



# AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH

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## The Group at the Grouper

On September 19, 2015 AAUW Palm Beach Branch held its monthly meeting at Jack's Grumpy Grouper and a grand time was held by all! Susan Berlin and Deborah Nesbit lead the meeting opening with a reading of our mission statement. Following that, they explained there was going to be a Wine Tasting In October to raise funds for Tech Trek (see information on pg 3), and the Title IX Challenge.

Title IX is a Federal program supporting gender equality in our schools with each school having a Title IX Coordinator. Unfortunately many schools do not even know they are supposed to have such a coordinator, let alone having appointed one. So we, AAUW, are trying to visit the schools to hand them a packet of information about Title IX and make sure the school understands it needs to appoint a coordinator. Title IX Material Packets have been delivered to Polo Park Middle, Wellington High, Boynton Beach High, S Tech Academy, Trinity Christian, Atlantic High, Whiddon Rogers High, and Seagull High. If you have access to other schools and can deliver some Packets, you can pick them up at Susan Berlin's office.

We were introduced to our members who have volunteered to help with Tech Trek 16; Maria Ascencio, Faith Campbell, Susan Holzschuh, Roz Homer, plus Lisa Peterfreund's Hastings Foundation has made a donation. Then Dr. Becky Mercer (new

## Notes

Happy Happy October Birthdays!

May Goodstein  
Carol Ann Khawly

**October 17, 2015**

Join us for our second meeting of this 2015-2016 season!

**Where:**

Jack's Grumpy Grouper  
308 N. Dixie Highway  
Lantana, FL 33462

**When:**

Saturday, October 17, 2015

**Time:**

Noon

**Direction:**

Lantana Rd, East of 195 go south onto Rte.1/N.Dixie – Grumpy Grouper is just south of Lantana on East side of Rte.1/Dixie

Individual meal checks will be issued, so you order from the menu and control your expenditure.

Bring money for a 50/50 raffle

AAUW member) from the North Palm Beach State College (she teaches forensic and bio-technology science) discussed, with a slide show, some of the exciting classes to be taught at the next Tech Trek. Kaitlynn Adams and Barbara Castro-Schell shared their experiences with the last Tech Trek. Their enthusiasm remains and they spoke convincingly about how the Tech Trek experience helped expand their interests, made new friends, and was an all-round winning experience!



Kaitlynn and Barbara were accompanied at lunch by their families.

### **AAUW Palm Beach Branch Second Meeting**

2015-2016 Season

The second Branch meeting will be Saturday October 17, 2015. It will be at Jack's Grumpy Grouper in Lantana. The speaker will be from the League of Women Voters who will be speaking about Immigration. So come, join us for fun, good food, and learn information about the immigration issue.

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Be sure to bring small toys to the October meeting so we can provide a donation to the school and orphanage in Haiti for their Christmas. Children at the school range in age from infant to 14 years old. Such items as hair ties, barrettes, coloring books, felt tip markers in all colors (crayons melt), small cars, rattles, etc.

### **Challenge to You!**

Susan Berlin has issued a challenge to our Branch to grow our membership! Remember anyone, regardless of sex, orientation, race, creed, color can join us. Yes, this means your husbands, brothers, sons too. What is needed is an AA or greater degree – and if someone has taken professional certification this can be appealed to AAUW National for a dispensation. So, scout around you for people who are not familiar with all the things AAUW can offer, and bring them along to the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at Grumpy Grouper!! Also, be sure to introduce your guests to the members at your table.

Life Member **Dorothy Bradley** is moving to California. We will miss you Dorothy!

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door. —Emma Lazarus' poem, inscribed on the Statue of Liberty

Immigration is a very hot topic right now. European nations are currently dealing with the tremendous number of people seeking shelter from their homelands. Legislation is pending in Congress to deal with the United States' treatment of immigrants and to address their political standing. Our bevy of presidential hopefuls have mentioned the topic – some in a sympathetic way, others endorsing exclusionary views.

The definition of immigration is "The movement of non-native people into a country in order to settle there." It is estimated that there are over 230 million international immigrants, which accounts for about 3% of the world's population. The majority of immigrants settle in developed countries. They are seeking escape from their homelands where poverty, religious persecution and political upheaval has made their living conditions unbearable. Most are leaving countries which lack resources in hope of finding a better standard of living.

Fear is the most common reason why citizens oppose accepting immigrants – fear of straining resources and increasing taxes, fear of lost jobs, and fear of terrorism.

Most of us can trace our ancestry back to another country. Our national was built by the hard work and perseverance of those who came to America, seeking prosperity and freedom. I can trace my family heritage back to Italy, Ireland, England and Germany. How about you?

Join us on October 17<sup>th</sup> for a presentation on immigration by the League of Women voters. I hope that this will open up a dialogue among our members about not only our own nation's struggles to balance humanitarianism with economics, but also ponder the global implications of this problem.

