

President's Message

Fundraiser: We're almost ready for our Annual Fundraiser at the Francis Wilson Playhouse where we can enjoy a wonderful performance of Mame on Wednesday, March 5. Proceeds from the sale of our tickets benefits St. Petersburg College students who are often working mothers who are trying to improve their lives through education.

The doors will open at 302 Seminole Road, which is off North Fort Harrison Road, at 7:00 p.m. to a free Wine Reception and Basket Fair! The curtains go up at 8:00 p.m. Be ready for a festive night and don't forget to bring your friends and neighbors.

You and your guests will meet some of the many students who have benefitted from these fundraisers and you have fun!

Dues: It's that time of year when our dues are collected. If you have friends who might be interested in joining, tell them this is the bargain time of year. If they join now, the Member of Branch (MOB) dues will be good for 15 months instead of 12. They will not be required to pay for the rest of this year.

We've got some interesting ideas for camaraderie and for learning, but we need your input and ideas. Bring a friend along. Help us increase our membership.

Rita



Sandy Oestreich (l) speaking to new member, Pat Windon.

American Association of University Women Clearwater Branch

Annual Scholarship Fundraiser

Francis Wilson Playhouse
302 Seminole Street Clearwater, Florida



"MAME"

Wednesday
March 5th, 2014

7:00 pm - Fund Raiser

Complimentary
Wine & Cheese

8:00 pm - Curtain

DONATION \$30

Check payable to: Clearwater AAUW
Send to: Carol Zeph 1000 McFarland St.
Dunedin, FL 34698

...promoting education and equity for women and girls.

You Can Make a Difference!

Our February guest speaker, Sandy Oestreich, reminded us that each of us can make a difference in the outcome of legislation. By her actions, she showed how one person can inspire thousands of others to get involved by writing letters, by making phone calls, by rallying to support wanted legislation.

Included in this month's newsletter is a list of Florida Legislatures who have the Equal Rights Amendment for Florida in their committee. They need to bring this to the floor to be voted on in Florida. Florida could be one of just three more states needed to ratify this to the U.S. Constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment reads:

"Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

See Ed's Note, Last page.

Clearwater AAUW Board Meeting February 6, 2014

President Rita Garvey called the Clearwater AAUW Branch Board Meeting to order in the Conference Room of Clearwater's Main Library on Osceola Street at 10:15 a.m. Present were Treasurer, Carol Zeph; Membership, Gay Gentry; Fundraiser, Jan Stephens; Programs, Dana Garlick and Barbara Perkins; Corresponding Secretary, Julia Haupt. Dana was asked to take notes of the meeting.

The minutes of the January 25 meeting were approved as published.

Programs:

Dana reminded members of the upcoming meeting with Equal Rights Amendment advocate, Sandy Oestreich, on Feb 15.

March, she explained, was going to be a busy month.

- Our Fundraiser is on Wednesday, March 5.
- Our Branch has been invited to attend a Women's History Celebration sponsored by St. Petersburg College (SPC) Women on the Way (WOW). Shirley Crumbley has invited us to advertise our organization and hopefully recruit membership. It's an opportunity for students to see possible careers and other information that may help them with their future.
- State Public Policy Chair Diane Schrier has invited Branches to participate in Lobby Day on March 24 in Tallahassee. People will meet in the Capitol Building at 9:30 a.m., so anyone interested would have to go up the day before and stay in a nearby hotel. Anyone interested in to contact Dana.

Dana is not sure of any other programs because of all the March activities and then the state convention on April 4 and 5 followed closely by Good Friday and Easter weekend. She has been talking with Jan Stephens about an activity such as a museum visit and will work on details about that with her.

President Garvey also reminded us that we have to have an election and installation of officers which could be done at the Annual Meeting on May 8 at Belleair Country Club.

Membership:

Gay Gentry reported we have 38 members. She's hoping to get some information to students at the Feb. 15 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Carol Zeph reported no expenses since last meeting, therefore, no change. Carol wanted to know if the Marian Major Scholarship Fund had been set up with Ruth Eckerd Hall. She said she would do it if it had not been done.

State Convention: April 4-5

Rita Garvey reported that volunteers from our Branch are needed for the Registration Tables, Ticket Takers for the banquet in the evening and the luncheon on Saturday. Registration should be in by March 15. After that, it will cost more to register...

Florida AAUW has a new website now at <http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>. Members can find out what is going on at State level and it also connects to our website at <http://clearwater-fl.aauw.net/>. Members can also find their registration form on the newest issue of Florivision which they should all have by now.

