



The Suncoast Bulletin

Newsletter of the Clearwater Branch of AAUW

November 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2012-2013

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Newsletter Editor

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Gifts of Toys will be appreciated for the Haven House. Bring them with you unwrapped to our Holiday Luncheon December 1 Clearwater Country Club 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Carol Zeph by Nov 25 (details on page 4)

Students Honored by Clearwater AAUW Branch



From Largo Middle School: Eva Nguyen (L) Teacher Leslie Pohly and Kristina Mastilovic, honored students recognized



Teacher Julie Clampett with honored students Eva Anram and Pooja Patel from Dunedin Middle School.



Safety Harbor's Teacher Susan Louks with Alexa Cetta and Christie Roberson, top students in math and science.

STEM and AAUW **What we know and need to know:**

"The shortage of American scientists threatens our nation's ability to compete and innovate in the coming years, especially as the outsourcing of jobs to, and importing of science from, other nations continues to grow. By 2014, the U.S. will have added more than one million additional information technology jobs to the workforce. However, women still lag far behind in earning computer technology degrees and working in computer technology-related professions. High school girls represent only 17 percent of computer science Advanced Placement (AP) test takers".¹

From our national headquarters, it states, "College-educated women earned only 18 percent of computer and information sciences bachelor's degrees (down from 37 percent of computer science degrees in 1985). In 2006, women earned only 21 percent of doctorate degrees in computer science. Overall, women comprise 24.8 percent of computer and mathematical professionals, down from 27 percent in 2006."¹

For more information, you can read AAUW's *Tech Savvy* (2000), *Women at Work* (2003), and *Why so Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics* (2010). All have documented the troubling shortage of girls and women preparing to work in science, engineering, technology, and math. In order to close this gap, AAUW supports efforts that train teachers to encourage girls and other underrepresented groups to pursue careers in these fields.¹

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. These efforts will help increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.¹

Our speaker, Pam Moore, on November 17 will tell us about the efforts to inspire students to pursue subjects that steer them toward STEM careers. And what has Clearwater AAUW Branch done? These last three years, our branch has awarded the highest achieving grade 8 female students in math and science at Middle Schools in Dunedin, Largo, and Safety Harbor to acknowledge and encourage their efforts in these subjects. (The students pictured above are the students awarded this last spring.) Can we do more? Perhaps it time to think about it. Join us Saturday, **November 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Patio Room of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 705 Michigan Blvd, Dunedin 34698.** The Patio Room is in the center of the buildings to the left of the sanctuary building. Parking is out in front of the buildings. Coffee will be on at 9:30; program will begin at 10:00 a.m. We are honored to have **the Executive Director of Curriculum Development for Pinellas County, Pam Moore** with us.

1. http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/actionpages/STEM.cfm From AAUW's Position on Math and Science webpage

Clearwater AAUW Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2012

The meeting at St. Petersburg College in Room 145 of the Administration Building was called to order at 9:50 am. In attendance: Rita Garvey, Barbara Perkins, Marian Major, Margaret Hyde, Jackie Kruse, and Kathleen Kimpel. The Minutes from June 29, 2012 were accepted as amended.

Programs.....Barbara Perkins reported that the Oct. 20th General meeting at St Andrews Church, Dunedin will be held in the Patio Room, to begin at 9:30 until 11:30. Suggestions were discussed concerning publicity and/or Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the event. Margaret will arrange. The meeting's Speaker, Diane Shrier, Public Policy Director for State of FL AAUW will present the topic "Bullying". Next month's meeting, (11/17/2012) speaker for STEM will be Pinellas County Executive Director of Curriculum, Pam Moore. The Holiday Meeting (12/01/2012) will feature the Madrigal Singers.

A discussion of an appropriate honorarium/donation amount for performers, and under which conditions to offer one ensued. After discussion, it was suggested that "case by case" situations may be presented to the Board. A topic for April's Meeting was discussed as Identity Fraud/Theft, and agreement was reached as to the suitability of this theme. Barb will seek speaker candidates and bring recommendations to the Board. The May Meeting will feature guest Speaker Eileen Recchia, our Florida AAUW President, who will install Officers at that time.

