



# Synthesis

## OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2020

**AAUW SARASOTA BRANCH MEETING via ZOOM: 2:00 pm**

**SPEAKER:** Mary Gatta



We are privileged indeed to have Mary Gatta address us at our October Zoom Meeting. Dr. Gatta, Associate Professor at CUNY, received her PhD in Sociology from Rutgers University.

Mary is a leader in research related to workplace flexibility for low-wage workers, workforce development programs and non-traditional job training for women. She is the author of so many books, articles, policy papers, op-eds, and reports that it would take many columns of this newsletter to list them all. *Waiting on Retirement: Aging and Economic Insecurity in Low Wage Work*, and *Not Just Getting By: The New Era of Flexible Workforce Development* are just two of her books.

She has been a voice for many who have found themselves on the low rung of the employment ladder and who need just such a voice as hers to attain better jobs, better wages and far more important opportunities than they currently have. Mary has been here in Sarasota working on the soon-to-be released report *Aging, Women and Economic Insecurity in Sarasota, Florida*. Funding for this report was received from both our Branch and the Community Foundation, which accounts for the special pride we have in her work. Please join us October 21 at 2 p.m. to virtually meet Mary and hear directly from her about her tireless efforts on behalf of those underprivileged in the work force.

*Joan Nasser, Program Director*



## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

**October, 2020**

Happy Fall! Soon, we'll see pumpkins and cornstalks sprouting on doorsteps and under palm trees. The smell of pumpkin spiced everything will be in the air.

This is the first edition of the *Synthesis* under the editorial leadership of Virginia Waring. I welcome her and wish her well in this new position.

And I extend a heartfelt thank you to Roz Lurie for her years of service as *Synthesis* editor.

As you learned at our September meeting, we have earned four stars in the five-star program. At this time, we are one of 11 branches in the country and the only branch in Florida to achieve this goal! Star number five requires that we develop two plans: a strategic plan and a succession plan. Both of these plans will help us sharpen our focus on how and where we will spend our time and energy in the coming years. In the coming months, I will be calling on all of you to help identify the ways in which our branch is already working to “advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and

advocacy” and how we wish to move forward in the future. Dr. Mary Gatta’s presentation this month will give us plenty to think about as we strive to become a force for change in Sarasota. AAUW Sarasota Branch has had an amazing 70 years of impact on our community. Let’s set the stage for the next 70. We can do this!

*Lois Fisch, President*



## Reminder: ARTIST SERIES CONCERTS

The latest message from executive director Marcy Miller of the Artist Series Concerts has informed us that the second virtual concert scheduled in Oct., Women of Note, is part of the Suffragist Project. One of the pianists, Gail Berenson, is a member of our branch, and of course, Lee Dougherty Ross was not only our speaker in 2018, but also played at our Christmas Lunch that year.



Women of Note, featuring pianists Lee Dougherty Ross and Gail Berenson, sopranos Robyn Rocklein and Jenny Kim-Godfrey and actors Kate Alexander, Ariel Blue, and Meg Gilbert. This program celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. The program, consisting entirely of female composers and performers, is part of a collaboration led by Florida Studio Theatre to celebrate the Suffragist Movement. This concert will be coming to a computer screen near you on October 1st through October 12th. Tickets per house are \$15. For tickets go to [www.artistseriesconcerts.org](http://www.artistseriesconcerts.org)

## Membership

Please welcome our newest member:

Diana Paver  
1919 N. Lakeshore Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34231  
ppaver@aol.com  
941-922-6795

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*.

### *Membership Committee*

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

## Public Policy Report

With an election coming up, the Public Policy committee has been tasked with keeping you informed of how local candidates stand on specific issues of importance to AAUW. As we are non-partisan, you will be provided with information as to whether candidates have explicitly stated their support or opposition to certain policies. The focuses from AAUW Florida in this election year are Economic Security, Education, and Civil Rights. When this information is available it will be sent to all members and will cover candidates in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

*Diana Sells, Public Policy Director*

## Voting in the Era of Covid19

### Post Office, Vote-by-Mail and making sure your vote is counted:

*U.S. Postal Service General Counsel Thomas Marshall cautioned Florida and 45 other states and Washington D.C. that there is a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be delivered in time to be counted. The post office has stated they will hold off on further changes, but many have already noticed considerable slowing of the mail. Suggestions for voting....*

### How to assure your vote is counted if using **vote-by-mail**:

- Drop off vote-by-mail ballots at the Supervisors of Elections office, 101 South Washington Blvd., Sarasota FL 34236 Phone: 941-861-8600
- Drop off your ballot to secure drop box sites at early voting locations during early voting hours.
- Mail your ballot two to three weeks prior to election day. **Before October 20.**
- Track your ballot online, and educate voters how to track their ballots.

