



Synthesis

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

➤ Note change of date from Wednesday, January 20 (Inauguration Day) ◀

AAUW SARASOTA BRANCH MEETING via ZOOM: 2:00 pm



We are delighted to have Beth Duda, Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-level Reading for The Patterson Foundation as our speaker. SCGLR is an initiative for Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties that is designed to explore new ways to deliver the support and resources children need to achieve reading proficiency early in life and build a strong foundation for future success.

Beth will tell us about the “pillars” of SCGLR which are Brain Building in the 0 to 5 years, reducing chronic absenteeism, increasing summer learning opportunities, increasing parent and family engagement, and addressing health determinants that effect a child’s ability to read.

An award-winning playwright and educator, Beth’s more than twenty years of experiences working with students of all ages fuel her commitment to improving reading proficiency. Beth was raised in Central New York and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY-Oswego.

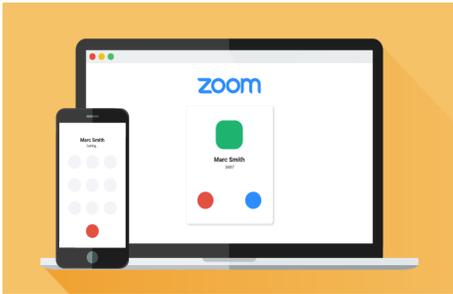
You will not want to miss this informative presentation.

Joan Nasser, Program Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2021

A new year is upon us. I don't think anyone will be sad to see 2020 become history. As you celebrate the holiday, please take a moment to congratulate yourselves for facing the challenges of lockdowns, mask mandates, and isolation with grace and determination. You Zoom, you meet at parks in small masked and socially distanced groups to support one another, you reach out to each other more often, you find ways to have fun at a distance, and you continue to support our AAUW mission and vision. You are, indeed, an impressive group.



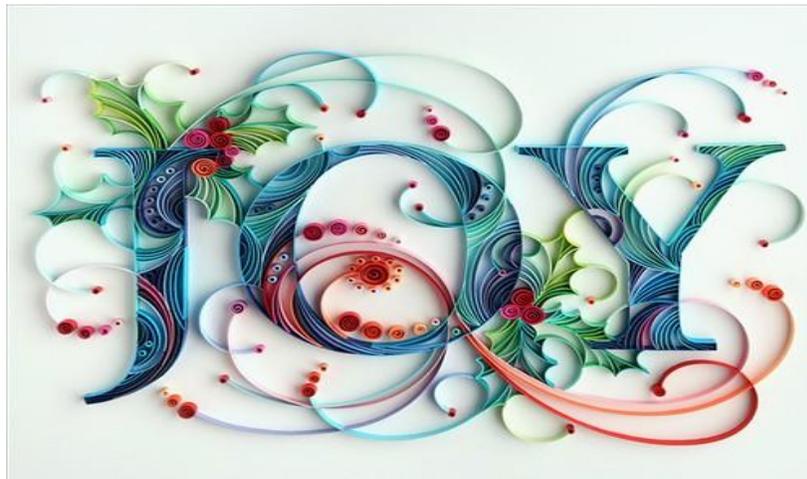
Looking forward to 2021, I am hopeful that we will resume our in-person meetings in September if not sooner.

Meanwhile, we will continue to hone our Zoom skills during our virtual meetings.

At our November meeting, our small group discussions indicated that most of us are satisfied with our current activities and philanthropic plan. In addition, you expressed support for Aging, Women, and Economic Security as well as the development of a plan to encourage non-college bound women to pursue vocations in the trades. It will be exciting to see how these new initiatives progress throughout the year.

I wish you a Happy New Year full of joy, friendship, and unforeseen delights.

Lois Fisch, President



Membership / Changes to 2020-2021 Directory

By now you should have received a copy of the 20-21 Directory. If you haven't received it, please contact Sue McGowan at 941-752-2340 or suemcg4802@gmail.com.