Membership Jackie Kruse asked for ideas to improve the diversity of our membership. Jackie shared the idea that a special dues rate for students might be considered. The consensus was that there is

very little room to reduce the dues without subsidy, since the component parts are mandated by National and State level AAUW. Jackie presented an idea for engaging young women students around the topic of Henrietta Lacks, based on the recent book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Rita asked for a concept paper on this. It was further agreed that the Evening Book Group will no longer be announced in the Newsletter since its members are not all AAUW members. The daytime group will still be included.

Treasurer (Treasurer not in attendance.) Budget revisions were discussed including some re-allocation of line item funds within the budget. These revisions were voted on and approved. These amendments will be reflected in a revised budget, namely redirecting funds within the scholarship line item to reduce the WOW funding level to \$2,000.00 (from \$3,000.00) and use the funds to complete our sponsorship amount with the Ruth Eckerd Hall Fellowship (\$1200.00). Marian has raised approx. \$500.00 from donors outside our membership, and the Branch donation supplements this support. WOW Luncheon to honor Donors is 11/02/2012 at Eckert Hall with several of the Board agreeing to attend. The topic of the Middle School Girls' STEM award (\$100.00 savings bond per student) resulted in consensus that in times of scarce resources for the performing arts, and in light of increased Federal and State funding for STEM, our donation will be reconsidered. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully Submitted, 10/11/2012
Kathleen Kimpel

President's Message

Dear All,

I had the privilege to meet Gloria Steinem a couple of weeks ago. At that event she made comment that she lived in Clearwater at one time while growing up with her family. They lived in a trailer on Clearwater Beach!

Our guest at our October general meeting, Jessica Ehrlich, was also at this event. She sat at the same table with Gloria while having lunch. So I was very pleased when I received this letter -

Dear Rita,

If I lived in Florida, I would definitely vote for -- indeed, I would go out and ring doorbells for -- Jessica Ehrlich. I met her last week when we spoke together at a rally. I witnessed her energy, honesty and record of commitment to fairness for everybody, including women.

Then I researched her opponent, Congressman Bill Young. I discovered that he doesn't even support equal pay, and voted against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. On top of that, he would give women's reproductive decisions over to Washington. For instance, he voted to end support for Planned Parenthood, and even co-sponsored the Congressional legislation of Todd Akin that would stop Medicaid from helping women unless they could prove they were "forcibly" raped. (You remember Akin, the Missouri Congressman who said women couldn't get pregnant because their bodies shut down in "legitimate rape.") On top of that, I discovered that Bill Young has been in Congress since before the first issue of Ms. magazine -- that's over forty years!

Jessica has the vision and experience to replace him. She also has the experience to end the crippling partisanship in Washington. She has worked for both parties, first for Republican Clay Shaw, then for Democrat Stephen Lynch. She also has plans to expand the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act so women will finally earn equal pay for equal work -- which would put \$200 billion dollars a year into the economy and become our best economic stimulus -- and she will fight for a more comprehensive Violence Against Women Act. She will protect Medicare and keep seniors from being robbed of the benefits they've earned over a lifetime of work. And she will get our economy growing again through policies that help the middle class, and also help the poor become middle class.

Altogether, I would be proud to vote for her.

With friendship, Gloria Steinem



Jessica Ehrlich (r) with branch secretary, Kathleen Kimpel (l)

Candidate for House of Representatives Jessica Ehrlich introduced herself and made a brief statement on the importance of voting before leaving to attend another meeting.



Simon says Sarah says
Evan told Jamie
That Megan told Morgan
That Mandy told Amy
And Ryan told Chuckie
And Chuckie told Brian
And Brian says Hollie says
Mollie says Polly says
Hannah says Anna says she'll never tell....

BULLYING

Diane Schrier, Florida AAUW Director of Public Policy and 8th Grade Teacher, was our guest speaker on October 20. Diane opened with a poem (above) from "Lunch Money" by Carol Diggory Shields which is about how truths and untruths that can be repeated endlessly like the game of "telephone" we once played. Now imagine the other forms of communication that are available today. Lives have been lost by suicide because of words spread: tweeting; twittering; emailing; videos; pictures, all that can be spread instantaneously. Gossip is a form of bullying. Bullying behavior is essentially about power and Diane shared dramatic examples of this problematic issue.

