

**AAUW PALM BEACH COUNTY BRANCH**

1734 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs, FL 33461

<http://palmbeach-fl.aauw.net/> T: (561) 642-4720



Notes and Whatnots

We enjoyed our *Getting To Know You* in September. We are an interesting group of women – come to our meetings and see for yourself.

This month, October 12, 2019 to be specific, we have a very special meeting at the West Palm Beach Library in their Clematis Room. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. This meeting is to discuss **Women’s Legislative Issues**. Among the invited panelists are **Congresswoman Lois Frankel** and **AAUW State President-Elect Pat DeWitt**. It is important to show your support of our branch by attending this special meeting. Bring friends, relatives, men too, co-workers, etc.

Mandel West Palm Beach Library is in City Center, 411 Clematis St. Take I95 to Exit 70/Okeechobee/FL704 head toward the water/downtown. The Library phone directions say to take a left onto S Quadrille (just past Alabama and before Dixie) and make a right onto Clematis and Library is on the left with on-street parking meters.

However, the easiest parking is in the closest city garage on the corner of Dixie and Banyon – I95 to Okeechobee toward the water, left onto S Quadrille and then a right onto Banyon. Parking garage entrance is on your right. You will exit from the garage into the open patio with the library a few steps away on your left (city hall is on your right).

Parking is \$1 per hour in the Library/City Hall parking garage. Be sure to take your ticket with you after you park your car. You will pay using the ticket before you go back to your car.

**Notes**

**Happy Happy October Birthdays!**

- Carol Ann Sutton**
- Melissa Sackl**
- Sharon Trost**
- Carol Watson**
- Jerri White**
- May Goodstein**



**This Month’s Meeting at West Palm Beach Library-Clematis Room**

**Where:** Mandel West Palm Beach Library, 411 Clematis, West Palm Beach 33401

**When:** October 12, 2019

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Directions:** In City Center. 411 Clematis St, WPB 33401.

**Parking in garage – see Notes and Whatnot**

**Please RSVP to:**

[Vmackk69@gmail.com](mailto:Vmackk69@gmail.com)

**Virginia Brooks**

**Educational and Legal News from AAUW National** compiled by Betty Rigdon

AAUW started its Work Smart program in 2015-teaches salary and benefit negotiation

Almost 80,000 women have registered

Some attendees have negotiated salaries up to 20 % higher

AAUW has partnered with New York City Economic Development Corporation to teach 10,000 women to negotiate for higher salaries and advocate for themselves in the workplace

Initiative called "Ask for More"

Program includes online training and in-person workshops

Program will become one of the largest salary negotiation and women's leadership programs in US

AAUW Empower

A leadership development and networking event

Events held this summer in Charlotte, Chicago and San Francisco

Over 150 professionals met at Chicago event

AAUW is awarding \$4 million in fellowships and grants to 259 women and community projects for the 2019-2020 academic year

Applications now open for 2020-2021 fellowships and grants

800 students attended NCCWSL (Nat. Conference for College Women Student Leaders)

Held May 29- June 1 at University of Maryland, College Park

AAUW signs onto an amicus brief in 3 different court cases to support 3 employees fired for being gay or transgender

Cases are: *Bostock v Clayton County, Georgia*, *Attitude Express v Zarda*, and *Harris Funeral*

*Homes v Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*

All 3 cases address whether sex-based employment protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 include discrimination based on sexual orientation and transgender status

Supreme Court has agreed to hear these cases-oral arguments set for Oct. 8

The amicus brief that AAUW joined only focuses on the issue of sex stereotyping in employment -It urges that Title VII's prohibition against employment because of sex should include a person's sexual orientation or gender identity

Two other cases that AAUW signed onto as amicus brief:

*Portz v St. Cloud University*- court decided in favor of female athletes

Class of student female athletes alleged gender discrimination

*St. Cloud* had planned to cut 6 teams from its athletic program including women's tennis and women's Nordic skiing teams

Women claimed harm by sex discrimination in allocation of athletic benefits and opportunities

In judgment *St. Cloud* ordered to maintain both teams, improve facilities of women's sport teams to create equity with men's teams and to take other steps to provide equitable athletic opportunities

Transgender Student rights upheld in Virginia case

AAUW signed onto an amicus brief to support plaintiff at earlier stage of the case

US District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia ruled in favor of Gavin Grimm, plaintiff

Grimm had alleged that the high school's refusal to let him use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity was discrimination under Title IX and violated his rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution

## Some Handy Web Sites by Virginia Brooks

In this season of upcoming political excesses on all sides, I wanted some web sites that I can access with various questions. Here are some of the sites that I found:

<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> you can find the legislators, committees, etc.