Fundraiser: March 5

Carol Zeph has tickets for the Fundraiser and distributed them to us present and will be contacting our membership. Rita reiterated if members do not sell tickets for the membership, they should consider making a donation to the scholarship fund. It all helps to get funds for these much needed scholarships.

Basket Fair: Dana said we would make fewer baskets and try to get more donations of gift cards and cash for gift cards since they were the most popular items at our previous Basket Fairs. It is hard to get donations of items and foodstuffs to put into baskets, so maybe this would help. She said she provided a sample letter soliciting donations of gift cards to merchants that the membership could use when making requests along with letters of thanks from three former recipients. Hopefully this will help membership to get these things. Items should all be given or sent to Carol by the end of February.

Minutes (cont.)

Nominating Committee:

The following officers have volunteered to serve two more years: President, Rita Garvey; Membership Vice President, Gay Gentry; Treasurer, Carol Zeph. We are still looking for a Secretary. Perhaps one of the new members would consider this position.

Next board meeting:

Dana had hoped having Board Meetings and Program Meetings on the same date would increase membership participation in the planning of the meetings. It has not. Also, having the Board meet before the meeting found the Board not always finishing the business of the day. Rita said she would see if she can reserve a meeting room at the Main Library in Clearwater for our Board meetings. She will let us know when the next Board meeting will be.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Garlick
Secretary Protem

Addendum:

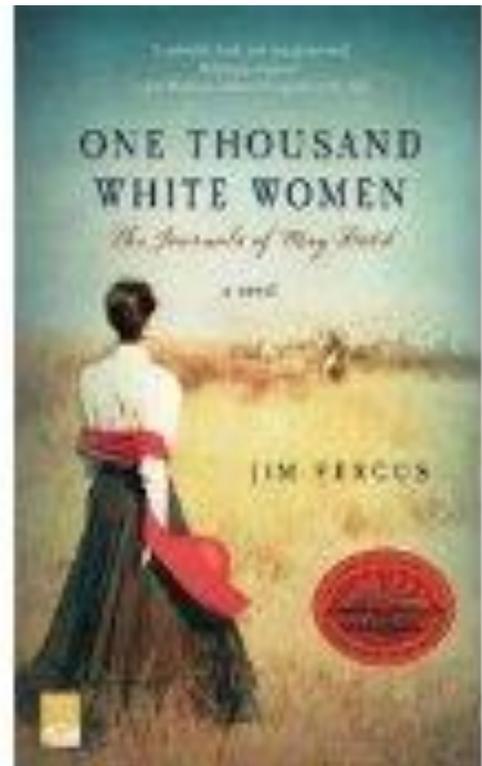
The Board Meetings have been set for 10:15 a.m. at the Clearwater Main Library on Wednesday, March 12; Wednesday, April 9; and Wednesday, May 7. It is reiterated that ALL Branch members are encouraged to attend and participate in these planning meetings.

Friday Morning Book Group

Once again, history has inspired the writing of an author. Through the travels of a 100 year old man, we reviewed the revolutions and wars of the last century. We weren't sure if Jonas Jonasson is a good story teller or a wannabe stand-up comedian. However, our talk was full of laughs and also insightful comments.

We hope more of our Branch will join us as we share our thoughts about One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd. Jim Fergus, like Jonasson, was inspired by an actual event in 1887 when the great Cheyenne "Sweet Medicine Chief," Little Wolf, made a suggestion about how to assimilate the Native Americans into the white man's world and make a lasting peace.

The Group will meet at Barbara Simshauser's home on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. on March 21. Please call Barbara to let her know you are coming.





**CLEARWATER BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM BELOW
2014-15 YEARLY DUES**

**BRANCH MEMBERSHIP - \$70.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$21.00
DUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$21.00 (State) \$9.00 (Branch)**

Make check payable to: AAUW Clearwater Branch
(\$46.00 of the \$49 going to National is tax deductible; \$12 is for Florida AAUW dues; \$9.00 is for our Branch.)

Mail to: Gay K. Gentry
3072 Keene Park Drive
Largo, Florida 33771
Questions? Call her at 727.531.7540

(If you have a friend who is interested in joining, you may copy this form. If she joins now, she will get the rest of this year plus all of next year, 15 months, for the cost of twelve months.)

