



Synthesis



MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2020

MEETING: 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Community Foundation, 2635 Fruitville Road

SPEAKER: Jane Plitt, author, scholar, business consultant



Our March speaker, Jane Plitt, has a story to tell. Over 25 years ago, as a thriving business consultant and member of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Jane came across a brief article about its first female member, Martha Matilda Harper. As a visiting scholar at the University of Rochester, Jane took six years crisscrossing the U. S. and Canada in order to piece Martha's story together. The result

was an inspirational story of a remarkable servant turned business entrepreneur. Now three books about Martha exist – *Martha's Magical Hair*, *Martha the Hairpreneur*, *Martha Matilda Harper and the American Dream*.

Plitt, a graduate of Cornell University, has been a champion advocate for small business, women, and social business. Her topic: "How the Suffrage Movement helped a servant become a business success with Susan B. Anthony's and Bertha Palmer's support." Come to our meeting and hear Jane's story about this trailblazing businesswoman.

Virginia Waring and Joan Nasser



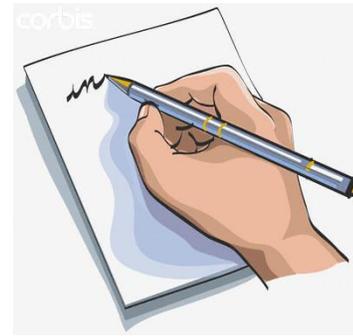
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

March, 2020

We know that there are many ways our members are asked to give both time and money to support AAUW in different ways, and every dollar is appreciated, whether to support research on the economic insecurity of women in Florida, for the AAUW general fund, or Tech Trek.

This spring our wonderful member Eloise Malinsky is offering another match challenge for Tech Trek and she has upped her offer to \$1500. In the past two years our very generous members have far exceeded her challenge and we hope to do so again this year. If you would like to donate, please make out your check to the **AAUW Supporting Foundation** and mail it to our branch address or give it to one of our Treasurers, Susan Serling or Jackie Zuckley. Feel free to date your check for any day up to the April 1 deadline, when all the donations will be sent in together.

*Lois Fisch, Vice President
for Diana Sells, President*



From the Vice-President

I am always amazed and appreciative of how you all generously volunteer to help out with our many projects and initiatives. Spring is always a very busy time for our chapter, with Write-Read-Write, Academic Olympics, Tech Trek, and NCCWSL in full swing. This year, we've added Smart Start, an essay contest, the research study on older women and economic insecurity in Sarasota, and a branch history project to the list. Then there's the Spring fundraiser! It's an impressive list.

So, I'm going to ask you to give just a little more of your time and energy during the 2020-2021 year by volunteering now to serve on one of our board committees. I'm not asking that you run for a position on the Board, just that you agree to help lighten the load for one of the Directors. Programs are an essential component of our branch meetings but we need someone to coordinate our speaker schedule. The board has already generated a list of potential speakers, so all that is needed is someone to make a few phone calls to book the presenters for 6 meetings. Education, Communication, and Membership would also welcome more helping hands. Most of the tasks are small and limited in scope. Just a few hours of your time will make a big difference. So please, just say yes.

Lois Fisch, Vice President

EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

At the time of this writing the Academic Olympic season is not over, but to meet the Synthesis deadline I can give you an update. All 8 participating high school teams seem very motivated this year. And you still have an opportunity to watch the top 6 teams compete for the trophy at the Finals, which will start at 1:30 on Saturday, February 22 in the Pine View auditorium. Come and watch these high school students get excited about academics!

I want to express my deep appreciation to the four AAUW members who worked with me to make this season a success. Thank you **Kathy Schersten** and **Mary Muller** for moderating with me again this season. It is so gratifying to be able to count on you every year. And **Fay Donaldson** and **Judith Leader** operated the laptop for every match, keeping the scores like the pros that they are. Thank you so much.

Eloise Malinsky

TECH TREK:

Interviewing of the 4 Tech Trek candidates took place at Gulf Gate Library from 12 noon to 2pm on Saturday, February 15th.

