



# The INTERCOM

American Association of University Women

MAY 1, 2019

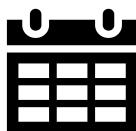
## General Meeting

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM

**Location:** Red Ginger Melbourne Square

1700 W New Haven Ave, Melbourne

## BRANCH CALENDAR



## Board Meeting

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM

**Location:** Joann Jacobs

410 Thrush Drive, Satellite Beach

## General Meeting Details

Please join us as we celebrate the installation of our AAUW Officers. As each of these officers accepts her role as a link in the leadership chain of Melbourne AAUW Branch, lend your support to help them continue to build a foundation for the future.

### Lunch choices are:

Crispy Prawn with Honey Walnut or Mongolian Beef or Vegetable Delight

All served with salad & white rice

\$25 pp



## April Salad Luncheon



*Pictured left to right- Claire King, Mehek Niwas, Halle Konicki, Annabelle Donald (Stone Middle School), and Faith Collins. (West Shore Jr/Sr High School)*

### **AAUW Melbourne Branch Special Awards Winner:**

*Claire King, Mehek Niwas and Faith Collins*

### **Special Guests: Halle Konicki and Annabelle Donald**

**Brevard South Regional Fair Results 2019**  
**Junior Earth & Environmental Sciences 3rd Place**  
 Halle Konicki

**Junior Animal Science 1st Place**  
 Annabelle Donald

**Best in Show Junior Physical**  
 Faith Collins

## Interest Group Meetings

### Bridge Group

1st Friday of the Month

**Coordinator:** Marie Williams

**Contact:** 321-724-6027

### Book Group

**Next Meeting:** May 8 @ 11 AM

### **Book Selection Lunch**

**Coordinator:** Janet Peller

**Contact:** [jpelle004@yahoo.com](mailto:jpelle004@yahoo.com)

**Host:** Evelyn Dolan

**RSVP:** 321-777-3176

### Vicarious Travelers

**Next Meeting:** May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11:45 AM

**Coordinator:** Kay Gilley

**Contact:** 321-727-2216 or  
[kgilley582@outlook.com](mailto:kgilley582@outlook.com)

### Out to Dinner Group

**Next Meeting:** April 28<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Continental Flambé  
936 E New Haven Ave, Melbourne

**Coordinator:** Andrea Shannin

**Contact:** [shanninaj@gmail.com](mailto:shanninaj@gmail.com)

**RSVP:** April 25<sup>th</sup>



### May

9	Jean E. Stephens
19	Diane Baccus Horsley
22	Patsy Phelps
23	Joann B. Jacobs
29	Judith Graham

# ATTENTION!

**Brevard County Estate Planning Council presents  
Kim Churches, CEO, American Association of University Women**

*Presentation on the economic empowerment of women and the  
intersection of transfers of wealth and philanthropy*

- Tuesday, May 14, 6:00-8:00pm
- Location: Eastern Florida State College Student Union
- Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages served; cash tickets available for beer and wine
- \$45 per guest (if not a BCEPC member) – please bring check or cash for check-in

**Please RSVP by email to Natalie Twine, [nctwine@gmail.com](mailto:nctwine@gmail.com)  
prior to Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> so a headcount can be provided.**



**BREVARD COMMUNITY CHORUS IN CONCERT  
MASS IN B MINOR, BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH**

King Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 PM

General Seating \$25, including fees  
Senior/Military \$20, including fees  
Special Student Rate \$8, including fees

AAUW Member, Diane Pearce is a member of the chorus!

## BARRIERS CHALLENGING ADULT WOMEN STUDENTS

BY ROBIN PARSONS

In 2016 the Department of Educational Foundations within Auburn University reviewed existing studies that identified barriers and challenges facing women attending and attempting to complete their college education within the United States. Although some male students face some of these same challenges, by far they challenge women college students. These difficulties are particularly faced by adult or nontraditional students who are usually defined as over the age of 25, working either full- or part-time or caring for others while also attending college.

These studies indicate that college students are increasingly becoming nontraditional students with one-third to one-half of all college students identified as nontraditional and 50% of graduate students as nontraditional. Nontraditional female students are reported to be the fastest growing population in colleges and universities, but this report from Auburn found major hurdles are facing these women.

