



Synthesis

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING



Wednesday, April 21, 2021

**AAUW SARASOTA
Branch Meeting
via ZOOM**

2:00 pm

Ashley Brown, renowned CEO of Sarasota's famed Women's Resource Center, will grace our Zoom stage on April 21. Ashley, a true Southerner, graduated with a degree in Political Science from the College of Charleston.

Her business career included management positions at Westinghouse and Ohio Transformer, relocating to Florida in 1998. A volunteer job at Women's Resource Center in 2000 eventually resulted in a position as Finance/Development Manager. She became Executive Director of WRC in April 2003.

Ashley is an innovative thought leader with a record of developing collaborative relationships with complimentary non-profit organizations as well as educational, municipal and private sector institutions.

Ashley will speak of the economic insecurity many women suffer today in our county based on a report written by Mary Gatta which was sponsored by our Branch. She will tell us about her unending work to empower women and support their financial health and the steps she has taken and has urged others to do. Please see Page 7 for an article by Ashley that appeared in the Sarasota *Herald Tribune* earlier this year.

Don't miss this opportunity to welcome Ashley and learn more about the work being realized in this important area.

-Joan Nasser, Program Director



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2021

April is a busy month; a month of new beginnings. As spring arrives our spirits soar and we're energized and excited about the possibilities to come.

Voting on the proposal to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership will open on April 7 and close on May 17.



Don't miss your opportunity to have an impact on the future of AAUW.

The State Leadership Conference and Annual Meetings will be virtual this year, so I am hopeful that you all will attend on the 16th-18th of the month. To learn more about the keynote speaker, workshops, proposed bylaws changes and the slate of officers and to register for the conference, visit the State website, aauw-fl.aauw.net. Please note that our own **Diana Sells** is a candidate as Director of Program.

At our Branch meeting on the 21st, you will elect officers and vote on the budget and philanthropy plan for the coming year (see *Synthesis* pages 10-11). This would be a good time to consider joining a committee to support the new officers as they begin their work.

Lois Fisch, President



Welcome

New Member Brenda Gimán

Brenda Miller Gimán was born, raised, educated and worked in New Jersey. Brenda attended Montclair State University majoring in Biology and later achieved an MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson. Her working history included cancer research in NYC but spent most of her career in New Brunswick at Bristol-Myers Squibb Co in Quality and Compliance positions performing quality audits internally and externally.

Upon retirement, Brenda and her husband relocated to Peoria, AZ, a suburb of Phoenix and stayed for 10 years. She joined the West Valley/Sun City branch of AAUW and planned programs for over a year before she left the state. For several years, she served on the boards of domestic violence service providers in NJ and AZ. After the passing of her husband, Brenda decided to relocate back to the east coast of the US to be closer to family. Brenda ended up in downtown Sarasota which she is loving, especially being able to participate in cultural activities which are one of her interests and are slowly returning.

Brenda's other interests include reading, keeping active, walking, traveling and visiting other areas on the west coast of FL. She plans on taking a small group trip to Africa hopefully during the fall of 2022.

New Member Kay Perrin

Kay's educational background includes undergraduate degrees in liberal arts and nursing, Master's in Public Health with a health education concentration from USF, and a PhD from USF College of Public Health.

For seventeen years Kay worked in nursing - mostly labor and delivery and public health. In 1996 she started her academic career at USF and plans to retire in August 2021. A Fulbright Scholar Award in 2009 afforded her the opportunity to spend six months in India teaching in a college of nursing which was a life changing experience. Kay has published four public health textbooks and will complete her fifth textbook prior to retirement.

She moved to Sarasota from Tampa in 2018 and is now working remotely and teaching grad classes online. Kay is also an End-of-Life Doula, and volunteers at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Palliative Care and the Bioethics Committee.

Kay has two sons and five grandchildren. Lastly, she has been a widow for seven years. Another life changing event.

Submitted by Liz Smith and Susan Ritchey, Membership

Membership / Changes to 2020-2021 Directory

Please welcome three new members and include their information in our directory:

Brenda Giman
700 Coconut Ave., Unit 243
Sarasota, FL 34236
480-370-5340
brendanamig@gmail.com
Montclair State University

Kay Perrin
700 Coconut Ave., Apt. 332
Sarasota, FL 34236
813-835-7616
kperrin@usf.edu
USF College of Public Health

Terry L. Root
7910 Kennedy Ln.
Sarasota, FL 34240
650-996-3275
troot@Stanford.edu
Princeton University

Please update your directory with the following change of email address for Liz Smith and Susan Ritchey to: lizsue34@gmail.com.