### Stay safe if using **early voting** or **vote on general election day, November 3**:

- Consider and encourage utilization of early vote centers, which often have little to no wait times and no crowds.
- If you do want to vote in person at early vote sites or on election day itself use best safety practices amidst COVID-19, including wearing a mask, socially distancing, frequent hand washing/use of hand sanitizers and taking their own black or blue ink pen to the polling place
- Bring your signed picture ID, if you have one. You may provisionally vote if you cannot find one, but it must be at your correct polling place and the signatures must match.

## **Dates to know from the Sarasota Supervisor of Elections**

10/5 Voter registration deadline for Nov 3 general election

10/19 Early Voting - General: October 19-November 1, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily at 8 locations.

10/24 Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed to a voter for Nov 3 General Election - 5 p.m.

11/3 General Election Day - Vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the supervisor of elections office by 7 p.m. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

11/18 Post-election certification audit of Nov 3 General Election - Begins at 9 a.m.

~ Compiled from Sarasota League of Women Voters and Sarasota Votes by [Virginia Waring](#)



## OCTOBER 2020

To place items in the Calendar,  
get in touch with Lois Fisch  
by the 10th of October for the November newsletter:  
[lfisch@utica.edu](mailto:lfisch@utica.edu)

| Date                     | Time          | Event  | Location / Contact  | Notes   |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| Tuesday,<br>October 6    | 10:00<br>am   | <b>AAUW Sarasota<br/>BOARD MEETING<br/>via ZOOM</b>  | Sign in on your<br>computer or phone via<br>Zoom. An invitation<br>will be sent a day or<br>two before the<br>meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>  | <i>All members welcome.</i>   |
| Tuesday,<br>October 20   | 11:00<br>a.m. | <b>North County Book<br/>Group<br/>via ZOOM</b><br><br> | Sign in on your<br>computer or phone via<br>Zoom. An invitation<br>will be sent a day or<br>two before the<br>meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>  | All welcome.<br>Book: <i>The General's<br/>Son: A Journey of an<br/>Israeli in Palestine</i> by<br>Mike Peled.<br>Discussion led by Joan<br>Nasser. |
| Wednesday,<br>October 21 | 2:00<br>p.m.  | <b>AAUW Sarasota<br/>BRANCH MEETING<br/>via ZOOM</b>   | Sign in on your<br>computer or phone via<br>Zoom. An invitation<br>will be sent a day or<br>two before the<br>meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch,<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a> | Join us to hear our<br>speaker, Mary Gatta.   |

**AAUW Sarasota Branch  
Elected Officers and Directors 2020-2021**

**Officers**

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| President<br>(2020-2022)      | Lois Fisch        |
| Vice President<br>(2020-2022) | Susan Casey       |
| Secretary<br>(2019-2021)      | Susan Teel        |
| Treasurer<br>(2019-2021)      | Louise Oleyourryk |
|                               | Susan Serling     |
|                               | Jackie Zukley     |

**Directors**

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Program<br>(2019-2021)                      | Joan Nasser                   |
| Membership<br>(2020-2022)                   | Sue McGowan                   |
| Public Policy<br>(2020-2022)                | Diana Sells                   |
| Communications<br>(2019-2021)               | Sue Casey                     |
| Education Programs<br>(2019-2021)           | Vacant                        |
| Nominations<br>(2020-2022)                  | Ellen Roche                   |
| Past President, (ex-officio,<br>non-voting) | Ellen Roche<br>Diana Sells    |
| Parliamentarian<br><i>Synthesis</i> Editor  | Mimi Welch<br>Virginia Waring |



Visit us on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/AAUWSarasota](http://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](mailto:Sarasota.AAUW@gmail.com)



Synthesis is published monthly September through May by the American Association of University Women  
Sarasota Branch  
P.O. Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230

**Deadline**

**October 10th** is the deadline for the November issue of the *Synthesis*. Please submit either an email or attached Word document to me, Virginia Waring. Photos are appreciated. I cannot edit a PDF file. Thank you.

Virginia Waring, [virginia.waring@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.waring@gmail.com)



## AAUW FACE MASK ORDER FORM

**Cost: \$15 each**

**Make your check out to AAUW Sarasota.**

**Mail your check with this completed form to:**

**AAUW Sarasota  
P.O. Box 3554  
Sarasota, FL 34230**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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