

Calendar

Tuesday, April 7 – 7 p.m.
Bridge Club at Sally Bailey's home. RSVP to Judy Pierman or Barbara Quirk-Risso.

Thursday, April 9 – 1:30 p.m.
Book Club at Susan McConnell's home. Call or email if you'll be attending and for directions.

Saturday, April 11 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fifth Annual April is for Authors. Palm Beach Gardens High School.

Thursday, April 14 – Equal Pay Day, when women's pay catches up to men's.

Friday to Saturday - April 17-18 – AAUW Leadership Conference, Melbourne.

Monday, April 20 – 6:30 p.m. A presentation about the Maltz Jupiter Theatre that will include performances by students from The Conservatory. North Palm Beach Library.

Monday, April 27 - 5:30 p.m. Branch board meeting, North Palm Beach Library.

Wednesday, May 13 – Deadline for reservations for May dinner meeting.

Monday, May 18 – 6:30 p.m. Induction of officers. Juno Beach Fish House, US 1 in Juno.

Thursday, May 28 - Annual end-of-year Dinner Club pot-luck, open to all branch members. Liz Shapiro's home. Details in May.

President: Gretchen Rauch-Herron
Gretchen_Rauch_herron@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Carol MacDonald
Sally Bailey, Carol Whalen
carol.macdonald@yahoo.com

sbailey.140@aol.com, ctriggs@aol.com

Web: <http://northernpalmbeach-fl.aauw.net>

Maltz Jupiter Theatre

Monday, 6:30 p.m. April 20
North Palm Beach Library

If you've been to performances at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, you know what a gem it is. If not, you'll be convinced at our April meeting.

You'll not only learn about Florida's largest professional, not-for-profit, regional theater, from Pam Dyar, the Maltz's director of development.

You'll also hear a musical performance by students from the theatre's Conservatory of Performing Arts, which offers after-school, weekend, and summer programs to hundreds of youngsters. The students performing for us are part of the Youth Touring Group.

The Maltz is known for its award-winning musical productions, showcased in a 617-seat auditorium. Besides productions from professional actors and musicians, theatre-goers can enjoy musicals performed by Conservatory students. This summer, these include *Dr. Doolittle*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Hairspray*. ♦



Pam Dyar

Candidates named for open positions

In addition to the Maltz Jupiter Theatre presentation, our April meeting will include the announcement of candidates to fill several openings for branch leaders. Installation of officers will be at our **May 18** meeting.

(Note : This is a change from the date previously listed in the directory and the newsletter. See page 2 for details on the dinner.)

Nominating Committee members who developed the slate of officers include Marion Knapp, Liz Shapiro, and Sue Slone. The slate comprises:

- President – Cheryl Plotkin
- Secretary – Marie Flynn
- Charitable Foundation representatives – Sue Slone, Susan Seufert.
- Program – Shirley Koo, Susan McConnell. ♦

Food bank a life-saver to many

Those attending our March meeting learned some startling statistics about Palm Beach County:

- One in five children go to bed hungry.
- More than half of children in public schools come from food insecure homes. They tend to be malnourished and hungry, so they have health and emotional problems, and difficulty learning.
- Twenty-two percent of seniors must choose between buying food or paying for needed medication.

That was the sad picture painted by Melissa Sullivan, director of development at the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

She said people without transportation who depend on food stamps and can't get to a grocery store typically shop at convenience stores, which offer few nutritious foods. The poor eating habits can lead to serious health problems.

The Food Bank was started three years ago at the request of some Palm Beach County organizations, because the food needs of the county's hungry residents were not being met.

Although its growth has been enormous, Sullivan said, it still has trouble securing the 35 million pounds of food needed by the 105 food relief agencies it serves.

These agencies feed more than 190,000 Palm Beach County residents in a year. Of every dollar contributed to the Food Bank, 96 cents goes to the program and all of it stays in Palm Beach County.