NAME _____ Birth(optional): Month ____ Day ____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____ STATE _____
DEGREE _____ YEAR _____
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____ STATE _____
DEGREE _____ YEAR _____

I would be willing to assist one of the following officers

- ___ Membership (making, distributing badges at meetings, greeting new members)
- ___ Publicity (help with newsletter; work with secretary, greet new members, connect with local newspapers)
- ___ Program planning (developing ideas for programs, letter writing, interviewing possible speakers)
- ___ Fundraisers
- ___ Other _____

Suggestions: Ideas for programs, places to visit, events to join, and any other ideas or comments. -

State Convention

The 2014 AAUW Florida Convention will be held at the Tampa Sheraton East on Friday, April 4th and Saturday, April 5th. The theme for this two day convention will be "Headed for the Future"

The Tampa Sheraton East is located at 10221 Princess Palm Avenue in Tampa just west of I-75 and to the south of I-4. Visit the hotel website at <http://www.sheratontampaeast.com>. Call 1-800-325-3535 or 1-813-623-6363 or visit <https://starwoodmeeting.com/Book/> to make a room reservation by March 5 for special rates. The rooms reserved by March 5 are \$89.00 for a single or double plus 12% tax. The deadline to make room reservations at the hotel is Wednesday, March 5th.

The convention will begin Friday afternoon and will end Saturday mid-afternoon. Registration will open at noon. Friday afternoon's activities, beginning at 1 p.m., include the AAUW Funds Basket Fair, the first portion of the state board meeting, AAUW Florida Leadership workshops, and a business meeting. Friday evening's banquet will be preceded by a social hour. At the banquet we will honor three Women of Distinction: Carolyn Garfein, immediate AAUW Past President; Vickie Bryan Burke, founder of the PACE Center for Girls; and Sandy Oestreich, Founder & President of the National Equal Rights Alliance, Inc. and ERA Education, Inc.

We will also see a video by Robin Gerber, *Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way* and hear greetings and a message from Sandra Camillo, AAUW Board Secretary. Robin Gerber is an expert historian, best-selling author, inspirational keynote speaker, and storyteller. She uses moving stories from the lives of Eleanor Roosevelt, Katharine Graham, and other great leaders to illustrate leadership lessons.

Following breakfast Saturday morning we will participate in a newly designed Leadership Development Workshop presented by AAUW Staffers Deepti Gudipati and Chardonnay Singleton which will begin at 8:45 a.m. It will include a group session followed by Breakout Sessions, lunch, and a concluding workshop that will wrap up at 2 p.m.

Tentative 2014 AAUW Florida Convention Schedule

Friday April 4th:

12:00- 4:00 pm Registration

1:00 - 6:00 pm Fundraising for AAUW Funds
Basket Fair & Tech Trek

2:00 - 3:15 pm Board Meeting

3:30 - 4:45 pm General Session –

Moving Forward: TechTrek (Shirley Reid,
Carol Newnam, Eileen Recchia)

OneMemberOneVote & Bylaw Revisions
(Virginia Farace & Carol Napper)

Mission Based Programs

(Kamala Anandam & Jacqueline D'Alessio)

5:00 - 6:00 pm Annual Business Meeting

6:00 - 7:15 pm Social Hour

7:30 - 9:30 pm Banquet

Women of Distinction Awards to Carolyn
Garfein, Vicki Bryant Burke & Sandy Oestreich)

Video: *Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way* by
Robin Gerber, historian, author & storyteller

Greetings and Message from Sandra Camillo,
AAUW Secretary

Saturday April 5th

7:00am-8:00 am Registration

7:30am-8:30 am Breakfast on Your Own

8:45am-10:15 pm **Leadership Development
Workshop** presented by AAUW Staff Members

Deepti Gudipati & Chardonnay Singleton

10:30am-11:40am Leadership Development

Breakout Sessions

11:45am-1:00pm Plated Lunch

1:00pm-2:00pm Leadership Development
Concluding Workshop

2:15pm-3:00pm AAUW-FL Board Meeting

Book your hotel room by March 5 to guarantee an \$89 fee for your room. Also the convention registration fee will increase by \$15 on Tuesday March 18th, so get your registration in soon. See your latest Florivision for the forms.



Get ready for March 5-Bring Friends-Make Memories Help Make Dreams Happen Comes True! There's FUN in FUNdraiser!!!

Important Dates

March 5, Wednesday: **Branch Fundraiser** presenting "Mame"

7:00 p.m. Doors open for Free Wine Reception and Basket Fair

8:00 p.m. Curtain rises for **Mame**

March 12, Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. **Board Meeting**

Main Library, 100 Osceola Street, Clearwater Conference Room

March 21, Friday: **Morning Book Group** at Barbara Simshauser's home

Book: One Thousand White Women: Journals of May Dodd by Jim Fergus

March 24, Monday: **AAUW Lobby Day** in Tallahassee.