The major difficulty for these women was found to be the competing and conflicting responsibilities and roles these women are expected to juggle as they try to balance careers or jobs, academic expectations and home lives. Their lifestyles are much more complex than traditional college students and they have less available time and limited flexibility to devote to academic studies or projects. Many must worry about child care, work schedules or assignments, family members needing care and, of course, housework. Nontraditional students also have financial issues that many traditional college students don't have.

Self-confidence and self-satisfaction were hurdles identified for both female and male nontraditional students. Both genders felt the stress of conflicting demands on their time and worried how it impacted their academic performance and ability. Although aging may impact adults' speed of learning, it does not impact the intellectual ability of adults. However, existing stereotypes about adult learners being slower abound, and it does affect adult learners' self-confidence, especially women. This was found to be the case particularly with test anxiety and selection of majors and courses.

The report found that family demands, and lack of family support are the primary reasons why female nontraditional students do not complete their educations. Women students stated the support of their spouses and children were critical for the completion of their degrees. However, mothers were found to be the most important source of support for their daughter adult students. Other critical sources of support for female nontraditional students are faculty members and peers. Adult students may be or feel themselves to be a different generation than their peers due to their different responsibilities and life experiences. Consequently, they may have a much more difficult time conversing, relating and interacting with fellow students. The report recommended enhanced faculty awareness of the needs of nontraditional students, their ability to be a bridge between adult and younger students and their need to provide more flexibility in scheduling whenever possible.



Thank You!

Please join me in sending a HUGE thank you to Robin for all her wonderful and thoughtful articles that she has submitted to the Intercom. Her research and writings will be greatly missed, as Robin turns her focus to other meaningful pursuits. We wish her all the very best!

## AAUW SUPPORTED FLORIDA LEGISLATION IN FINAL HOUSE JUDICIARY HEARINGS: BILL 49 AND 851

BY INGE FLYNN

We have a very welcome situation in the Florida legislature now. Two of the bills AAUW supports are up for their final House judiciary hearings. Hopefully, they will pass both now, and when they come up for their vote. These are bills 49 and 851.

**BILL 49** is the *Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act*. It requires healthcare products, including feminine hygiene products, be made available without prescription to women in any correctional facility of the state or other political division. It restricts male employees in conducting a pat-down and strip searches in these facilities and in entering facilities where women are unclothed.

Bill 851 S540 addresses human trafficking. It requires a public lodging establishment to train certain employees and create certain policies relating to human trafficking; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish a direct support organization; requiring that the criminal history record of a person who is convicted of, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, soliciting, inducing, enticing or procuring another to commit prostitution, lewdness, or assignation be added to the Soliciting for Prostitution.

A third bill that we support is **Bill 259 S982**, which supports Human Trafficking Education in Schools. This would revisit the required health education in public schools to include information regarding the dangers and signs of human trafficking awareness campaigns; requiring the Department of Legal Affairs to develop human trafficking awareness campaigns; requiring the department to develop and operate a hotline to receive reports of potential human trafficking activity. This bill has passed all the three necessary committees in the House. It has been approved by Education and Criminal Justice committees, now in Appropriations. I will say that there have been posters to report sign of human trafficking on Patrick Air Force Base for many years. etc.

**Note: AAUW recommends bill be revised to better differentiate between trafficking victims and consensual sex workers.**

### Rolling Readers Space Coast joins forces with Foosaner Art Museum to present “Art and Soul Brevard”



May 17, 2019 6pm-10pm @ Foosaner Art Museum

1463 Highland Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935

**Art and Soul Brevard** is open to the general public to help make a difference in the life and future of the children of Brevard County by investing in their fundamental reading skills, helping them to develop a joy for reading, writing and illustrating. Only 200 tickets are available; dancing, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, desserts, a cash bar and a silent auction are featured. Live music will be provided by one of the Space Coast's hottest dance bands SWAAG. It will be an exceptional night supporting two great organizations.

The event will be hosted by Spectrum 13 News Anchor, Eric Levy. Tickets for the event are \$50 and are available by visiting: <http://rollingreadersspacecoast.com/art-and-soul-brevard/>.

## BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: SHANNON KRAELING

BY NATALIE C. TWINE

As of March 13, 2019, the state of Florida dropped from 45th to 46th place on the National Education Association's annual report of average teacher salaries. According to the Florida Department of Education, Florida's teachers earned an average of \$48,168 in 2017-18, as compared to the national average teacher salary of \$60,462. Brevard County average salary is \$47,064. Starting salary for a first-year teacher is about \$39,000. In recent months, the news has been covering the on-going public demands in increasing the education budget, which includes raises to about 4,800 Brevard County Public School Teachers. The union has asked for \$2,300 for highly effective teachers and \$1,725 for those rated effective. The School Board has offered a \$770 raise to teachers rated "highly effective" on their annual evaluations, \$540 for "effective" teachers and a one-time \$1,000 bonus for all teachers. The School Board and the Teachers' Union are at an impasse. They are now set to go before a special magistrate later this month.

I recently had a chance to sit down the Brevard Public Schools 2019 Teacher of the Year, Shannon Kraeling, in her art classroom at Eau Gallie High School. We chatted about these struggles and the low morale of our teachers. Shannon has been using her platform to bring attention to her fellow teachers' needs. She asked them to provide a "Teachers' Needs, Wants and Dreams list. These items range from standard office supplies to large ticket items. These items represent the gaps in our education funding required to provide our students with a high standard of education. I have been aware for many years of the monetary investments that teachers have been making for classroom supplies. I thought I would take a closer look at the available data to determine how much our teachers are supplementing the gaps in educational funding, while sacrificing their own paychecks.

The Legislature in the General Appropriations Act provides funds to school districts and charter schools for Florida classroom teachers to purchase, on behalf of school districts or charter schools, classroom materials and supplies for the public-school students assigned to them. The Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program provides for a varying amount, which can typically range from \$200 to \$250, based upon the funds appropriated by the legislature and each school district's proportionate share of the state's total "un-weighted" FTE student enrollment. This program falls short of the actual cost to teachers. Therefore, teachers become strapped with the burden of providing classroom supplies. Teachers feel compelled to fill those gaps. A Teacher Questionnaire performed by the Department of Education was administered as part of the 2015-16 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), which is a nationally representative sample survey of public K-12 schools, principals, and teachers in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.



SHANNON KRAELING

It was observed that 94% of teachers pay out of pocket for classroom supplies. The amount, that national public teachers spend of their own money without reimbursement, can range from \$100's to the \$1,000's with the mean at \$479. If we take the total number of Brevard County Public School teachers reported in the 2017-2018 school year (4,741) and multiple by \$479 for classroom supplies, this means our teachers, from their own pockets, are funding a gap of \$2.3 million dollars in education funding.

To supplement, teachers turn to sending classroom supply wish lists home on the first day of school, creating Amazon Wishlist, reaching out to local non-profit organizations and using crowdfunding sites like DonorsChoose.org. Though these avenues are useful, there are some potential downsides. Teachers are sometimes hesitant to request supplies, especially multiple times, parents become the focused base for financial support, and some districts are prohibiting crowdfunding. A possible unforeseen impact of these stopgap solutions is that it could place this financial burden in the shadows, making it difficult to bring these issues to the forefront when negotiating for teachers' compensation. In some case, fueling a community misconception that teachers do not negotiate from a position of honesty, as suggested by the FLORIDA TODAY community columnist Bill Mick in his December 28, 2018 opinion piece titled "Brevard teachers' salary demands falling on deaf ears". It is imperative that teachers' total compensation packages consider these hidden monetary costs of teaching.

Throughout the state of Florida, we have reached a crisis in our education system. FL Department of Education is anticipating 10,000 instructional vacancies next year. Even though we have the largest economies in the nation, Florida is in the bottom 10 states in per pupil spending and teachers' pay. Brevard County teachers are the second most experienced teaching forces in the state of Florida, yet their salaries are \$1,103 below the state average.

After hearing personal accounts from Shannon's teaching career, I have extended an invitation to have her speak at our September General Meeting. I hope that you will join me as Shannon shares with us how we can support our teachers.