To learn more, visit pbccfoodbank.org. ♦



Melissa Sullivan and Liz Shapiro..

Get help with conference cost

There's good news if you'd like to attend the AAUW Florida Convention and Leadership Conference, Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18.

The branch is offering to reimburse members \$50 of the costs to attend the conference, which will be held at the Hilton Rialto in Melbourne. Registration after April 1 costs \$80, in addition to the cost of a hotel room.

Submit your reimbursement request to Jacquie Balaschak after the conference.

The schedule of events and registration form are on the AAUW Florida web site under state convention – <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/activities/state-convention>.

Liz Shapiro and Sally Bailey will be attending both days. Check with them for more information. ♦

Mark your calendars for May 18

Plan to attend our annual installation of officers dinner, set for Monday, May 18, at the Juno Beach Fish House at US 1 and Donald Ross Rd.

Choose from six menu items when you get there: Grilled Mahi, Grilled Salmon, Fried Grouper, Chicken Francaise, New York Strip Steak, or Vegetarian Pasta. Salad, dessert, tax, and gratuity are included for \$35. There will be a cash bar.

Send your checks to Jacquie Balaschak by May 13. No need to include your entree choice since you'll order at the restaurant. ♦

Book Club is back

Thanks to new member Susan McConnell, the book club has been rejuvenated. The first meeting will be at Susan's home at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9. Let her know if you'll attend. (Check page 3 for her phone, email.)

Topics include scheduling future meetings – tentatively the second Thursday of the month – and determining hostesses. Also, bring suggestions of books you'd like to discuss. ♦

Year-end Dinner Club party open to all members

Big Easy Bash is the theme for the annual year-end Dinner Club party open to all AAUW members and their guests – Saturday, May 28 at Liz Shapiro's home.

Bring a dish with a New Orleans touch to share. Details to come in May. Contact Ann Hutchins or Liz for more information. ♦

Charitable Foundation allocates funds

The board of our Charitable Foundation met recently to decide on the distribution of the funds raised, including those from our February benefit luncheon and auction and October Whole Foods event.

Funds raised and contributed to the foundation are for the benefit of both the national AAUW Funds and the local Doris Karlik Scholarships.

Board members voted to allocate \$1,750 to be used for our local Doris Karlik Scholarships. These scholarships have been awarded to women in Palm Beach County who are furthering their education. Recipients have typically been announced in May at our installation of officers meeting.

The scholarship committee

will be meeting to discuss the applications that were submitted by the March 1 deadline and to make a decision concerning local scholarships for 2015.

Board members also decided to allocate a total of \$1,750 to the national AAUW Funds, to be divided as follows:

- \$200 to the AAUW Funds Public Policy Fund in honor of Nan Rich, the speaker at this year's benefit luncheon.
- \$500 to the AAUW Funds Educational Opportunity Fund in honor of someone to be selected by the branch.
- \$600 to the AAUW Funds Leadership Programs Fund for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, which is held in

Washington D.C. each summer.

We hope to have Palm Beach State College recommend and select an outstanding female leader from our area to attend this conference and give her the grant of \$600 towards her attendance. This will be paid to national in the form of sponsoring an attendee.

- \$450 to go to national to an as-yet-to-be-designated fund. This decision will be made at the next board meeting after new board members are elected.

The Charitable Foundation, Inc. Of Northern Palm Beach County AAUW was established as a 501(c) (3) organization in January 2008. ♦

Drivers needed for April is for Authors

The fifth annual April is for Authors runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, and will be held again at Palm Beach Gardens High School.

And though it's just days away, we still need drivers to meet authors at the airport Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, and take them back late Saturday or Sunday, April 12.

Most of the trips from the airport will be Friday and the return trips will be Sunday. You don't need to do both trips for an author. Contact Sally

Bailey if you can help.

Those who volunteered for other duties like book sales or distributing programs will be getting specific instructions and details from Sally soon.



