plans with lower rates and loan forgiveness after 20 instead of 25 years.

AAUW is implementing a new state-of-the-art legislative tracking tool which can be used by AAUW state leaders. It will create a profile for each state which includes a set of keywords, committees and legislators that will be used in automatic searches of state bills This generate automatic email alerts when state legislation is introduced . This will allow members to notify their legislators more quickly on issues important to AUUW.

Book Club News

by Virginia Farace

MC900439915[1]The AAUW sponsored Book Club will NOT meet in December. Club members wish everyone Happy Holidays and look forward to the New Year when the club next meets.

The book chosen for Jan 18 is **Flight Behavior** by [Barbara Kingsolver](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3541.Barbara_Kingsolver). Set in a small town in Tennessee, about a young woman who happens upon a forested valley filled with silent red fire, and whose attempt to share the wonder and find an explanation throws her into a spiraling confrontation with her family, her church, her town, her continent, and finally the world at large.

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. In November, Jackie Winchester led the discussion of **The Elegance of the Hedgehog** by Muriel Barbery.

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) for a copy of the Book Club Guidelines and a list of past titles.

**MEMBER NEWS**

New members:

Maria Ascenio

Lisa Peterfreund

Susan Sullivan

The board voted to give full AAUW membership this year to Maria Asencio. Maria is a recipient of a $10,000.00 educational grant from AAUW and was our guest speaker at the October luncheon.

Returning member: Mimi Holley

**Happy December Birthdays:**

**Barbara Bailey on the 17th**

**Virginia Brooks-Wrock on the 19th**

**Barbara Hadsell on the 29th**

**Carmen Bissell on the 30th**