START SMART/ WORK SMART:

Workshop was scheduled for February 4 @ USFSM 6-8 PM.

WRITE/READ/WRITE:

Judy Cottone will be collecting the books and notes to students from the membership at the next general meeting on Wed., Feb 19th, to be distributed to the 21 fourth grade students. Please attend the general meeting with your book and note or arrange to get it to Judy – so all the students receive their book and letter. Thanks!

NCCWSL:

June Benowitz and Joan Nasser met with the 4 NCCWSL candidates on Saturday, February 15, 10:30 a.m. at Panera on University Parkway. This was an opportunity to meet the girls and answer any questions they may have. We also discussed air travel.

If any AAUW member will be in the D. C. area and is able to buy four \$5 subway cards, we will appreciate it. Like last year we will be able to give each girl one. Thanks.

Mary Stephenson, Education Program Chairman
(stephensonmary9@gmail.com)

LOBBY DAYS 2020



Gold Sashes and Equal Rights

Diana Sells and Ellen Roche traveled to Tallahassee to join nearly 40 other AAUW-Florida members to educate our state legislature on key AAUW issues. Our objective was to visit representatives in the Florida House and Senate who sit on committees that would be hearing proposed legislation that AAUW supports. Our issues were Gender Equity, which included bills on Equal Pay and the Family Leave Act; Prevention of Sex Trafficking; and ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. Working with two members from sister AAUW's, our goal was to visit as many offices as we could and attempt to speak to the Representative. As they are very busy during the session, we were only able to talk to three in person (two of them by buttonholing them in the hallway!), even though we had appointments. But we visited 26 offices and left written material with all of them, and were able to have short conversations with aides for most of them. The gold sashes that the AAUW Lobby Corps wore turned out to be very useful as they made us memorable. There were almost 40 AAUW members doing the same thing all over the building (we had divided up the priorities) and many times we were asked by random people in the halls or elevator what AAUW stood for, and, if our group visited an office already visited by another AAUW group, we were recognized right away.

It was an exhilarating experience to actually see in person how legislation is created, and how important it is for all of us to speak up in any way we can. It was also physically exhausting as it involved walking back and forth through the maze of hallways connecting the House and Senate sides of the capitol, often retracing our steps to get to the next one on our list. Sitting in on a committee meeting gave us a chance both to rest our feet and see how anyone can speak to an issue, and how parliamentary procedure keeps the civility in a formal setting.

Diana Sells and Ellen Roche



Dear AAUW members:

Thank you to all members who have agreed to participate in the **Write Read Write** Project.

This is a reminder to bring your book and written note in a gift bag to our meeting on February 19.

If you have signed up to participate and you will not be attending our February meeting, it is important to contact me, Judy Cottone, at 917-441-4088.

We are on the hook to deliver 21 books / notes to the students at Toledo Blade elementary school.

Thank you again for your participation.

Judy Cottone



ACADEMIC OLYMPICS CHALLENGE

Try Your Out Your Smarts And Answer These AO "Brain Busters"

- 1) Identify the Romantic era composer who designed his own opera house called the Festspielhaus because he considered all others unsuitable to stage his "Ring Cycle".
- 2) To two significant digits calculate in seconds the period of an earth satellite orbiting at an altitude of 450 kilometers.
- 3) Identify the architect who after the 1666 great fire of London, rebuilt St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 4) Which one or ones of the following four shoreline features are erosional?
1) barrier island 2) baymouth bar 3) marine terrace 4) sea stack
- 5) Give the name of the mathematician associated with the following sequence:-
1,1,2,3,5,8.....

Answers:

- 1) *Richard Wagner*
- 2) *5,600(seconds)*
- 3) *Christopher Wren*
- 4) *marine terrace, sea stack*
- 5) *Leonardo Fibonacci*

Submitted by Mary Muller

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If any of the information in the Yearbook becomes inaccurate, please let someone from the Membership Committee know so we can get that information out to everyone in the Synthesis. Be on the lookout for them in each issue. Thanks.

