



Synthesis

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, November 18, 2020

AAUW SARASOTA BRANCH MEETING via ZOOM: 2:00 pm

Jane Plitt, Cornell University graduate, has been a champion advocate for small business, women, and social business. Her topic for our meeting: *How Susan B. Anthony, Bertha Palmer & the Suffrage Movement Transformed a Servant into a Business Empress. Discover the Story of Martha Matilda Harper.*



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*, and *Martha Matilda Harper and the American Dream*. Attend the Zoom meeting and listen to Jane's story about this trailblazing business woman.

Joan Nasser, Program Director



Martha Matilda Harper



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November, 2020

November is the month when we traditionally think about our gratitude for the good fortune, acts of kindness, friendship, and other gifts we have received in the past year. Too often, we think about but do not always express that gratitude. I encourage all of you to take a moment to identify one or more women you are grateful to have in your life and then to send them a short note of gratitude. I wish to express my thanks to all of you for the encouragement and support you have given me as I took on the branch presidency. It is a delight and a blessing to work with so many energetic and dedicated women.

As we continue to review and refine our strategic plan, we must take a moment to think about who we are. Here are some of the questions I've been thinking about: Should we be limiting our membership, as we currently do, so that over 50% of the women and girls we claim to support are not eligible to join us? Are we ensuring that all of our selection processes (scholarships, Tech Trek, NCWSSL, Academic Olympics) are free of bias? What are we doing to support the women and girls who do not want to go to college and to encourage them to seek high paying careers in licensed and regulated trades such as plumbing and carpentry? Should we be advocating more strongly for pay equity for women in teaching, nursing, and other traditionally female careers? What do we want to do to address the issues of economic insecurity for women in Sarasota County?

I raise these questions to challenge all of us to consider what we have been doing and where we want to focus our energy in the next three years. If we're happy with the way things are, that's fine. We should be proud of what we have already accomplished. But I believe that we can do more. We can refine our current practices to more closely support our equity goal and we can expand our initiatives to address the needs of non-college bound women and economically insecure seniors in Sarasota County. I hope that you agree.

Lois Fisch, President



Membership

Please update:

- The email address for Maureen Simpson is now: 437simpson@gmail.com.
- The email address for Leiland Theriot is now: Leiland.theriot@gmail.com

Have you changed YOUR email or phone number? Have you made a move since the last directory was updated? If so, it is so important that you notify Membership so we can get that information out to everyone as soon as possible. We always want you to be "in the loop."

Also, be sure to make the change at National, as well. Your Membership ID is in the directory. Thanks!

Sue McGowan, for the Membership Committee

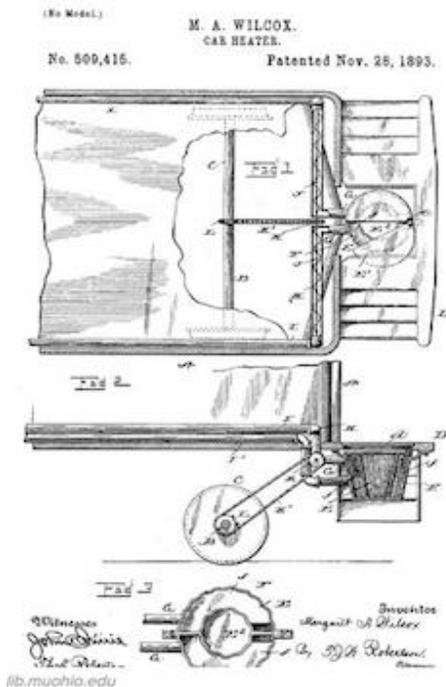
Nancy Brennan, Beverly Prechtel, Susan Ritchey, Anne Salamone, and Elizabeth Smith

Women Inventors: Did You Know?

The Car Heater

Margaret A. Wilcox, born in 1838, was one of the first women mechanical engineers. She is notable for inventing the first automobile heater in 1893, and the first combined clothes and dishwasher machine.

Thanks to Sue Casey.



Magnus Manske via commons.wikimedia.org(8516891322).jpg



NOVEMBER 2020

To place items in the Calendar,
get in touch with Lois Fisch
by the 10th of November for the December newsletter:
lfisch@utica.edu

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, November 3	11:00 am	AAUW Sarasota BOARD MEETING via ZOOM	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. Contact: Lois Fisch lfisch@utica.edu	All members welcome.
Tuesday, November 17	11:00 a.m.	North County Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google</i> Author: Scott Galloway 	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. Contact: Lois Fisch lfisch@utica.edu	All welcome. Discussion led by Gen Discount.

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Wednesday, November 18	2:00 p.m.	AAUW Sarasota BRANCH MEETING via ZOOM	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. Contact: Lois Fisch, lfisch@utica.edu	Join us to hear our speaker, Jane Plitt.
Tuesday, November 24	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>Less</i> Author: Andrew Greer 	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. Contact: Sylvia Rosenfeld sylros10@yahoo.com	All members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.



A big thank-you to Jackie Zukley for taking over the Director of Education position. Thanks also to Susan Serling who will continue as our Treasurer through 2021.

AAUW Sarasota Branch
Elected Officers and Directors 2020-2021

Officers

President (2020-2022)	Lois Fisch
Vice President (2020-2022)	Susan Casey
Secretary (2019-2021)	Susan Teel
Treasurer (2019-2021)	Louise Oleyourryk Susan Serling

Directors

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



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://aauf-fl.aauw.net/>

(Florida branch)

or

email us at: 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

November 10th is the deadline for the December 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