

**Calendar**

**Tuesday, March 13** – Bridge Group. Contact Judy Pierman.

**Thursday, March 15** – Noon. Book Club. Capitol Grille. Deb Lavan presenter, *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

**Thursday, March 15**. Scholarship application deadline.

**Monday, March 19** – 6:30 p.m. Branch meeting. “Endangered Species in Florida.” Natasha Warraich. North Palm Beach Library.

**Monday, April 2** – 6 p.m. Branch board meeting. Palm Beach Gardens library.

**Saturday, April 7** – 4 p.m. New member recognition. Happy Hour, Salute Market, Palm Beach Gardens.

**Monday, April 16** – 6:30 p.m. Branch meeting. “Women Modernists in New York.” Ellen Roberts, Norton Museum of Art.

**Sunday-Monday, April 22-24** – AAUW-FL State Convention. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Sarasota.

**Monday, May 14** – 6 p.m. Installation of officers, introduction of scholarship recipients. Brio Tuscan Grille, Gardens Mall. *Note date, time change from directory.*

**Yoga** – 10 a.m., Fridays, Mirabella Community, Palm Beach Gardens. Contact Doris Noble.

**Dinner Club** – New members welcome. Email Ann Hutchins for dates, information.

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**Endangered Species in Florida**

*Monday, 6:30 p.m., March 19*

North Palm Beach Library

303 Anchorage Drive, North Palm Beach, FL



*Biologist Natasha Warraich with a juvenile black skimmer in Marco Island, where an Audubon Florida researcher was banding the seabirds. She looks happy to have her photo taken with one of birds, considered a threatened species in Florida. She's not so sure about the skimmer. ♦*

Join us at our March meeting to learn about endangered wildlife in Florida from Natasha Warraich, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Warraich is assistant regional biologist in the species conservation planning section of the commission and works with threatened and imperiled terrestrial species in South Florida – everything from birds to bats, butterflies to bees, and snakes. If it lives on land, she'll probably work with it some day.

Florida's wildlife faces many threats, especially the degradation and fragmentation of habitat. A big part of Warraich's job is helping stakeholders find the best ways to avoid harming animals and their habitats.

Warraich was previously a park services specialist at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, where she helped coordinate research and conducted education for park visitors. She has a master's degree in environmental science from Florida Atlantic University and was a technician at FAU's Marine Lab at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, helping manage the sea turtle lab. ♦

**April is for voting in AAUW**

You have a say in selecting leaders and governance basics for our branch; the state organization, AAUW-FL; and national AAUW.

You'll vote next month to fill openings on our branch and foundation boards and a foundation bylaws change. You'll select four board members and public policy priorities for AAUW-FL. And you'll vote on

bylaws changes proposed by national AAUW that would change our membership requirements and drop the need for a college degree.

*State election details are in the March 2018 floriVision, which all members get. For branch and national details, see page 4 of this issue of Branch Out. ♦*

## Profit from benefit luncheon tops \$7,000

The board of our charitable foundation will have a problem this year – but it’s one they’ll delight in solving.

They’ll have to figure out the details for distributing more than \$7,330 profit from our benefit luncheon for local scholarships, Tech Trek, and the national AAUW Fund.

Thanks to the hard work of benefit chair Gayle Cratty and her committee, and the generosity of dedicated members and guests that’s almost 70 percent more than the almost \$4,360 profit last year.

94 members and guests on Saturday, February 10, heard the keynote address of Lynda Figueredo, CBS12 anchor and investigative reporter, “Learning How to Adapt to a Changing Industry,” and enjoyed lunch at Seasons 52 in Palm Beach Gardens. (See photos, page 3.)

A \$30 tax-deductible donation was part of each luncheon ticket, and other donations were about \$2,500. A special thanks to

speaker Figueredo who donated her \$100 honorarium to Tech Trek.

Money hat tickets brought in \$525. Proceeds from the Opportunity Auction baskets were \$1,190, and from the silent auction, about \$1,270. All the centerpieces were sold, bringing in another \$255. Paid reservations for 96 minus expenses rounded out the profit.

Besides benefit chair Cratty, committee members included Deb Nelson, Barbara Hanson, Doris Karlik, Diane Karlik Lynch, Carol Renick, Deb Lavan, Kathleen Durning, Doris Noble, Ann Hutchins, Shirley Koo, Dorothy Evnagelista, Tanya Nelson, Cheryll Plotkin, and Wendy Plotkin.

Looking ahead to next year’s benefit, they used a Plus/Delta evaluation process, listing factors that worked (pluses) and those for improvement (delta).

Use the survey form on page 5 to give your comments and suggestions. ♦

## Branch helps out at author-book event



Several members volunteered at BAM – a Festival of Books and Music, March 3, at the West Palm Beach Library, where students could meet their favorite authors.

Sally Bailey, above, chaired book sales; Doris Karlik, Virginia Farace, Ann Hutchins, and Carol MacDonald helped with sales. ♦

## April 7 Happy Hour will celebrate new members

You’re invited to a Happy Hour, Saturday, April 7, in recognition of our newest members.

Join us from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Salute Market, 5530 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, and bring along potential members as your guests. ♦

## Installation dinner set for May 14

This year’s installation of officers will be at Brio Tuscan Grille in the Gardens Mall, 6 p.m. Monday, May 14. You’ll also get a chance to meet this year’s scholarship winners.

Dinner is \$35 per person, guests are invited, and you don’t need to order ahead. Just get your check to Deb Nelson by May 7.