Reminder: If your information has changed, you are responsible for updating that information with the National office. We cannot do this for you. Your identification number is in the directory. If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Whether you are a new member or have been a member for some time, membership likes to be sure you are connected to other members through outside committees and/or interests. And please let us know if you have a special interest you think others might share. Also, let us know how we can get you more involved. There is a list of all officers and directors as well as interest group chairs on page 1 of your yearbook.

Please update your yearbooks with these names of new members and address change for Audrey Laue.

Lydia Black
7045 Treymore Ct.
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-359-1250
lydiablack1@yahoo.com

Audrey Laue
201 S. Palm Ave
Apt 705
Sarasota, FL 34236

Gayle Haywood
5492 Hampstead Heath
Sarasota, FL 34235
440-315-8096
ghaywood11@gmail.com
Bowling Green State Univ.; Kent State Univ.

*Membership Committee
Sue McGowan, Nancy Brennan, Anne Salamone. Susan Richey, Elizabeth Smith*

Join Two-Minute Activist Mobile today!

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices when their advocacy is needed most and spring to action. Last year, Two-Minute Activists sent over 200,000 messages to their members of Congress, ensuring our mission of gender equity was heard in the halls of power.

Two-Minute Activist Mobile

This exciting new tool will allow AAUW to send more timely and targeted communication straight to your cell phone via text message. That means we can provide you with more strategic opportunities to take action when your advocacy can make the difference. Sign up at the AAUW website.

The Membership Committee

**AAUW Sarasota Branch
Officers and Directors 2019 - 2020**

Officers

President	Diana Sells
Vice President	Lois Fisch
Secretary	Susan Teel Louise Oleyourryk
Treasurer	Susan Serling Jackie Zukley

Directors

Program	Joan Nasser
Membership	Sue McGowan
Public Policy	Jean Henry Mary Muller
Communications	Sue Casey
Education Programs	Mary Stephenson
Nominations	Ellen Roche
Past President, (ex-officio, non-voting)	Ellen Roche
Parliamentarian	Mimi Welch
Synthesis Editor	Roz Lurie



Visit us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/AAUWSarasota

Or on the web at:

<https://sarasota-fl.aauw.net/>

<https://www.aauw.org/>

(national organization)

<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>

(Florida branch)

or

email us at: Sarasota.AAUW@gmail.com



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Sarasota Branch

P.O. Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230

Deadline

March 10th is the deadline for the April issue of the Synthesis. Please submit either an email or attached Word document to me, Roz Lurie. Photos are appreciated. I cannot edit a PDF file.

Roz Lurie, roz.lurie@gmail.com

C A L E N D A R - MARCH 2020

To place items in the Calendar, get in touch with Diana Sells by the 10th of March for the April newsletter:
dsells55@yahoo.ca

AAUW Board Meeting

Mar 3 – Tuesday at 10 am. The AAUW Sarasota Board will meet at the Community Foundation at 2635 Fruitville Rd. All members are welcome! Plan to join us for lunch afterwards.

First Wednesday Bridge

Mar 4 -- Wednesday at 12:45 pm. Social bridge on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet at the In-Between Bridge Club at 4414 Bee Ridge Rd. We welcome new members at all levels of play. Contact Maureen Firth at 941-358-6451 or firthent@yahoo.com .

Play Reading

Mar 11 -- Wednesday at 1 pm. Contact Nancy Brennan at nbrennan617@gmail.com or call 924-5951.

Film Group

Mar 12 – Thurs at 11 am.

The Film Group will meet at Selby Library, second floor conference room. Members will be notified of the selected film by email a week prior to the meeting. New members are welcome to join in the discussion and enjoy an optional lunch after the meeting at a nearby restaurant. For information call or email Sylvia Rosenfeld (924-8603, syros10@yahoo.com) or Kathy Schoenhals (346-8161, katevrs@gmail.com).