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

AAUW Two-Minute Activist It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education.

Subscribe to the Newsletter. You will receive updates as specific bills are being discussed. Your voice needs to be heard! Simply go to the AAUW.org website and search for two-minute activist or go to <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

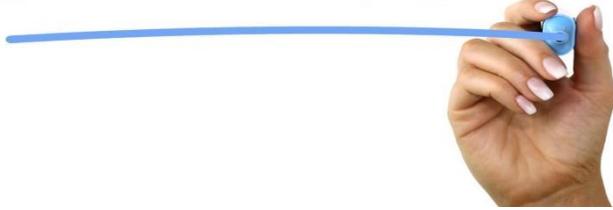
Read more about the specific legislation AAUW is involved in promoting. Be a part of the change. It only takes two minutes. It is a small thing we can all do from home to help further to goals of AAUW.

Tech Trek 2021

Florida Tech Trek is going virtual this year, with two camps in July that will mirror the kinds of experiences the girls have had at our in-person camps. Both camps will be held July 19 to July 23, serving about 60 girls each for a total of about 120 attendees. 180 nominations have arrived from teachers across the state. Applications have been sent to the nominees. The girls chosen to attend the 2020 camps that had to be canceled due to the pandemic will be invited to attend.

Tax-deductible donations to the AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation make the camps possible and are always welcome. The Florida Tech Trek site www.techtrek-fl.aauw.net has more information about the camps and donating.

POLICY



Academic Olympics

Public Policy Report

Instead of members getting to (or having to) go to Tallahassee this year, AAUW Lobby Days will be virtual. As this newsletter will be published after the March 17 session, I can only tell you the plan. From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. there will be speakers on the AAUW Florida 2021 legislative agenda; participation in a short workshop on bill tracking; an information session on bills and the impact of their related committees; and tips for virtual lobbying. It will be very interesting to see how this goes and if it prompts any changes for future sessions.

Diana Sells, Public Policy Director

The 2021 Academic Olympic season concluded on Tuesday, March 2, with the top 6 teams competing in a strong match in which every school enthusiastically participated. Pine View did wind up being the top scorer in that match, so the trophy will remain with them for another year.

It was an amazingly successful season despite all the challenges of students playing from school sites as well as from their homes. But it is definitely the hope that next year we can once again have face to face competitions.

Submitted by Eloise Malinsky

AAUW FL 2021 VIRTUAL Leadership Conference – April 16, 17, 18 Via Zoom



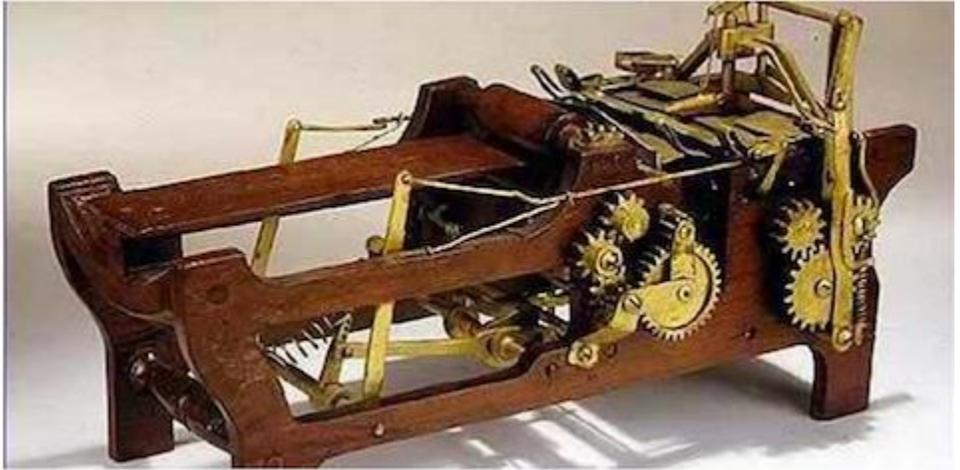
Get ideas. Get inspired. All from your own home!

There is no fee but registration is required.

See your March AAUW floriVision to get the registration link.