Entree choices are pasta Brio with grilled chicken, shrimp Mediterranean, or chicken Milanese with pasta. Soup of the day or salad, and non-alcoholic beverages are included. Cash bar for others. ♦

## Donate to Tech Trek through new foundation

Five girls from Northern Palm Beach are among the 64 selected to attend this year’s Teck Trek camp.

It will cost \$1,100 to send each girl to the week-long camp, and branches are expected to raise funds to help.

A new charitable foundation set up by AAUW Florida will

enable donations to be tax deductible – an important asset, for individuals and businesses.

If you contact a business that can donate or want to make your own donation, checks should be made out to AAUW FL Supporting Fund, Inc., with Tech Trek in the memo line. Send to Treasurer, Tech Trek, P.O. Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468. ♦



# 2018 benefit luncheon photo gallery

94 members and guests attended this years benefit luncheon. Here are a few of them.



Trish Ware, Ann Hutchins.



Back row, from left: Diane Karlik, Becky Mercer, Jacquie Balaschak; front, speaker Lynda Figueredo, Doris Karlik.



Lynda Figueredo and the Crattys – Tom, Gayle, and Jennifer.



Cheryll and Andy Plotkin.

At left, from left: Doris Noble; Judy Pierman, and granddaughter Ella.



Jacquie Balaschak.



Becky Mercer.



Above, Judy Pierman and granddaughter Ella.



Ella and her grandmother Judy Pierman; Barbara Rizzo in hat; Gayle Cratty.



Above, from left: Susan O'Connell and her daughter-in-law with Gayle Cratty.



Right, from left: Kathleen Durning, Carol Whalen, Chari Kelly.

## Change in foundation bylaws needed

The bylaws of our charitable foundation specify where the funds we raise can be distributed.

To include TechTrek and the new scholarship honoring the Friends of the North Palm Beach Library, we have to amend the bylaws – and it has to be done before proceeds from this year's benefit luncheon may be distributed.

We're all members of the foundation and will vote on the amendment at our April 16 branch meeting. The bylaws require a 30-day advance notice of the amendment proposal which follows:

ARTICLE XIII  
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS  
Section 1. Overview. The Foundation Board of Directors shall distribute funds raised to these programs.

a. Nationally: To one or more of the programs included in the AAUW Fund or AAUW tax-deductible funds, and

b. State: To any of the charitable and educational programs included in the income tax deductible AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation, Inc., such as the AAUW Florida Tech Trek Camp for Girls, and

c. Locally: For the Doris Karlik Local Scholarship Fund and the AAUW Scholarship in honor of the Friends of the North Palm Beach Public Library. ♦

### Slate announced for branch posts

The Nominating Committee suggests these members for the three branch board posts to be filled for the 2018-20 term:

- Chari Kelly, secretary
- Sally Bailey, treasurer
- Jane Wattick – vice president for program.

Diane Karlik was nominated for an opening on the charitable foundation board. Voting is scheduled for our April 16 branch meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor with the nominees' consent.

Committee members are Carol Renick, Doris Karlik, and Deb Lavan. ♦

## National proposes dropping member degree requirement

*Should AAUW membership be open to those who don't have a degree but who support the organization's mission?*

*Should the national board of directors include those who are not members of AAUW?*

*Should three-year staggered terms be created for service on the national board of directors?*

Those are questions you'll be asked to answer in voting that starts in April on proposed amendments to the national AAUW bylaws.

Voting opens April 25 and closes June 9 at 9 p.m. ET. You'll get a voter PIN by email or by postal mail. Complete information on the proposals will be in the spring *AAUW Outlook* magazine.

You'll have until May 7 to ask for a paper ballot, which must be mailed and postmarked by May 21 at 11:59 ET. Voting results will be

announced online June 10.

### Pros and cons

The national board of directors proposed the changes, sending an email explanation to members – [www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/](http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/). The board also provided its rationale along with the exact wording of the bylaws' changes at <https://svc.aauw.org/recore/docu/aauw-bylaws-2017.pdf>.

The two proposals about board service are seen as best practices bringing AAUW in line with other nonprofits.

The more wide-reaching and contentious proposal to drop the degree requirement has come up for a vote before and did not pass. So it will be up to members to again weigh in on what would be a major shift in AAUW.

The board believes the degree requirement isn't needed now. It

also believes dropping it would align better with our mission; bring in more members and increase our impact; enhance diversity and inclusion; and make it easier to get grants and corporate donations.

Members who disagree have commented online, saying, among other things, that the issue was already decided; that the proposal takes away a factor that differentiates AAUW from other groups advocating equity; and that it dilutes the message that getting a college education is important.

To get the full perspectives of both those who agree and those who don't, take the time to view the online comments. Just click on the National Bylaw Amendment Vote icon at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to read what others say or add your own comments. You'll need your member id number and password. ♦

# 2019 Benefit Survey

**We need your input as we plan for next year's benefit.**

Please complete the survey, below, and return to Shirley Koo at our next meeting, March 19, at the North Palm Beach Library, or email to [tccny12@gmail.com](mailto:tccny12@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Would you like to return to Seasons 52? Please comment.
  
- 2) What other venues can you suggest?
  
- 3) Can you suggest some possible speakers?
  
- 4) Are you willing to be on the Benefit Committee?
  
- 5) Do you have comments/suggestions regarding tickets, raffles, silent auction items, etc.?