

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



AAUW BOCA RATON BRANCH

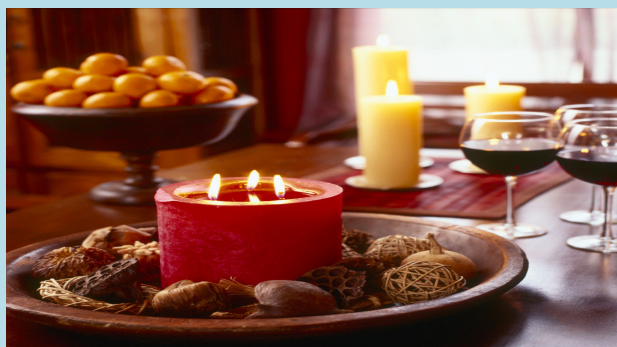
NEWSLETTER

Equity for Women is Still an Issue



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 13, Noon



Hostess: Amy Selzer

Broken Sound Country Club

Reservations: \$25.00 Please send to Susan Holzschuh,
4165 Bay Laurel Way, Boca Raton, FL 33487

Presidents Letter:

We had a busy month in November with our Luncheon Meeting on November 20th, and our Caldwell Theater Outing on November 23rd. Everyone at our general meeting seemed to find the topic of Real Estate interesting, and it was especially applicable given the state of the current housing market. AAUW Boca Raton member Elke Schmidt invited her colleague Ed Solomon, the chief executive officer for Addison Mortgage Group, Inc. as our guest speaker. He covered the topics of Reverse Mortgages and Short Sales in his presentation, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of these types of mortgages. With all the questions following his presentation, there appeared to be a good amount of interest in the subject.

The following Sunday, November 23rd, a number of us attended the Caldwell Theater for a midyear fundraiser to see the musical production of "She Loves Me." Alice Modine did a wonderful job arranging this for us, and planned a pre-theater dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant for us to get together beforehand. The Palm Beach Post gave this production rave reviews and I think our attending members would agree with that assessment.

Coming up in December is our Holiday Luncheon on December 13th, 2008 at 12:00 pm. This year Amy Selzer has planned a wonderful buffet lunch for us at the Broken Sound Country Club. The lunch includes a salad bar, soups, entrees, soft drinks and deserts at a cost of \$25.00. I hope you have all received the flyer and are planning to attend. Checks should be made payable to AAUW Boca Raton Branch and sent to me at 4165 Bay Laurel Way, Boca Raton, FL 33487. You can also let me know that you are planning on coming by emailing me at s3mh00@bellsouth.net or calling me at 561-994-2413 by December 6th, 2008.

Coming up in January is our next Luncheon Meeting at the Palm Beach Community College Boca Campus on January 15th, 2009 at 11:30 am. This should be a very interesting meeting thanks to Faith Campbell lining up the Florida State AAUW President, Barbara Stevens, as our speaker. You'll be receiving more information on the January meeting as it becomes available, and I will keep you up to date.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our future events and I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you that have contributed and participated in making this a successful year so far, especially your board of directors who have worked hard to make these activities possible.

On November 6th, Faith Campbell, Carole Fielder and I got together to participate in the AAUW post election analysis conference call. It was not an interactive call. We could only listen along with 100's of other members. We learned a lot about how the AAUW Public Policy staff will work with the Obama/Biden administration and the 111th Congress to make sure the issues women care about end up on the national policy agenda. Linda Hallman, Executive Director and Lisa Matz from the Public Policy staff were the main contributors.

The historic win of the Obama/Biden ticket was certainly helped by garnering 56% of the female vote. They helped to elect 10 new women to the House. There will be 8 women governors, 17 women Senators and 74 women in Congress.

The numero uno issue will be pay equity and since Lily Ledbetter was a speaker at the Democratic Convention, AAUW and the new administration should be on the same page. Indeed the new administration just may turn out to be the most feminist, progressive administration ever to lead the country. The economic meltdown has had a disproportionate impact on women who hold the vast majority of low paying jobs. There will be no more talk of privatizing social security. AAUW will push for pension reform

The second most important issue for AAUW will be to strengthen Title IX, which was badly weakened by the Bush Administration. This program prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender in educational institutions receiving any federal financial assistance.

Obama will restore the children's health insurance program on his first day in office. Any judicial nominees he sends to Congress will not set back the clock but will be progressive voices. A woman's right to reproductive choice will not be in jeopardy from his judicial appointments.

Gonzalee Ford – Public Policy

There was a great deal of attention paid to who might be put in the Cabinet and on the staff. As I write this, we know many of those appointments including Senator Clinton who will be Secretary of State. The Cabinet will be as diverse as our vast country.

There was a long dialogue about how the branches and individual members can be involved and help to propel and influence legislation. Choose your issue, contact your Senator and Congressional member and let them know what you think. They won't know if you don't tell them.

On a personal note, this election took me back in time to the 1964 Democratic National Convention and Fannie Lou Hamer. Remember her? Fannie Lou and her husband worked in the fields of a Mississippi landowner. It was not until 1962 when she was 45 that she learned that she had a right to vote. From that day, she became a leader in the civil rights struggle. She and 17 other African Americans went to the Indianola County Courthouse but were told they could not register because they had failed an unreasonable literacy test. On the way home, the group's bus was stopped by the police and fined \$100 for driving a bus of the "wrong color". That night Hamer was forced off the plantation where she worked. All that led up to Fannie Lou and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party demanding seats at the 1964 Democratic Convention.

The rest as they say is history. The Southern Democratic parties became more democratic and Hamer's subsequent testimony to Congress was a major factor in the passage of the 1965 Civil Rights Act. So hats off to Fannie Lou Hamer who died in 1977 and to President elect Barack Obama who stands on the shoulders of many courageous women and men.

AAUW Evening Book Group

Our next meeting has been moved from Christmas Day back to Thursday, *December 11th*, at 7:00 p.m., at Claire Carney's home. (That's two days before our branch holiday luncheon). Coula will facilitate the discussion of *Horace*, by George Sand. In this novel about love surpassing conventional barriers deemed too revolutionary during its day (the early 1840s) for wide dissemination and only now translated into English, Sand lets rip her radical views on egalitarianism of the classes and equality between the sexes. (See the reviews on Amazon.com.) Alice will present us with at least two, no more than three, books from which to choose for our *February 26, 2009* meeting. Get your holidays started off with a rousing discussion. Hope to see you there.

AAUW FLORIDA STATE PRESIDENT TO BE OUR SPEAKER

This is Big news

We are most honored to have as our guest speaker for our Thursday, January 15th meeting Florida State *AAUW* President, *Barbara Stevens*.

She will share her experiences with Florida *AAUW* and speak to us on "American Association of University Women - Who Are We Today? This should be an interesting and provocative meeting helping us clarify our purposes. Please do try to attend this very special event.

Reservations for lunch (\$10) can be called in to Elke Schmidt. 954-427-1224, elkhaus@aol.com. Brown bag lunches accepted. Guests welcomed.