North County Book Group

Mar 17 – Tuesday at 11 am. The North County Book Group will meet at the North Sarasota Library. All are welcome to attend. Virginia Waring will lead the discussion of *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win WWII* by Molly Manning. We meet from 11:00 to 12:00 with optional lunch afterwards. Contact Lois Fisch, 941-735-0378 or lfisch@utica.edu

Branch Meeting and pre-meeting Lunch

Mar 18 – Wednesday. Branch meeting at the Community Foundation, 2635 Fruitville Road. Join us to hear our speaker, Jane Plitt. Optional lunch before the meeting at 11:45 at PF Chang's Restaurant located at the 766 S Osprey Ave. Parking is plentiful adjacent to the restaurant. If you plan on attending lunch, please make a reservation with Nancy Brennan, at nbrennan617@gmail.com or 941-924-5951, by noon, Monday, March 16, 2020.

Gulf Gate Book Group

Mar 24 – Tuesday at 11:30 am. The Gulf Gate Book Group will meet at the Gulf Gate Library in the first-floor meeting room. We will discuss the book selections for 2020/2021. All AAUW members are invited to join the discussion and then enjoy an optional lunch after the meeting at a local restaurant. For more information contact Sylvia Rosenfeld at syros10@yahoo.com (or 924-8603), Audrey Laue, sarafen@fastmail.us (or 922-1778) or Jocelyn Baskey (419-559-6319) or baskey0@gmail.com .

North County Neighborhood Group

Mar 26 – Thursday. A daytrip is planned with a 90-minute trolley tour: “*Public Art of Sarasota*.” Guests will visit some 80+ public art sculptures, monuments and murals. Tour begins at 1pm from 1826 4th St. (just behind the Breakfast House on Fruitville.) Most of what we'll see is from the bus. Breakfast/lunch will precede the tour at a nearby restaurant TBA. Price for the tour is \$30+ tax (probably 7%) and tip to driver and narrator which are probably nominal. Info as to where to send your check and who you need to contact in AAUW will be sent very shortly as an e-mail blast to our entire local organization.

AAUW-FL CONVENTION APRIL 18 – 19, 2020 DAYTONA BEACH

WAVES OF CHANGE, OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, April 18

9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Convention Registration
9:00 am - 11:00 am	-Explore Highlights of Daytona Beach (on your own) - Work Smart Negotiation Workshop (Bring your laptop) Open to all, no fee,
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Tour: Mary Bethune Home and Museum
11:30 - 1:30 pm	Opening Luncheon "Managing Change" Keynote Speaker: Janet E. Petro, Deputy Director, NASA, Kennedy Space Center
1:45 - 3:00 pm	Workshop Sessions I - Opportunities for Leadership Development - "Black Working Women in Florida Face Economic Insecurity: A Story of Gender and Racial Inequality" : New Research Explore 5 Star Program: Opportunities for Branch Engagement
-	
3:15 - 4:30	Workshop Sessions II - Opportunities for Branch Growth and Retention - Oceans of Opportunity to make a Difference with Philanthropy. - New Research Reveals New Opportunities - "Limiting Our Livelihoods
4:45 - 5:30 pm	Annual Meeting
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner Speaker: Gloria Blackwell , AAUW Sr VP of Programs and Fellowships

Sunday, April 19

9:00 - 10:30 am	Breakfast Every Voice. Every Vote! Commemoration of Centennial of 19th Amendment (Wear White!) & The 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act
10:45 - Noon	Workshop Sessions III - Opportunities for Girls in STEM: Report on Tech Trek - Change in Leadership: New Opportunities - Opportunities for Branch Participation in Public Policy
12 Noon	Adjournment

Registration due by March 18.
Includes Saturday Lunch and Dinner, Sunday breakfast.

Please make your hotel reservation with the
Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center
2700 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118
Hotel Reservations: 800-654-6216
Request AAUW Florida

****The Conference Rate of \$116.00 plus tax (Sgl or Dbl)
will be available until March 18 ONLY**

AAUW Florida
<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/>

For more information contact:
Patricia Ross, President, AAUW Florida, paross@aol.com
Patricia DeWitt, President-Elect, aauwfldewitt@gmail.com