



# Synthesis

## FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**, February 17, 2021

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

*Climate Change: What It's Changing and How to Help Stop It*

Among the many issues facing our world in the new year, perhaps this topic is the most consequential to saving our world. We are most fortunate to have as our speaker Terry L. Root, Professor Emerita at Stanford University and lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report that in 2007 was co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Vice President Al Gore. That is only one of many of her awards for her work with the Defenders of Wildlife and the conservation organization Point Blue. She served on the board of directors of the National Audubon Society, the Defenders of Wildlife, and the American Wind and Wildlife Institute.



Root earned her undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of New Mexico, her master's degree in Biology from the University of Colorado and her doctorate in Biology from Princeton University. She was a professor at the University of Michigan for 15 years, and then at Stanford University for 15 years. She now resides in Sarasota, FL, with her husband and 6.5-month-old puppy.

Zoom in for a program you do not want to miss.

*Joan Nasser, Program Director*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2021

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work putting together a slate of officers. I am hopeful that, by the time you read this message, their work has been completed and we have a full slate of candidates. But wait, that's not all!

We need volunteers for smaller jobs as well. Most of them will require a mere one-two hours per month or a few hours once a year.

One person is needed to submit information to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune regarding our philanthropic work and other activities. This would not entail fancy editorial writing, just a simple paragraph or two, perhaps accompanied by a photo. Submissions are electronic, so this is work that could be done any time of the day or night. The world needs to know what we do and why we do it!

The scholarship committee needs two volunteers who will review applications once a year.

And all of our directors would welcome help as well. You can choose among any of the following: Membership, Education, Public Policy, Programs, Communication, and Economic Security.

So please consider making a small contribution of your time to our branch so that we can continue to do the important work of advocating for equity for all women and girls.

Please be AAUW's Valentine. ❤️ Email me or any one of the officers or directors to volunteer. You'll be glad you did.

*Lois Fisch, President*



## Membership / Changes to 2020-2021 Directory

Please note the following changes to the new Directory:

- Leiland Theriot's email address: [leiland.theriot@gmail.com](mailto:leiland.theriot@gmail.com).
- June Benowitz's ZIP code should be 34232.

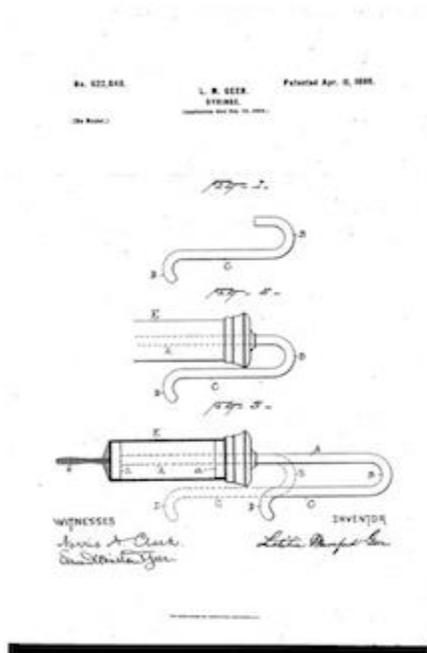
The six honorary members of our chapter personally received holiday boxes of chocolates thanks to contributions of individual members.

*Sue McGowan, for the Membership Committee*

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

## *Women Inventors: Did You Know?*

### The Medical Syringe



Letitia Mumford Geer, born in 1852, was an inventor who patented the one-hand operated syringe that is the basis for most modern medical syringes. The patent was granted in 1899.

Thanks to [Sue Casey](#).



## FEBRUARY 2021

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

| Date                      | Time          | Event  | Location / Contact  | Notes   |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| Tuesday,<br>February 5    | 11:00<br>am   | <b>AAUW Sarasota<br/>BOARD MEETING<br/>via ZOOM</b>  | Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>           | All members welcome.  |
| Tuesday,<br>February 15   | 11:00<br>a.m. | <b>North County Book<br/>Group<br/>via ZOOM</b><br><br>Book: <i>The Radium Girls</i><br>Author: Kate Moore                 | Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>           | All members welcome.<br><br>Discussion led by Jo-Ann Webb.  |
| Wednesday,<br>February 17 | 2:00<br>p.m.  | <b>AAUW Sarasota<br/>BRANCH MEETING<br/>via ZOOM</b>   | Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch,<br><a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>          | Our guest speaker, Terry L. Root, will speak about the impact of climate change and how to help stop it. Please join us.                                    |
| Tuesday,<br>February 23   | 11:30<br>a.m. | <b>Gulf Gate Read and<br/>Discuss Book Group<br/>via ZOOM</b><br><br>Book: <i>American Dirt</i><br>Author: Jeanine Cummins | Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.<br><b>Contact:</b> Sylvia Rosenfeld<br><a href="mailto:sylros10@yahoo.com">sylros10@yahoo.com</a> | All AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.<br><br>Discussion leader will be Kathy Schoenhals. |

