

North Pinellas LWV and Clearwater AAUW Annual Meeting a Success



Our thanks to Professor Susan MacManus for coming to our annual meeting and sharing the information she gleans from her studies and the work she assigns her students at University of South Florida. Our thanks to Belleair Country Club for a delicious meal served by a very capable and professional staff. Fifty members and guests of the Clearwater AAUW Branch and the North Pinellas League of Women Voters were very pleased.

President's Message

As we start our new year of 2014 we have a lot of events that we are involved with that need help from everyone. Please read the minutes of our last board meeting to see how you can help.

Our Annual Fundraiser at Francis Wilson Theatre is on March 5, and we need all members to sell tickets for *MAME*. Contact Carol Zeph for tickets. If you would like to help in the planning please call me. If you do not purchase tickets, please consider making a generous donation to this worthwhile cause.

Clearwater Branch AAUW is co-host with Tampa Branch for the Florida AAUW State Convention this year. The convention will be April 4-5 at the Sheraton Tampa East. We need volunteers for registration, ticket-taking, elections, and more. Please let me know if you can help on one or both of those days.

Election of officers is upon us again. The positions up for election are President, 2nd Vice President (Membership), Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in any position, please call me. Remember, your Branch is only as effective as the members want it to be so we need you!

Some more interesting programs are coming up.

Hope to see you at our meetings. *Rita*

The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution

Guest Speaker, Sandy Oestreich, will be describing her work to help get the **Equal Rights Amendment** ratified to finally be a part of our U.S. Constitution. The Amendment was proposed by suffragist leader, Alice Paul, in 1923, and it was passed by Congress in 1972. By June 1982, 35 of the 38 states had voted to ratify the amendment. Florida was not one of them. We are still trying.

10:00 a.m., Saturday morning, February 15, Oestreich will describe her work to help make the Equal Rights Amendment a part of our constitution. We are hosting an open meeting at the St Petersburg College Clearwater at 2645 Drew Street, in the Campus Library's Conference Room 120 for those interested in making women's equal rights the law. She will share what we can do to help.

This meeting is open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring friends. Students and faculty, community leaders and interested citizens are all welcome to hear what has been done and what needs to be done to insure the equity of women.

Our Guest Speaker will be preceded a short video starting at 10:15. Be a part of history.

Clearwater AAUW Board Meeting January 25, 2014

President Rita Garvey called the Board Meeting to order in the Conference Room of the Belleair Country Club at 9:30 a.m. Present were Treasurer, Carol Zeph; Publicity, Dale Anderson; Membership, Gay Gentry; Fundraiser, Jan Stephens; Programs, Dana Garlick; Corresponding Secretary, Julia Haupt and her guest, Jane Fleming; Dual Members from West Pasco Branch, Flossie McNally and Nancy Pura. Our secretary has resigned and Dana was asked to take notes of the meeting.



The Secretary's notes from the November meeting were waived.

Programs:

Dana announced **the next general meeting on Saturday, February 15 will be at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus** and feature **Sandy Oestreich** who is advocating passage of **the Equal Rights Amendment** in Florida so that it may become part of our constitution. We will encourage students and faculty of SPC to attend this meeting as well since this is as much a part of history as the work of Susan B Anthony and Alice Paul.

On **Monday, March 24, Florida AAUW Public Policy Chair, Diane Schrier, is coordinating a Lobby Day in Tallahassee to be held on March 25.** Members could carpool to Tallahassee. Members are invited to go to Tallahassee the Monday before to get ready for our Lobby Day. Contact Dana (mrsagar@yahoo.com or 799-6029), if you would like to attend. Hotel rooms, if shared could cost between \$30 and \$50, if shared with one to three people.

Dana will also work with **SPC's Women on the Way at Clearwater campus**, and participate with them at their **Women's History Month celebration in March.** Their program will be on **Wednesday, March 26.** Women on the Way in partnership with the Career Center will be hosting a Women's History Month celebration on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 on campus. They are in the preliminary planning stages, but they are planning to invite AAUW to set up an information table. So we need volunteers for this event as well. Times and details will be forthcoming. We will need volunteers to work our table and share information about AAUW. Meeting students and other organizations that work with SPC students is a great way to make connections for programs and future members.

Because of all these events plus our own Fundraiser, there is no formal program planned for this month. It is a month to support our AAUW Branch with your service. Please think of how you can help.