## AAUW Florida Annual Meeting

### Important Information

- Florida has a total of 35 AAUW branches with a total of 2,033. Membership is down.
- AAUW-FL Actual Budget has been higher than the Projected.
- This year, AAUW-FL online voting begins May 15 and ends June 15 at 9 p.m. EDT. Paper ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. EDT, June 13. Please refer to the AAUW-FL website for more information
- Regular sessions of the Florida State Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and continue for 60 consecutive days
- AAUW National Election is now open. Voting closes at 6:00 p.m. ET on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

2019 AAUW NATIONAL  
**ELECTION**





## AAUW-FL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

*By Natalie C. Twine*

This year's AAUW-FL Leadership Conference was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> in Ocala. AAUW members were treated to a variety of key speakers, wonderful workshops, an opportunity to learn about the activities of other branches during a poster session and listen to the research being performed by fellowship recipients. A total of 23/35 FL branches were represented.

### All Roads Lead to Equality

Dr. Mary Gatta, an associate professor of sociology at CUNY-Stella set the tone for the conference as she presented research of "*Women's Income Security for Hispanics Women in Florida (WISH)*". The research stems from her previous work in 2018, "*Women, Economic Insecurity and Aging in the Florida Sunshine*". In that work, she discovered that 75.8% of Hispanic households live below the Elder Index in Florida. The Elder Index (Elder Economic Security Standard) is used to measure the minimum income older adults require to make ends meet, live with dignity and remain in their own homes as they age. She concluded race and gender matter in retirement. In her presentation, she explored the economic security of Hispanic workers in Florida and determined single mother are at most risk. Her full report will be made available to AAUW after it undergoes peer-review.

### Workshops

I was able to attend three workshops during the weekend. Here are a few key points:

1. **Avenues for Advocacy: How to do Public Policy in Your Community**, by Patricia Dewitt
  - a. Need to increase AAUW presence at Lobby Days
  - b. Organize "Issue Forms" and "Information Events" outside of our general meetings with community
  - c. Build Coalition with other groups
  - d. Signup for Action Alerts to track important legislation
    - i. [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)
    - ii. <https://flsenate.gov/>
2. **The Road to Economic Security**: Dr. Mary Gatta and branch members will discuss social science research and how it's done so branch members can be more informed consumers of social science research.
  - a. Social Sciences is building relationship with concepts
  - b. Data driven policy
  - c. Important in framing political arguments and connecting with personal stories.
3. **Supporting the Tech Trek Journey: Identifying, selecting and funding the students**, by Sue Slone
  - a. Plans are under way for 48 campers in two camps in 2020 located in Stetson University in Deland and FAU, Jupiter
  - b. DO NOT send donations to national for Tech Trek. Send to **AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, INC** (Tech Trek should be on memo line). National does not support FL Tech Trek financial.
  - c. Process for Tech Trek nominations begin 2019 Sept/Oct.
  - d. Sue Slone is happy to attend one of AAUW-Melbourne General Meetings to discuss process and camps

## 2018-2019 Board of Directors

President	Kyle Lieneck
President-Elect	Natalie Twine
Vice President-Programs	Andrea Shannin
Vice President-Membership	Joann Jacobs
Vice President-Finance	Margaret Marcotte
Vice President-Communications	Natalie Twine
Recording Secretary	Patricia McDonough
Corresponding Secretary	VACANT
Immediate Past President	Joann Jacobs
Directors By-Laws & Policies	Kyle Lieneck
Public Policy	Inge Flynn
AAUW Fellowships, Grants, & Research	Diane Baccus-Horsley
Research & Projects	Diane Baccus-Horsley

## Committee Chairs

Membership	Joann Jacobs
Membership Roster	Caitlin Hutchinson
Greens Sale	Joann Jacobs, Joy Cook
Hospitality	Terry Smith
Name Tags	Joy Cook
Reservations & Phones Chair	Janet Peller
Science Fair	Kyle Lieneck
Web Master and Intercom	Natalie Twine
Publicity	VACANT

National Web Address: [aauw-fl.aauw.net/branches/melbourne/](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net/branches/melbourne/)

Local Web Address: [melbourne-fl.aauw.net](http://melbourne-fl.aauw.net)

American Association of University Women

Melbourne Branch

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