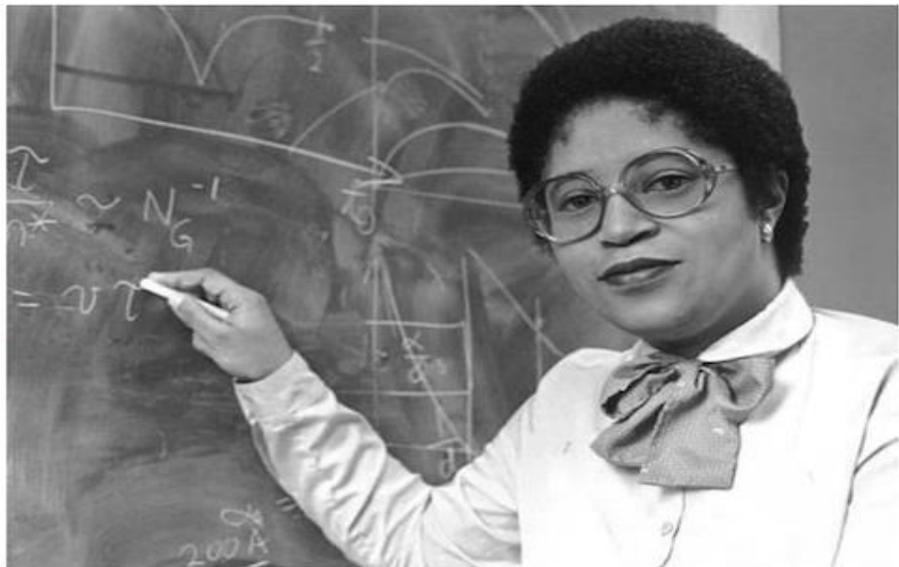
Amazing Women....Did You Know?

The Modern Paper Bag



Margaret Knight invented a machine that makes square bottomed paper bags in 1871. She almost didn't get credit when Charles Anan tried to steal her work claiming that it wasn't possible for a woman to create this brilliant invention. (Margaret also invented a safety device for cotton mills when she was 12. That invention is still being used today.)

Telecommunications Technology



Shirley Ann Jackson is a physicist and president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest technological research university in the U.S. Some of the Telecommunication Technology developed by Dr. Shirley Jackson includes the portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

Thanks to [Sue Casey](#)

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
Guest Column, January 2021

Time for a New Year's Revolution

Our region enjoys an abundance of arts and culture, culinary offerings, and world-class beaches and parks. For many, our area seems like paradise. But it's not paradise for everybody. Beneath the picture postcard views, there is true economic insecurity for many in our region and women over the age of 55 in particular.

This shocking discovery was reported in the recently published report, "Aging, Women and Economic Insecurity in Sarasota County, Florida," by the American Association of University Women, Sarasota. Funded by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the report reveals that women's economic insecurity over age 55 is a harsh reality at both the state and local levels. Consider the glaring inequality in Sarasota County alone.

Here, in "paradise," gender and race have a powerful impact on the quality of life. The study shows that, in 2018, a staggering 42 percent of all retired households in Sarasota County lived below The Elder Index—a measure of the income that older adults need to meet their basic needs and age in place with dignity. This means that just under half of all retired households in the county lacked sufficient income or savings to meet their basic economic needs. And the stats are harsher for women. The retirement income for women in 2018 was \$13,792—compared to \$24,289 for men. Add race to the equation, and the inequality is even more striking. In 2018, White women's median retirement income was \$21,275; Black women \$16,470; Hispanic women \$11,099.

That is just in Sarasota County. Across the state of Florida, 68 percent of retired white households were above economic security, compared to 32 percent of Black households and 27 percent of Hispanic households.

How do we turn this around? A New Year's resolution is not enough.

It's time for a New Year's revolution.

On the state level, we can push our representatives for greater equity. According to the report, "If women were paid fairly in Florida, they could better afford their daily family expenses — housing, food, healthcare, etc. — in addition to their retirement needs." We couldn't agree more. That would truly be a revolutionary change. It will not happen overnight. Until then, we can start a series of small revolutions.

On a local level, we need to offer fair wages to women of all ages and ethnicities. Sarasota's gender wage gap is significant: for every dollar earned by a man, a woman is earning just 77 cents. And looking at race and ethnicity, that gap widens in Florida with Black women paid 60 percent, and Hispanic women paid only 59 percent of white men's wages. This means that a high school-educated woman will lose an estimated \$700,000 to pay inequity over a lifetime of work come retirement age. A professional school graduate will find that she is \$2 million poorer because she is not paid fairly. This inequity is a systemic feature of our labor market, impacting women across race, educational, and occupational groups.