Membership:

Gay Gentry was pleased to announce that four people have inquired about membership and plan to attend future meetings and events. They are: **Pat Windon, Jackie Arthur, Judy Deisler, and Beckie Weber.** Dana will email the upcoming newsletter.

A clarification of dues was made: People joining AAUW after January 1, pay half the year's dues or \$35.00, and that covers dues until June 2014, the end of this fiscal year. People who join after March 15 pay \$70, but their payment is good until the end of the next fiscal year.

Therefore, dues paid after March 15 this year will have paid dues for March, 2014 to June, 2015.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Zeph is a balance of \$3554.34. The Scholarship Fundraiser honoring Marian Major raised \$730.00 for the Marian L. Major Scholarship for the Performing Arts Institute of Ruth Eckerd Hall. Julia Haupt moved that the Branch add enough funds to make the donation on Marian's behalf be \$800.00. Barbara Perkins seconded it. Motion passes unanimously.

Carol also announced that she collected \$550.00 from Branch members to contribute to a student participating in the Women on the Way program at SPC. She was touched by the generosity of so many members.

\$500 will be contributed to the Tech Trek Florida program happening this July at Eckerd College.

State Convention

Clearwater and Tampa AAUW Branches will be co-hosting this year's AAUW Florida Convention on April 4 and 5.

Rita announced that **volunteers are needed** for the Registration Table on Friday and Saturday; greeters for the luncheon and dinner; and floor monitors for voting during meetings. Please contact Rita (ritagarvey3@gmail.com or 446-3845) if you would like to help. Registration papers and more information will be in March newsletter. (See last page for more information.)



Fundraiser: March 5 "Mame" Help is Needed!

Jan Stephens regrettably declines chairing the whole event this year, but will happily advise anyone willing to oversee the event. Please contact Rita if you would like to do this. She will help coordinate the volunteers for the day of the event. Dana Garlick said she would coordinate the Basket Fair. Carol Zeph will monitor the distribution and sales of tickets. A discussion about the Basket Fair ensued and it was decided that we would attempt to collect gift certificates from our members since that was the most popular choice of all the baskets last year and in years past. Members could donate gift cards or ask merchants they to donate them.

Minutes (cont.)

Kit: Dana will publish a letter of introduction/explanation that can be taken to merchants when requesting a contribution and include it in the newsletter along with thank you notes from students who have benefitted from the scholarships. **All these contributions should be submitted to Dana by February 21.** We will make only a half dozen baskets, the rest of the items will be the gift cards, we hope. If a merchant helps us, please follow up with a thank you note. Fair ensued and it was decided that we would attempt to collect gift certificates from our members since that was the most popular choice of all the baskets last year and in years past. Members could donate gift cards or ask merchants they to donate them. **Kit:** Dana will publish a letter of introduction/explanation that can be taken to merchants when requesting a contribution and include it in the newsletter along with thank you notes from students who have benefitted from the scholarships. **All these contributions should be submitted to Dana by February 21.** We will make only a half dozen baskets, the rest of the items will be the gift cards, we hope. If a merchant helps us, please follow up with a thank you note.

Tech Trek

Rita announced that **Tech Trek Florida will be held at the Eckerd College Campus July 13 to 19. Volunteers are needed** for the day sessions in the classroom and night monitor volunteers are needed for the students who will stay overnight on the campus. Please contact Rita if you would like to volunteer.

Staying in Touch

Julia Haupt, Corresponding Secretary, would appreciate any greeting cards anyone can contribute to help defray the cost of her correspondence. Many times she has been told how much her correspondence on our behalf has been appreciated.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee needs to be formed to fill the offices of President (2 years); Secretary (1 year); Membership (2 years); and Treasurer (2 years). Rita will call some members. We need two people.

The next **board meeting will be held February 6, Thursday at 10:15 a.m. at the Clearwater's Main Library** at 100 Osceola Street in the Conference Room on the 1st Floor. meeting.

Annual Fundraiser Coming!