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> also locate representatives

<https://www.270towin.com/elected-officials/> just goes to state level

<https://myreps.datamade.us/> this goes all the way to your town councils- Delray Beach is included in their information base

<https://govtrack.us/congress/bills/> learn about bills being considered

<https://Legiscan.com/FL> Florida bills being considered

Check out some sites – Citizens Against Government Waste, Media Research Center, Quizlet.com, National Bureau of Economic Research

As a society, for the last 90 years or so we have neglected to actually keep tabs on local, state, and national legislators. In olden days, we knew the people who were making laws, and there still were some egregious unethical and illegal things done. But we have the internet where we can actually call up various bills to read their language. I think it would be nifty if we monitored our local, state and national reps. This can be done from home, so doesn't require expenditure other than for electric and internet. We can form some small groups to follow the group's interest. Also, periodically the groups could submit information to Poste Haste and perhaps at meetings.

I know, I know, you have so many claims on your time and energy. However, if we want to have a functioning Republic to pass to our grandchildren, we need to hold our legislators accountable. In order to do that, we need to set some time aside for research, outside from the manipulating and manipulatable media. So contact me, [vmackk69@gmail.com](mailto:vmackk69@gmail.com), or any other Board member and let's get some information gathering started!

One of the most important things you can do is register to receive the AAUW Two-minute activist. <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

**Please renew your membership and send to Finance Director Linda Newton at her new address:**

**4801 Linton Blvd, Suite 11A-401, Delray Beach, Fl 33445**

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Virginia Farace

***The Secrets Between Us*** by Thrity Unrigar will be discussed at 2 pm on Friday, October 18, at the Palm Springs Library which should be open after its renovations. (Double check with me a few days before at my email address listed below to be sure that that the library is open and that we will be meeting.)

This book was originally scheduled for our June book club which had to be cancelled.

*Bhima, the unforgettable main character of Thrity Umrigar's beloved national bestseller The Space Between Us, returns in this triumphant sequel—a poignant and compelling novel in which the former servant struggles against the circumstances of class and misfortune to forge a new path for herself and her granddaughter in modern India.*

*"It isn't the words we speak that make us who we are. Or even the deeds we do. It is the secrets buried in our hearts."*

*Poor and illiterate, Bhima had faithfully worked for the Dubash family, an upper-middle-class Parsi household, for more than twenty years. Yet after courageously speaking the truth about a heinous crime perpetrated against her own family, the devoted servant was cruelly fired. The sting of that dismissal was made more painful coming from Sera Dubash, the temperamental employer who had long been Bhima's only confidante. A woman who has endured despair and loss with stoicism, Bhima must now find some other way to support herself and her granddaughter, Maya.*

*Bhima's fortunes take an unexpected turn when her path intersects with Parvati, a bitter, taciturn older woman. The two acquaintances soon form a tentative business partnership, selling fruits and vegetables at the local market. As they work together, these two women seemingly bound by fate grow closer, each confessing the truth about their lives and the wounds that haunt them. Discovering her first true friend, Bhima pieces together a new life, and together, the two women learn to stand on their own.*

*A dazzling story of gender, strength, friendship, and second chances, The Secrets Between Us is a powerful and perceptive novel that brilliantly evokes the complexities of life in modern India and the harsh realities faced by women born without privilege as they struggle to survive.*

Members are needed to volunteer to present titles for future months.

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

### Reminder

We are invited by the North Palm Beach Branch to attend their personal planning information meeting at the North Palm Beach Library on October 5, 2019 starting at 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be professional planners to answer your questions and to explain how to start, or tweak, your planning for your future.

Save the Dates!

BRING A FRIEND TO THE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

**September 6, 2019** Palm Beach Golf Club Getting to Know You Happy Hour 5:00pm  
**October 5, 2019** 2:00-5:00pm North Palm Beach Library Life Planning Strategies NPB Branch  
**October 12, 2019** 10:30am-12:30pm WPB Library-Clematis Room Women's Legislative Issues  
**November 9, 2019** 11:30am Duffy's Delray Beach - Gender Pay Gap – Economic Security Women  
**December 14, 2019** Noon Croquet Club Holiday Party  
**January 18, 2020** 2:00-4:00pm Tealicious Delray Beach T(ea) Is for Tech Trek  
**January 20-22, 2020** Lobby Days in Tallahassee  
More next Poste Haste

2019-2020 Officers

*Co-President: Susan Berlin and Virginia Farace*

*Secretary: Carol Watson*

*Program: Marlene Block*

*Co-Membership: Barbara Wagner and Donna Artes*

*Finance: Linda Newton*

*Communications: Virginia Brooks*

*Development: Betty Rigdon and Maribel Valdez*

*Public Policy: Open position*

