

AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH

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Notes and Whatnot

January 20 meeting at Callaro's Steak house was interesting, fun and involved everyone in a wide-ranging discussion about women in today's workplace. Betty Rigdon and Susan Berlin talked about their experiences with AAUW's Work Smart and Start Smart programs. If you are not familiar with these programs, take some time to go to the AAUW web site and explore them. Deborah Nesbit led a discussion about mentoring and supporting women and how to be good to ourselves.

Susan announced that we are working to add the Work Smart and Start Smart into the local colleges. She also announced that we are partnering with Seminole Ridge High School and Habitat for Humanity. We have applied for a grant to mentor two girls with the construction fee required by Habitat. Please contact Susan 561-642-4720 or aauwflberlin@gmail.com during the week to see how you can join with your fellow Branchers to support these actions.

As you know by now, we are having our very important fundraiser Tea at the Chesterfield to fund Tech Trek. We are looking for your support via attendance, selling tickets to friends and colleagues, as well as donations of items for auction and cash. Some more directions: Once you have crossed the bridge and are on Royal Palm Way, turn right onto Cocoanut Row – you will need to do a U-turn to be in front of the Chesterfield to valet park. I don't like doing U-turns so I make a left onto Australian, then make a right onto Hibiscus, then make a right onto Chilean and then another right onto Cocoanut Row. This puts me in front of the valet parking. Do be aware that many of the streets are one way. Be sure to RSVP to Susan, 561-642-4720 or aauwflberlin@gmail.com – we must have an accurate head count for the Chesterfield!

Notes

Happy Happy February Birthdays!

**Linda Casale
Karen Lippe
Lisa Peterfreund
Jackie Winchester**



**Join Us for Our
February Tea and Fund
Raiser Saturday,
February 17, 2017**

Where: The Chesterfield,
363 Cocoanut Row, Palm
Beach FL 33480

When: 2:00 p.m. Tea Time

Directions: 195 to
704/Okeechobee Blvd. Go
toward the Ocean(east).
Okeechobee becomes Royal
Palm – go across the bridge
(there is a dog leg at bridge).
See more in Notes and
Whatnot.

Please RSVP to:

Susan – 561-642-4720 or
aauwflberlin@gmail.com
as always, we need your
RSVP

Educational and Legal News from AAUW National
Compiled by Betty Rigdon

AAUW became involved with these ongoing legal cases in 2017:

Spencer v Virginia State University

Zoe Spencer had been Gender Equity Task Force chair at VSU

Spencer alleges that she has been retaliated against for identifying deficits in gender equity with unfair pay for women faculty and herself

Portz v St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud proposed eliminating 2 women's sports teams

Plaintiffs allege that such action denies women athletes equal opportunity to participate in sports on that campus

Robb v Lock Haven

Eight student athletes at Lock Haven University allege that the university failed to comply with Title IX mandate for participation by gender and that roster manipulation was used by the university as a method to appear to show compliance

Work Smart Coming to San Francisco

AAUW, Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women and the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women are to collaborate on large-scale training in the city

Plan to train 20,000 women by 2020 to negotiate their salary and benefit packages

Aim is to help close gender pay gap in San Francisco where women earn 81% of what men earn in similar jobs



Happy Hour



February 9, 2018 at Rosalita at 4:30 p.m. Rosalita's is in the Atlantis Shopping Center at the corner of Congress and Lantana across from the airport. Rosalita's is at the opposite end of the Shopping Center from the Atlantis Grille. No RSVP, just show up with your happy face ready for good conversation and fun!

BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Virginia Farace

The February 16 book to be discussed is **Camino Island** by John Grisham. Donna DeSesa will moderate at the Palm Springs Library at 2 pm.

A gang of thieves stage a daring heist from a secure vault deep below Princeton University's Firestone Library. Their loot is priceless, but Princeton has insured it for twenty-five million dollars.

Bruce Cable owns a popular bookstore in the sleepy resort town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island in Florida. He makes his real money, though, as a prominent dealer in rare books. Very few people know that he occasionally dabbles in the black market of stolen books and manuscripts.

Mercer Mann is a young novelist with a severe case of writer's block who has recently been laid off from her teaching position. She is approached by an elegant, mysterious woman working for an even more mysterious company. A generous offer of money convinces Mercer to go undercover and infiltrate Bruce Cable's circle of literary friends, ideally getting close enough to him to learn his secrets.

But eventually Mercer learns far too much, and there's trouble in paradise as only John Grisham can deliver it.

The *School of Essential Ingredients* was discussed on January 19. The March book will be *A Gentleman in Moscow* moderated by Virginia Farace.

As always, new members are welcome. If you are interested, please email Virginia at AAUWFLfarace@gmail.com to receive a copy of the Book Club Guidelines and a list of past titles.