This year's event will open with the popular author Tyler Whitesides, speaking at 9 a.m. Sharon Draper, popular with older children, will speak at 1 p.m.

As in other years, there will be panel discussions and other activities between the two featured authors' presentations and following Sharon Draper's talk. ♦

Welcome 2 new members

Please welcome our two new members and add their contact information to your directory.

- Deb Lavan, 1036 US Hwy I, #122, North Palm Beach, FL 33408, 561-766-1822; jamaicadebs@yahoo.com
- Susan O'Connell, 15655 77th Trail No., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418, 704-651-4704; sjoconnell2013@gmail.com

Sunshine and shadow

Please direct your kind thoughts and prayers to Marion Knapp's daughter, Lee, who is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor. ♦

Get those Paycheck Fairness letters in the mail

There are now proposed Paycheck Fairness Act bills in both the US Senate and the US House. If you haven't written to your legislators yet, please do it right away. It's important they receive lots of letters, so they know how crucial this legislation is to women. Letters to the editor are also important to get the message to the general public.

Writing to legislators: A sample letter was emailed to all members. The text, which now includes requests to vote for the Paycheck Fairness Act, is also included at right.

Here's where to mail your letters:

- Senator Bill Nelson – 716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Senator Marco Rubio – 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Representative Patrick Murphy – 211 Canon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
- Representative Lois Frankel – 1037 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, 205515-0922

Writing to editors: Use just the first two paragraphs of the sample letter so you'll meet the newspapers' word limits. Do not send your letter as an email attachment, as neither paper opens attachments.

- **Palm Beach Post** – 200-word limit; Must include your name, address, email address, and daytime phone number.. Send to letters@pbpost.com
- **Sun Sentinel** – 250-word limit. Must be signed and include name, address, email address, phone number. Send to letters@sun-sentinel.com ♦

Sample pay equity letter

Dear Senator, Representative, Editor:

Equal Pay Day is April 14th this year. It marks the day when women's earnings equal what men earned in 2014. That's 23 cents less per hour than their male counterparts earned. This salary gap grows wider with each year a woman works. Some women work longer to try to make up for the wage discrepancy and increase their retirement funds. At retirement, women's lower wages result in smaller social security and pension checks than men's. Women live longer than men so they must make their retirement funds last longer. Some women will exhaust their personal savings and be forced to rely solely on their meager social security and pension checks. The wage gap also means more women end up in poverty or homeless than men.

Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to alleviate the salary disparity between men's and women's wages by closing the loopholes in the Fair Pay Act so that businesses are forced to pay women and men equally if they are performing the identical tasks and are equally qualified. The act will allow younger women to increase their Social Security earnings and the size of their pensions as well as save more money. Women working after the Paycheck Fairness Act is passed will have more money to pump into the economy. Society will gain because fewer women will become dependent on public assistance when they can no longer work.

Please vote for the Paycheck Fairness Act and remind your colleagues that Paycheck Fairness is not a Democratic or Republican issue, it's a fairness issue. Equally qualified American women deserve to be paid as much as the men who are do the same work as they do. Also remind your colleagues that they have wives, daughters and granddaughters who want to be paid equally with their male counterparts. Urge all senators to vote for the Paycheck Fairness Act to compel businesses to pay all women equally with men who do the same work.

Thank you for your support.

Real-life stories show pay inequity impact

It's a fact: Women make less than men doing the same job. That's bad enough during the years you work. But the consequences of pay inequity don't stop there. They follow you throughout your life.

That was the theme of a panel discussion convened March 9 by Congresswoman Lois Frankel at the West Palm Beach Library. Frankel has long been a supporter of legislation to close the gender gap.

Domino effect

Laura Feldman of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare explained the trends affecting a retirement savings gap for many Americans and how pay inequity means that women are more harshly affected.

It's a domino effect. Earning less not only means women are able to save less for retirement, but their Social Security payments are less. Women often work part-time or in jobs that don't offer pensions. And they live longer, so their retirement funds must stretch longer. The result? Older women make up a large segment of those in poverty.