To our Members: On the following pages is a "kit" to help you acquire gift cards or donated items that can be used to create our Baskets. The kit includes a Poster of the show that you can copy and show your friends or bring to your church or clubs, etc., as you try to sell tickets. The play this year is the very popular musical, **Mame**, which is being performed at the Francis Wilson Playhouse. The kit also includes a sample letter requesting a donation. Take it to a favorite place you shop, where you get your hair or fingernails done, your oil changed, etc. Please copy the letter. Personalize it with your name, the name of the business, any added thoughts you may have. You can give this to the store owner or manager if they have to bring the request to someone else. Also included are copies of thank you notes from students who have received our scholarships. Show them that their donations matter and their donations will be publicized as well.

Please try to collect the donations by February 20. If you can, bring them to the Feb. 15 meeting or call Dana and she will come get them. Anyone interested in helping Dana create the baskets should call or email her. If you have items you would like to donate for the baskets, let her know. A musical is a very popular program, especially when performed at the Francis Wilson Playhouse. Last year we ran out of tickets. We hope we have the same "problem" again this year. Call your friends quickly and get them their tickets as soon as you can, so they won't be disappointed. If for some reason, you cannot take part in this year's efforts, please consider making a donation to the fund. It is needed and it is appreciated.



Date

Insert your return address here

Insert Business's Address here

To Whom It May Concern: (If you know owner/manager's name, use it instead.)

The Clearwater Branch of the American Association of University Women has been part of the Pinellas County community for 65 years. It is our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. During these years we have awarded scholarships to women and girls seeking to improve their lives through education. Most of the scholarships have been awarded to students at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus. Other funds have helped women complete advanced degrees. We have helped students from Clearwater, Dunedin, Largo, and Safety Harbor middle schools experience activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as they think about their career choices before going to college. We donate funds to Ruth Eckerd Hall's Performing Arts Institute to help students who could not otherwise afford these classes in music, acting, dance, and instruments.

In order to do any of this, we have held annual events to raise funds for the scholarships. We would be very grateful for any gift card, free item, or service that you could provide that we could offer during our Basket Fair.

Our Annual Scholarship Fundraiser this year will be held at the Francis Wilson Playhouse on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. The evening will begin at 7:00 with a Reception and the Basket Fair. At 8:00, Francis Wilson Playhouse Players will perform "Mame." Therefore, we need to hear from you by February 17.

All the proceeds from the sale of tickets, other than the actual cost of the play, will go to our Scholarship. The Basket Fair brings in a substantial amount of funds, therefore your contribution or gift will be very appreciated. We hope you will consider helping us in this effort. Let us know as soon as possible.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

(Your name and email address and/or telephone number)

Notes of Thanks from Fall 2013 AAUW-Clearwater Recipients

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Billie Jo Grassinger

**American Association of University Women -
Clearwater**



I am writing to thank you for your generous \$500 scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

I will obtain I am currently a junior and will graduate in December 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in sustainability.. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

Thank you again for investing in my future! By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden. This allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.

I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Billie Jo Grassinger

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Nannette Friend

**American Association of University Women -
Clearwater**



To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely grateful to receive the American Association of University Women- Clearwater Branch Scholarship. The generosity represented by your scholarship will permit me to continue extracurricular volunteer work through clubs like Woman on the Way and the Alpha Zeta Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa where I serve as an officer. Further, this charitable donation will allow me to join SGA and the Environmental Sustainability Club this fall. I appreciate the value you have placed on the importance of my education as it will allow me to give back without the stress of finances.

Thank you for your valued time and consideration of my needs and goals.

Sincerely,

Nannette Friend

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Jeannie Pezzano

**American Association of University Women -
Clearwater**



Dear American Association of University Women,

I am writing to extend a warm and gracious thank you for your generous \$500 American Association of University Women Scholarship. I am very happy to learn that I am a recipient of your Scholarship.

I am pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Health Informatics and Information Management along with a certification as a Registered Health Information Administrator. I love working with computers and processing information, but it gives me great joy to work with and help people. A career in the Health Informatics and Information Management field would give me the opportunity to do both and help patients receive medical attention quickly during times when time is of the essence.

By receiving your American Association of University Women Scholarship award, I would be able to be less stressful with the financial burdens I am currently facing and focus on my education. Because of donors, such as your organization, you make it possible to help me get through the hard times in order to reach my academic goals and better myself for the future.

I am most grateful for your scholarship award and for your caring and kind heart.

God bless you.