Women of all ages also can resolve to be engaged and empowered about their finances. In our region, a host of organizations provide a support system to make that possible. Women's Resource Center is one of them. We are strongly committed to empowering women and supporting their financial health. We do this not only through direct financial services, but also through our college and career services and partnerships with area businesses

As 2021 dawns, we hope the entire community will join us in supporting our area's population of vulnerable women over 55. You also can help us empower younger women— to achieve financial security by providing them with the tools to break through occupational segregation and encouraging higher paid non-traditional careers. Resolve to give of your time. Resolve to give financially. But please make that decision.

If enough of us make that choice, the real revolution can begin.

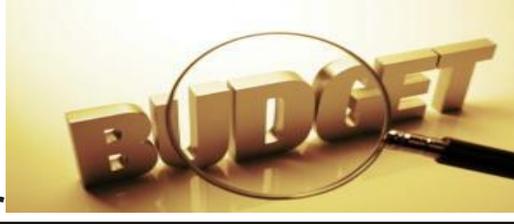
—Ashley Brown
CEO, Women's Resource Center



APRIL 2021

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

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, April 2	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.
Friday- Sunday, April 16-18		AAUW Florida 2021 Leadership Conference/Annual Meeting via ZOOM	Register via your floriVision March newsletter. Contact: Lois Fisch lfisch@utica.edu	Keynote speaker Janet E. Petro, deputy director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center on April 16.
Tuesday, April 20	11:00 a.m.	North County Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>The Dressmaker's Gift</i> Author: <i>Fiona Valpy</i>	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	Discussion Leader: <i>Kathy Oarr</i> If you are not currently a member of this group and would like to attend, please contact Lois Fisch lfisch@utica.edu All members welcome.
Wednesday, April 21	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	Presentation by Ashley Brown, Sarasota Women's Resource Center <i>Please join us.</i>
Tuesday, March 23	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> Author: <i>Celeste Ng</i>	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 or Jocelyn Baskey baskey0@gmail.com	Discussion Leader: <i>Carol Bernasconi</i> All AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.



From the Treasurer

At the annual meeting, which will be called to order immediately following the regular branch meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, *the* membership will be asked to approve the annual budget for the Branch for 2021-2022 and the spending priorities for the available balances of the endowment funds held at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for 2021-2022.

The Board has approved for recommendation to the membership the Philanthropy Plan and Proposed Budget set forth below. These materials will be discussed at the annual meeting.

If you have questions you would like to have addressed before then, please feel free to contact me by email at sserling@verizon.net or by phone at 941-377-4728.

Susan Serling, Treasurer

2021- 22 AAUW Sarasota Endowment Funds Philanthropy Plan – Proposed

Spendable Balance 7/01/2021 (est)*	\$15,400
College Scholarships – 2 @ \$2,500 each	\$5,000
Technical/Vocational Scholarship	\$1,250
NCCWSL	\$3,000
Tech Trek	\$3,000
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund	\$2,500
Community Foundation	\$300
Balance	\$350

* Spendable balance assumes carryover of unspent funds from 2020-21 (estimated to be \$3,185) plus new funds made available for 2021-22 fiscal year (estimated to be \$12,215).

AAUW Sarasota: Proposed Budget for 2021-2022

	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Proposed
EXPENSES		
Administrative (Officers)		
Appreciation gifts (coffee mugs)	\$ 0	0
Community Outreach	100	100
Conventions/State meeting	1000	700
Copying	25	25
Insurance	530	534
PO Box	95	106
Postage	40	25
Quicken or similar software	0	125
Remembrance	100	100
Yearbook	175	17
Zoom	<u>0</u>	<u>65</u>
Total Administrative	\$ 2065	\$ 1955
Communications		
Synthesis	\$ 100	\$ 50
Web design & maintenance	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Communications	\$ 100	\$ 50
Education	\$ 250	\$ 250
Membership		
Brochures	\$ 225	\$ 225
New member packets	50	50
Member longevity/new member recognition	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Membership	\$ 375	\$ 375
Programs		
Hospitality	\$ 75	\$ 75
Speaker gifts	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Programs	\$ 125	\$ 125
Public Policy	\$ 50	\$ 50
Total Expenses	\$ 2965	\$ 2805

Continued on next page.

AAUW Sarasota 2021-22 Budget continued:

	2020-2021 Budget	2021-2022 Proposed
INCOME		
Dues	\$1400	\$ 980
Fundraising	1435	1695
Luncheons	125	125
Name badges	5	5
Donations	0	0
Needed Carryover	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income	\$2965	\$ 2805

Finance Committee: Susan Serling, Chair; Susan McGowan, Joan Nasser, Susan Teel

Rev. 2/22/2021

**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 (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
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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



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Deadline

April 10th is the deadline for the May 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