Beyond statistics

Three women on the panel told their stories of pay inequity and its effect, painting a real-life picture beyond the statistics.

- Anne Watkins, who called herself a “working class Cinderella,” described the dire economic situation she was in when she divorced, and how her experiences led her to become an advocate for others.

- Nancy Albano, a retired lawyer from Massachusetts, said she was the first in her working class family to go to college. She said she never forgot how she felt when she discovered a male fellow student had been offered more than she to work for the same law firm – an event that led her to become a civil rights lawyer.

- Shari Olefson, talked about the sexual harassment and pay inequities at her law firm that prompted her to sue. She used money from the settlement to set up the Women's Equal Pay Network, which gives women a voice to tell their stories and get access to the legal system.

Learn more

- For information about the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, visit www.ncpssm.org.
- Sign a petition to Congress to strengthen women's health, income and retirement security at www.eleanorshope.org/signthepetition.
- For information on the Women's Equal Pay Network, go to www.wepnetwork.com. ♦

AAUW Quick Facts about gender pay gap

Despite civil rights laws and advancements in women's education and economic status, workplace discrimination still persists.

Closing the gender pay gap is an AAUW policy priority. Here's information from AAUW.org that summarizes two Congressional bills addressing pay inequity:

“Paycheck Fairness Act: The PFA would improve the scope of the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated since 1963, with stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, enhance federal enforcement efforts, and prohibit retaliation against workers asking about wage practices.

Fair Pay Act: The Fair Pay Act would require employers to provide equal pay for work of equal value, whether or not the jobs are the same.

This legislation addresses equal pay for women working in female-dominated jobs equivalent to jobs traditionally dominated by men.

The legislation would ban retaliation, require employers to file wage information with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, eliminate the gag rule on wage disclosure, and prohibit employers from reducing wages to comply with pay equity requirements.”

From www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-the-gender-pay-gap/. ♦

Take advantage of online dues payment option

Dues for 2015-2016 are due. And you now have a choice in how to pay.

You can do it the old-fashioned way, with a check mailed to our treasurer. Or you can save time and postage, and pay securely with a credit card online.

Online payments are a boon to our treasurer, too, because they simplify recordkeeping. So please consider it.

Our dues year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year, so it's time to pay now:

The total amount due is the same as last year:

AAUW dues –	\$49**
State dues –	\$12
Branch dues –	\$13
TOTAL	\$74

The secure AAUW web site guides you through the online dues-paying process. Here's a preview of the basics:

1. Go to www.aauw.org.
2. Click on *Login* at the top or bottom of the page. You'll need a password and your member ID.

- If you never set up your password, click on "*First time logging in? You will need to register.*" Complete the short form. You'll get an email that will allow you to create your password. Click on the link in that email message.

- If you had a password but cannot remember it, click on *Forgot Password?*

- If you don't know your member ID, click on *Forgot Member ID?*

3. Once you're logged in, go to the Member Services Database by typing *MSD* in the search box on the top right of the home page.

4. Click on *Member Services Database*.

5. Click on *MSD*.

6. Click on *Member Services Database*.

7. Click on *Renew My Membership*. Fill in the required information and follow instructions for submittal, and you're finished.

****\$46 of your 2015-2016 AAUW dues is income tax deductible! The other \$3 of your AAUW dues will support the public policy (lobbying) division of AAUW, which has 501(c)(4) IRS status and is NOT income tax deductible.**

Paying by mail

Make your check for \$74 payable to AAUW NPBC, and mail it to:
Jacquie Balaschak, 14272 Leeward Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Help keep the directory up-to-date

Let us know if your name, address, phone number(s) or email address were not included in the branch directory or have changed since it was printed. If you're mailing your dues, include this form. Or send the form separately to Jacquie Balaschak at the address above, if paying online.

Name _____

Address: _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ Cell phone _____

E-mail address _____