Notes – Fundraiser

We hope you are looking forward to participating in our annual fund raiser! There will be information shared about Tech Trek, the reason for the fund raiser. If you are not familiar with the dynamic and fascinating educational opportunities offered to these middle school girls, you will be amazed. This is a very fine thing we are doing for our collective futures. Additionally, there will be items to be auctioned, a money hat, and a revue of the interesting, funny, lovely hats that you will be wearing. Wearing a hat is not mandatory, but those who do will add to the Tea's enjoyment. Special mention will be given to especially interesting or amazing hats, and the wearers honored.

So, please sell tickets, donate money or items for auction, and **be sure to RSVP to Susan Berlin 561-642-4720** or aauwflberlin@gmail.com.

AAUW's Stand up to Sexism

Palm Beach County Branch January 2018 Program
Presenters: Susan Berlin, Betty Rigdon, Deborah Nesbit
Moderator: Virginia Farace

Women hear countless sexist comments over our lifetimes, and most of the time we shrug them off. But what about the words that can't or won't be so easily dismissed? A lifetime of absorbing sexism (starting at birth, when studies show people assign gender traits) leads to frustration and kills our self-confidence. At a young age we learn to follow certain behaviors based on traditional gender roles. Too often those who do not align with acceptable gendered boundaries are treated as outcasts or outsiders.

Gender-based microaggressions are subtle phrases or acts directed at us by others that make us doubt ourselves. These seemingly small acts of sexism contribute to the gender leadership gap, which creates a cyclical problem: Women are underrepresented, so our work is devalued, and so we devalue ourselves, and on and on. Hearing these comments day in and day out affects our personal, intellectual, and professional choices.

Definitions

Sexism — Prejudice or discrimination based on sex; especially discrimination against women

Microaggressions – Brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership (based on author Derald Wing Sue's definition). Gender-based microaggressions are subtle words, phrases, or actions that reinforce gender stereotypes and sexism.

Stereotypes – Cognitive shortcuts that categorizes people on the basis of visible characteristics such as gender, race, or age

Bias – A semipermanent belief based on repeated exposure to stereotypes

Implicit bias – Occurs when a person consciously rejects stereotypes but still unconsciously makes evaluations based on stereotypes

Where are the women leaders?

Everyday sexism is harmful and pervasive. Receiving sexist comments can damage women's confidence and ultimately exacerbate the gender leadership gap. Do your part to dismantle sexism by engaging others in this important conversation.

Can you remember the first time you heard an "everyday" sexist comment? In what ways have these comments shaped your paths — for good and bad?

How do you think everyday sexism affects women's college experiences? What about their career paths?

Summary

Because everyone internalizes sexism on some level, certain phrases and behaviors can become innate. Men and women absorb sexist behavior at an early age, so we may say or do certain actions without even realizing that we're being sexist.

- Why do you think sexism is so pervasive in our society?
- How has this discussion inspired you to #StandUpToSexism in your everyday life?
- Don't let the conversation end once you part ways! Here are other ways to keep the movement going:
- **Recognize your own bias.**
Think about what everyday actions you take that may unintentionally prompt sexism. What stereotypes do you hold that can be undone?
- **Speak up.**
When you see or hear a microaggression, don't be a silent bystander; say something. Refuse to let sexist comments or actions be a normal part of your everyday conversations and behavior.
- **Use social media.**
Share the ways you observe or combat sexism on social media by using the hashtag #StandUpToSexism and tagging AAUW.

At the Program's conclusion, members wrote why or how they will #Stand Up to Sexism:

- ✓ It's the right thing to do - for all the women now and in the future.
- ✓ Will continue being a strong leader in politics.
- ✓ Will look beyond the obvious to see the person inside.
- ✓ Will continue to dress strong as I want despite other's comments and expectations
- ✓ I will be me.
- ✓ Will continue to speak up when men or even women degrade or comment on my dress, personality, figure etc.
- ✓ Work for a man that has daughters – he will usually treat you better.
- ✓ When I was a girl I could become a teacher or nurse or get married. I am so pleased that my granddaughter has a college education and a great job in NYC working for Apple.
- ✓ First recognize it and then point it out.
- ✓ Call out individuals who talk to you in a demeaning way – report it.
- ✓ Don't see feelings that arise in a woman make you feel bad.
- ✓ Stand up to Sexism even if it's from women!

Save the

Dates!

BRING A FRIEND TO THE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

February 9 – Happy Hour at Rosalita – 4:30 p.m.

February 17 – Fundraiser T(ea) Is For Tech Trek – Chesterfield – 2 p.m.

March 9 – Happy Hour – Lake Worth Country Club – 4:30

March 17 – Annual Meeting – Violence Against Women -Callaro's Steak House

April 21 – Activity at the Norton 2 p.m. –

Lunch at Grato 11:30

Meet at Norton 1:30 p.m.

May 19 – Installation of New Officers – Lunch at Atlantis Grill

2017-2018 Officers

President: Susan Berlin

Secretary: Virginia Farace

Program: Melissa Sackl

Membership: Barbara Wagner

Finance: Linda Newton

Communications: Virginia Brooks and Sharon Trost

Development: Betty Rigdon

Public Policy: Maurcy Selko