Please note the following changes to the new Directory:

- Please add Emma Carvin to your copy, as well as her NEW address:
Emma Carvin
941- 448-4624 ecarvin@icloud.com
7159 Victoria Circle
University Park, FL 34201
Geneva College, E. Washington Univ.
AAUW 5009543
- Please add Marjorie (Mitzi) Seith to your directory.
Mitzi Seith
mitziseith@gmail.com
440-221-0063
4713 Oak Hill Court
Sarasota, FL 34232
Russell Sage College

*Sue McGowan, for the Membership Committee
Nancy Brennan, Beverly Prechtel, Susan Ritchey,
Anne Salamone, and Elizabeth Smith*

Public Policy Report

On Dec 18, the state representatives for Sarasota County will hold a meeting with the purpose of hearing from local non-profits and other community groups as to their legislative priorities for the next legislative session. Ellen Roche, chair of the newly formed committee to promote the issues outlined in the report commissioned by our branch *Aging, Women, and Economic Security in Sarasota County* (now known as the AWE report) will attend, along with Lois Fisch and Joyce Kamm, of the Venice AAUW, to present the findings and recommendations of the report.

The new motto for AAUW Florida is “WE'RE TENACIOUS AND TRAILBLAZING” and this will be a good example of our determination to make a difference!

Diana Sells, Public Policy Director

Please note that the dates for the Terms of Office of Officers and Directors are correct in this *Synthesis*. Please make the appropriate changes to your new 2020-2021 Directory.

You are Invited

To participate in branch leadership. We are working to keep our branch strong and we want your ideas and perspectives.

How would you like to participate in the branch?

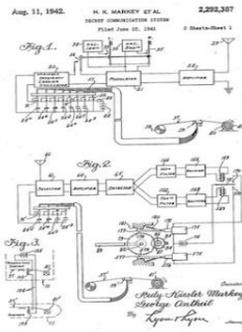
1. Join an existing interest group or start a new group over Zoom.
2. Become a member of a committees: Finance, Program, Membership, Public Policy, Communications and Education programs.
3. Volunteer to be a board member in one of the following positions: Treasurer, Secretary, Directors of Programs, Nominations and Education.

These opportunities are open to every member of the branch and we want new and different people to participate. Some people have already stepped up. Will you join us?

If you want to learn more, contact [Ellen Roche](mailto:ellen.Roche.AAUW@gmail.org), head of the Nominating Committee at ellen.Roche.AAUW@gmail.org or 941-922-5737.

Make a New Year's Resolution: Participate in our branch leadership!

Women Inventors: Did You Know? Wireless Transmission Technology



Hedy Lamarr

A world-famous film star, Hedy Lamarr invented a secret communications system during World War II for radio-controlling torpedoes. This technology also paved the way for everything from Wi-Fi to GPS.

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict is an interesting read about her life.



Gladys West

Gladys Mae West is an American mathematician known for her contributions to the mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of the satellite geodesy models that were eventually incorporated into the Global Positioning System. West was inducted into the United States Air Force Hall of Fame in 2018.

This year, at age 89, she has released her memoir titled *It Began with a Dream*.

Thanks to [Sue Casey](#).

You can support AAUW's Tech Trek by shopping at Amazon Smile.

AmazonSmile Program

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, **with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.** You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

AmazonSmile has the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as Amazon.com, including Amazon Prime member benefits.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "*Eligible for AmazonSmile donation*" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

You can manage your purchases and other account information on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile using a single account. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile if you have one, or create a new account at smile.amazon.com if you don't.

Choosing a Charitable Organization to Support: **Select: [AAUW FL Supporting Foundation Inc](#)**

On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. After selecting a charitable organization, you can also activate AmazonSmile on the Amazon Shopping app.

Ask Virginia Waring if you have questions.



JANUARY 2021

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

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, January 5	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, January 19	11:00 a.m.	North County Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>Olive Again: A Novel</i> Author: Elizabeth Strout	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 Rona Gahr.
Thursday, January 21 ➤Note the date change	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	<i>Join us to hear our speaker, Beth Duda.</i>
Tuesday, January 26	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>The Dutch House</i> Author: Ann Patchett	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 AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area. Discussion leader will be Annadele Jackson.

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 (2020-2022)	Sue Casey
Education Programs (2019-2021)	Jackie Zukley
Nominations (2019-2021)	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://aauw-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

January 10th is the deadline for the February 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