"I do not want two classes of citizens in this country. I want everybody to prosper. That's going to be a top priority." Barack Obama

## Wine Tasting Class!!

**Benefiting AAUW Florida Tech Trek – A Week Long Stem Camp for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls**

**This will be a 2 hour class with 8 wines to taste and cheese and crackers.**

**WHEN: Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**TIME: 6:30pm-8:30pm**

**WHERE: Total Wine & More**

**11221 Legacy Ave.**

**Palm Beach Gardens, 33410**

**PRICE: Advance Tickets \$25**

**Contact Virginia Farace at**

**[AAUWFLfarace@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWFLfarace@gmail.com)**

**To order your tickets.**

### **Remember – October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Introduce yourself to anyone you don't know and to bring a guest to introduce to your table!

## Public Policy

Submitted by Maurcy Selko

Lisa Matz, VP of Government Relations testified at a hearing entitled "Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses" before the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. She was honored to be invited and to represent AAUW and satisfied to see the issue taken seriously. The cooperative atmosphere is what is needed in creating effective policies for this nationwide problem. Lisa's participation in this hearing was a team effort and the team will continue the push for meaningful legislation to make college campuses safe across the country.

The Department of Labor announced a final rule that would prohibit federal contractors from retaliating against employees who wish to discuss and share information about salaries. This rule serves to implement President Obama's 2014 Executive Order promoting pay transparency and openness. The final rule will take effect on January 11, 2016.

State spotlight is on the city of Boston. This great city is partnering with AAUW to offer free salary negotiation workshops for women. Mayor Marty Walsh announced that there will be ten two-hour workshops this fall, and over the next five years. They seek to reach 90,000 women. These women will learn to identify a target salary, negotiate a benefits package and effectively ask for raises. The workshops aim to close the gender pay gap for the city.

Congressman Jim Costa of the 16<sup>th</sup> District of California, memorialized a former California Chapter President of AAUW, Rosellen Kershaw. In his tribute, Costa honored her with descriptions of her numerous achievements and commitments as a "professional volunteer".

Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig announced his bid for the Democratic nomination in the presidential race with his main policy focusing on reforming campaign finance.

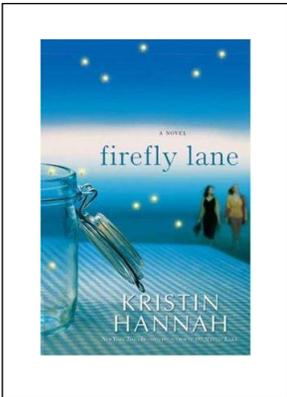
New health regulations in the Affordable Care Act will now protect all genders under the proposed rule of Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities. In particular, this will extend protection to transgender people by granting them the right to use gender-appropriate restrooms and by prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage.

The Department of Education released new information that shows a decrease in the student loan default rate. Two community colleges, one private non-profit school, and twelve for-profit schools could lose federal financial aid due to high default rates.

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Virginia Farace

The AAUW Book Club will meet on the third Friday, October 16, at 2:00 pm, at the Palm Springs Library. Virginia Farace will lead the discussion of **Firefly Lane** by Kristin Hannah.



Summary: A powerful novel of love, loss, and the magic of friendship. . . . In the turbulent summer of 1974, Kate Mularkey has accepted her place at the bottom of the eighth-grade social food chain. Then, to her amazement, the "coolest girl in the world" moves in across the street and wants to be her friend. Tully Hart seems to have it all---beauty, brains, ambition. On the surface they are as opposite as two people can be: Kate, doomed to be forever uncool, with a loving family who mortifies her at every turn. Tully, steeped in glamour and mystery, but with a secret that is destroying her. They make a pact to be best friends forever; by summer's end they've become Tully and Kate...inseparable.

So begins Kristin Hannah's magnificent new novel. Spanning more than three decades and playing out across the ever-changing face of the Pacific Northwest, **Firefly Lane** is the poignant, powerful story of two women and the friendship that becomes the bulkhead of their lives. For thirty years, Tully and Kate buoy each other through life, weathering the storms of friendship---jealousy, anger, hurt, resentment. They think they've survived it all until a single act of betrayal tears them apart . . . and puts their courage and friendship to the ultimate test.

More than a coming-of-age novel, it's the story of a generation of women who were both blessed and cursed by choices. It's about promises and secrets and betrayals. And ultimately, about the one person who really, truly knows you---and knows what has the power to hurt you . . . and heal you. Firefly Lane is a story you'll never forget . . . one you'll want to pass on to your best friend.

The November and December books will be selected at the October meeting. 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.



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Save These Dates

October 17 - Immigration

October 26 – Wine Tasting

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



HAPPY HALLOWEEN