**AAUW Responds to Capital Attack****Sent to all AAUW members via email on January 11, 2021**

Dear AAUW Member:

On Wednesday, January 6, our nation watched in horror as our democracy came under attack in an unlawful and violent invasion of the U.S. Capitol. As AAUW's National office is based in Washington, D.C., the personal safety of our staff and their families was at risk as armed insurgents took to the streets calling for violence toward our elected officials and the overthrow of a free and fair election.

The mob used hateful language and displayed symbols of white supremacy as they forced their way into the hallowed halls of Congress. We mourn the loss of the five individuals killed in the attack, including Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, and the many others hurt.

As scary and shocking as this was, it was sadly not surprising given the incendiary speech the President gave to the rioters prior to the attack and the divisive tone he has set for years. From calling the racist protestors in Charlottesville "very fine people" to telling the Proud Boys to "stand by" in a presidential debate, President Trump has given us many warning signs.

AAUW is proud to join in solidarity with leading gender justice and equity organizations in a statement (**see next page**) demanding that President Trump and his enablers be held accountable for their actions. We hope this unified message will inspire those in power to action. If you feel comfortable contacting your elected officials, we encourage you to do so.

And, as we collectively work to understand the roots of our nation's divisions, we ask you to actively engage in efforts to defeat white supremacy: Please review our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion toolkit and plan to attend our town hall webinar on Tuesday, January 19 at 4 p.m. ET with AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown and the Racial and Social Justice Working Group.

As AAUW members, we all embrace our vision of equity for all, and we hold our values close to our hearts and minds. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to ensure your AAUW staff are safe in this uncertain time.

In solidarity,

Kimberly Churches  
Chief Executive Officer

***Women’s Community Statement on President Trump’s Removal  
January 10, 2021***

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we watched as the President of the United States incited a mob to march on the Capitol to attempt to overturn the results of an election, he lost eight weeks ago. We watched in horror as that mob of white nationalists stormed the U.S. Capitol building. And we watched as they tried, and failed, to subvert our democracy, leaving a trail of wreckage and terror in their wake.

This was not the beginning. This was an inflection point in years of hate and division incited by a President who does not care about our country or its people, but only about himself. He has stoked racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, ableism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity, and more—allowing those who share his beliefs to come out in the open and act without fear of repercussions and wreak havoc on the seat of democracy. The failed insurrection at the Capitol this week was shocking, but not without warning.

We come together today as a community of multi-racial, multi-generational, differently-classed gender justice leaders, who represent women, girls and gender nonconfirming people from every corner of this nation, united in condemnation of these unconscionable actions. Together, we demand that our country’s leaders uphold their Constitutional responsibilities and remove President Trump from office immediately. He must be held accountable. He has shown that he is an imminent threat to all of our communities, our nation and our very democracy. We cannot risk one more day under this President.

Now is the time for our leaders to do what is right and fulfill your obligation to the American people who elected you. The House of Representatives has committed to beginning impeachment proceedings, and the Senate must show up with a unified voice to swiftly do the same. If you fail to condemn white nationalists’ violent extremism and hold the President accountable for his actions, you are neglecting your basic responsibility to serve the American people. Vice President Pence, members of the Cabinet, and Members of Congress, you each swore to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States.” This is the moment for which that oath was written. And if you fail to protect this country, women and girls across this country will not forget.

*American Association of University Women (AAUW), Feminist Majority, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda, Institute for Women’s Policy and Research, Jewish Women International (JWI), MomsRising, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Crittenton, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Women’s Law Center, Paid Leave for All, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, SEIU, She the People, Supermajority, TIME’S UP Now, United State of Women, Women’s March, and YWCA USA.*

**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<br>Susan Serling |

**Directors**

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Program<br>(2019-2021)                      | Joan Nasser                   |
| Membership<br>(2020-2022)                   | Sue McGowan                   |
| Public Policy<br>(2020-2022)                | Diana Sells                   |
| Communications<br>(2020-2022)               | Sue Casey                     |
| Education Programs<br>(2019-2021)           | Jackie Zukley                 |
| Nominations<br>(2019-2021)                  | 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 |



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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)



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**Deadline**

**February 10th** is the deadline for the March 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)