SPC St. Petersburg
College
FOUNDATION

SPC St. Petersburg
College
FOUNDATION

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

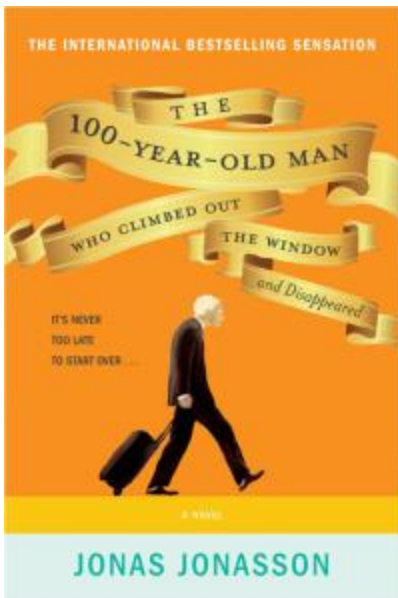
Complimentary
Wine Reception

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.*



Friday Morning Book Group

You are warmly invited to join the AAUW book discussion on February 21 at Judy Lauzen's home.

Take a wild romp with our book as we discuss *The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. This light-hearted book is a delightful way to start the new year. One could say this book is a "coming of age" story if 100 is when one comes of age. On his birthday Allan Karlsson, nursing home resident, runs to new adventure while re-living some of his old ones.

Come for this discussion. Enjoy not only the book but also the uplifting conversation of intelligent AAUW women. Just let Judy or Salome know to expect you. Salome's email Salomeh@pobox.com. We meet from 10 AM to approximately noon. The Pinellas County Library System has several copies of the book. Looking ahead, in March we will be discussing *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Dodd, a book very different from February's.

Important Dates

February 6, Thursday, 10:15 a.m.: Board Meeting (ALL members encouraged to attend)
Clearwater Main Library, 100 Osceola Street, Clearwater in Conference Room, 1st Floor

February 15, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Branch Meeting (Open to Public)
The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution with Guest Speaker and ERA Advocate, Sandy Oestreich.
Location: St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus on 2645 Drew Street, Clearwater, in the Library Conference Room 120.

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 24, Monday: Carpool and overnight to Tallahassee for **Lobby Day** at our state capitol.
March 25, Tuesday: Lobby at the State Capitol with Diane Schrier, Public Policy Chair AAUW Florida
Contact Dana Garlick if you would like to come. Costs can be shared for hotel rooms, etc.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED: Officers are needed. President guides our plans and meetings; Secretary records meetings and corresponds as needed (a good way to learn what we do); Membership invites new membership whenever possible, keeps records of membership activity and informs others of new members; Treasurer: manages all financial transactions and keeps records of same. Editor: if you like writing and want to learn about AAUW, our Branch and its members, it's a great way to do it. Talk to Dana, she would like to retire from this.



GUEST SPEAKER

FEBRUARY 15

SANDY OESTREICH

- Founder-President of National Equal Rights Amendment Alliance, Inc. and ERA Education Inc.
- Graduate of Hofstra University, New York and former
- Vice Mayor of Reddington Beach
- Co-author
- Former Professor at Alephi University, New York
- USF Advisory Board Member
- Nurse Practitioner
- Biographed in "Feminists Who Changed America"
- 2012 Recipient of Susan B. Anthony "Failure Is Impossible" Award
- Wife and Mom

For more information, go to www.2PassERA.org or SandyO@PassERA.org

AAUW Florida 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>. To make a room reservation for the convention visit <https://starwoodmeeting.com/Book/AAUWFL> or call 1-800-325-3535 or 1-813-623-6363. The rooms 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. Friday afternoon's activities will include 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.

After breakfast Saturday morning we will all participate in a newly designed Leadership Development Workshop that will include such topics as Tackling Burnout, Designing Engaging Meetings and Marketing Your Branch.

Online you can view and/or download and print this: [2014RegistrationForm](#), or wait until your copy of FloriVision arrives in your mail box.

The convention registration fee will increase by \$15 on Tuesday March 18th so register as soon as possible.

If you do not get registration information, please call or email Rita or Dana and let them know. We need our members' help for this convention. We want you with us! Clearwater Branch is co-hosting this convention with the Tampa Branch. It will be a busy two days but well worth it. You will learn so much.



Past conventions have had members demonstrating the right to vote as a Suffragette, participating in classes to improve information about AAUW, or listening to presentations from officers of our national organization. The time goes by quickly and you make connections with other AAUW members who also care about women's issues.



AND we have fun!