March 26, Wednesday: **Women History Month Celebration** sponsored by Women on the Way

Location: St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus.

Clearwater AAUW Branch invited to attend.

April 4 and 5: **AAUW Florida Convention**. Volunteers needed to meet before this date to plan logistics and prepare information kits for all attendees of the convention and to work the days of the convention. Call Rita if you would like to help and/or attend. Hotel Reservations by March 5 for special rates; Submit Convention Registration by March 17.

April 9, Wednesday 10:15 a.m.: **Board Meeting**

Main Library, 100 Osceola Street, Clearwater Conference Room

April TBD; Time: afternoon. We're thinking of a group **tour** at a museum, probably after 1:00 p.m. to avoid school groups who come in the mornings. Perhaps lunch first then a museum visit? Email Jan Stephens or Dana if you would participate in an activity like this.

May 3, Saturday: 9:00 a.m. Belleair Country Club for Brunch and

Clearwater Branch Annual Meeting and Election/Installation of Officers

\$22.00 includes Valet Service, Meal, Tax, and Tip

May 7, Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. **Board Meeting**

Main Library, 100 Osceola Street, Clearwater Conference Room

Editor's Thoughts: On February 15, our Branch was honored to have Sandy Oestreich come speak to us about the Equal Rights Amendment and about how close, and yet how far, we still are from making discrimination because of sex a thing of the past. First of all, you might think with all the trends now toward accepting people regardless of race or of sexual orientation that this is, indeed, already "taken care of." It is not. Women are a majority in the population, but we are still not part of what Susan B. Anthony described as "we the people." There are still glass ceilings, women are still paid less than men, health insurance still costs more if you're a woman. Each effort we've made for equality has been a struggle that is fought one issue at a time. At some point, our leadership has to realize that we are all just people, all human beings, wanting the same freedoms, pursuing our individual goals as best we can, without hindrance of laws that don't recognize women as people, as described in our very own Constitution. Sandy has been working these last twelve years to just get the Amendment out of Committee! There is overwhelming support for this Amendment to be passed in Florida so that it can be brought back to our U.S. Congress to be ratified. So what can we do? We can at least make phone calls. On this and the next page is contact information. It really does not take long. And it does make a difference. And you know what? You'll be glad you did. There are days when we might feel like we can't or don't make a difference. Doing something like this does make a difference, and you will feel good about it. So please take a look at these numbers, read the dialogue that Sandy suggests, pour a cup of coffee and start dialing. You'll be glad you did. Tell me how it went!

WANT TO HELP?? HERE'S HOW! CALL NOW!

We'll Pass ERA if just ONE more on the list below says, "Yes!"

When you call, ask for Legislative Assistant so you don't wind up with someone who will discard your message. And ask courteously that they forward your message to the Representative.

Dialogue: Please say respectfully, "The ERA bill, HCR 8001, is again in your Local and Federal Affairs Committee awaiting your vote and/or co-sponsorship. 88% of constituents URGE you to do these. Will you?"

Have some spare time? Call again! xx sandyo@PassERA.org --> any questions-email us. Jot down next to names any comments/responses and email list back. Let us know how you did. ONLY ONE MORE VOTE from following list will pass this bill out of this KEY committee . YOUR calls can make that happen!!

NOTE: CALL ONLY THE 850- numbers below.

Chair, Gonzalez, Eduardo [R] 305 364-3066 850 717-5111

For Gonzalez, just URGE him to schedule an ERA hearing asap, in February Committee Weeks, asap

Moraitis, Jr., George R. [R] 954 762-3757 850 717-5093

Ingram, Clay [R] 850 494-7330 850 717-5001

La Rosa, Mike [R] 407 891-2555 850 717-5042

Magar, MaryLynn "ML" [R] 772 545-3481 850 717-5082

Santiago, David [R] 386 575-0387 850 717-5027

Smith, Jimmie T. [R] 352 560-6020 850 717-5034

Stone, Charlie [R] 352 291-4436 850 717-5022

Van Zant, Charles E. [R] 386 312-2272 850 717-5019

Vice Chair, Pilon, Ray [R] Vice Chair 941 955-8077 850 717-5072

Campbell, Daphne D. [D] (is more R than D) 305 795-1210 850 717-5108

##PLEASE: CALL AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, and then AGAIN—WE NEED YOUR HELP for Women, Girls, now, SERIOUSLY ! We do this just because We Care, not for \$\$, status or power, just for You.
Thanks, Sandy O For More information about ERA, go to: <http://www.2passera.org/>