Diane reported that recent trends reveal increased bullying/fighting activity among school age girls, and further, that this is under-reported often due to fear of reprisals for "snitching". Schools who report the problems are put in a bad light. By reporting, they are trying to remedy the situations; by reporting, the school is considered a poorer performing school.

National figures show that incidents of bullying may exceed 13 million annually. The State of Florida passed the Jeff Johnson Law (2008) after he committed suicide. Current styles of parenting seem to be contributing to the trend. Bullying behavior is condoned in television programs and reality television programs and sports. Even our politicians display bullying behavior.

Two laws are making their way through Congress: (1) House Bill 998/ Senate Bill 555 the "Student non-Discrimination Act" and (2) House Bill 1648/Senate Bill 506 "Safe Schools Environment Act." Diane recommended the website for the "Make a Difference" Project to advocate. To check the status of bills, consult the myFlorida.com website.

Diane also commented on the importance of voting since women's issues are at the forefront of each candidate's agenda: Fair Pay, Women's Reproductive Health Care, the Budget Control Act (the so-called *fiscal cliff*), No Child Left Behind's waivers granted to states without transparency, and funding for STEM (science, technology, and math). She also reviewed the amendments facing Florida's constitution with us and felt none of them would help Florida's residents as constitutional laws.



Happy Winners of our Basket Fair

Time to start thinking of ways to make people happy....

Holidays are coming and our **Annual Fundraiser** will be with us in the spring. The play: *Damn Yankees!* and the Basket Fair!

As you shop for the holidays, set aside a few things for YOUR basket. Ideas? Themes? How about a good book, a favorite place, Champagne Chiller, Wine and Cheese Break, Just for Her, Visit to Italy, South of the Border, Treat for Two, Soup's On, A Quiet Night with Friends, Chocoholic's Dream, On the Road in Florida, Oriental Express, European Bistro, For the Boys, Movie Night Out, Tea Time, Threshers, Phillies, Yankees, London Time, Cooking for Real Men, Margaritaville, Spring is Coming.....and....

I have more ideas. Just start collecting. We'll begin putting things together after the holidays. Want to help? Call Dana 727-799-6029 or email at mrsgr@yahoo.com. It's a lot of fun when

we work together. Let's have some fun and make someone happy!

Important Dates to Remember

November 6, 2012 **VOTE !**

November 7, Wednesday 9:30 a.m. BOARD MEETING St. Petersburg College Admin Bldg, 2465 Drew Street, Clearwater Park in front of building *All members welcome!*

November 10, Saturday AAUW Florida Leadership Conference for Branch Presidents, Program and Membership VPs and the Finance Officer on the campus of University of Central Florida. Contact Flossie McNally if you are going.

November 16, Friday 10:00 a.m. Morning Book Group Discussing: Nancy Caron's *Loving Frank*
Meeting at the home of Barbara Simshauser 7938 Harwood Road, Largo 33777

November 17, Saturday General Meeting starting at 9:30 to meet & greet (coffee's on!); 10:00 a.m. program
Guest Speaker: Executive Director of Curriculum Development for Pinellas County, **Pam Moore** speaking about **the STEM Program**. Meeting in the Patio Room of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 705 Michigan Avenue, Dunedin. Guests are most welcome. Bring a friend!

November 22 *Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!*

December 1, Saturday 11:00 a.m. Annual Holiday Luncheon at Clearwater Country Club. A great way to start the holiday season!! Good food, good music and good friends!

Menu: Choose (1) Roast Turkey or (2) Grilled Citrus Salmon. Lunch, tax and Tip = \$20.00 RSVP to Carol Zeph by November 25. Members are asked to bring unwrapped toys for children of the Haven House in Clearwater. We will hear the songs of the **Madrigal Singers**.



Editor's Note: This is the last issue published by Dana Garlick. She is stepping down as editor and Kathleen Kimpel will take her place as editor of the Suncoast Bulletin.

Please cut out and send to Carol Zeph by November 25. Thank you. Spouses and friends are most welcome.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

I plan to attend the luncheon (Name) _____ (entre of choice) _____

I plan to bring a guest: (Name) _____ (guest's entre) _____

Enclosed is a check for \$20.00 per person made payable to Clearwater AAUW.

Please mail your reservation to Treasurer Carol Zeph 1000 McFarland Street, Dunedin, FL 34698 by Nov. 25.

Thank you.