



# Synthesis

## **AAUW Sarasota September Luncheon**

Wednesday, September 15, 2021  
11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon at **El Patio Latino**  
See Last Page for Info



### *President's Message – September 2021*

Welcome to what may be our new normal. In response to many requests, Carol Bernasconi and Kathy Schersten, our intrepid Program Directors, have planned four face-to-face get togethers for the coming year. It will be wonderful to meet in person once again. The September plans were made before the Delta variant emerged, so please rest assured that we will understand if you are not comfortable with meeting inside at this time. Meanwhile, our October and November Branch meetings will be held on Zoom so that all can attend. We'll see what the future holds and make our 2022 Branch meeting plans accordingly.

I'm happy to report that our Branch has not been idle during the summer. I recently collaborated with the Women's Resource Center to record what I laughingly think of as a short infomercial about Start Smart and Work Smart. The WRC will share it with their large client base so we're well on our way to addressing our goal of equity for women in the workplace.

Sue McGowan, Sue Casey, and the Membership Committee have been working on the 2021-22 Directory as well as a new and improved brochure.

(Continued on Page 2)

Jackie Zukley and the Education Committee are planning for a return to full programming for NCCWSL, Tech Trek, Academic Olympics, and Write-Read-Write.

Diana Sells, in her capacity as Chair of the Nominations Committee discovered that our April election was not the end of her duties for the year. Susan Teel resigned as Treasurer due to a move back to Seattle. We are grateful to Susan Serling for continuing on until a replacement could be found. Ellen Roche has agreed to take over the position of Treasurer and Estephanie Herrera will continue on in the Secretary position. Diana has also been keeping tabs on Public Policy issues. She'll be updating us regularly. Diana and Ellen also serve on the Florida State Board, so you'll be hearing more from them in the future.

I encourage each of you to think about the role you'd like to play in moving our branch forward this year. Take a moment to look at our Strategic Plan and pick our one or two initiatives you'd like to work on. Together, we can meet our strategic goals and make a real difference for women and girls.

*Lois Fisch, President*

### **Membership / Changes to 2020-2021 Directory**

Here is the new address for Kate Berley: 8735 Midnight Pass Rd., Unit B503  
Please update your directory listing for Sue Richey to [suenliz71@gmail.com](mailto:suenliz71@gmail.com).  
Please update your directory listing for Liz Smith to [liznsue34@gmail.com](mailto:liznsue34@gmail.com).

Please update a change in email address for Kathy Schersten:  
[kathyschersten@gmail.com](mailto:kathyschersten@gmail.com)

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

Let's Talk!

We invite all our members to join the North County Book Group discussion of ***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*** by Atul Gawande on **Tuesday October 19th** at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. This important book discusses: "Our ultimate goal, after all, is not a good death but a good life to the very end." While a personal choice, this book could help each of us to plan to extend our independence and live with joy and fulfillment for as long as we can.

The book is only 305 pages. Join us whether you get around to reading the book or not. I think the discussion will be worth your time.

*--Discussion Leader: Ellen Roche*

## Tech Trek 2021

Our Florida AAUW Tech Trek coordinator, Sue Sloan, has presented the following report of the 2021 summer camp and its accomplishments. Plans for 2022 will begin soon and the timeline will come out in September. At this point we do not know whether it will be in person or virtual. But we do know we can provide a valuable experience for the girls either way.

Thank you for your continued support of Tech Trek. Without our branches we could not pull this off.



**Tech Trek Camp continues despite the COVID pandemic!!!** The 2021 Tech Trek camp was a virtual camp held July 19-23 on a Zoom platform. Tech Trek FL engaged the services of Event Support (Olympia, WA) to manage the virtual platforms necessary to conduct a successful camp. A total of 94 students attended. It was a combination of students selected for both the 2020 camp (canceled due to the pandemic) and students selected in 2021.

With the cancelation of the 2020 camp, the campers selected to attend were given the opportunity to attend the 2021 virtual camp as 8<sup>th</sup> graders rising to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Of the 98 campers selected to attend in 2020, 45 elected to attend the 2021 Virtual Camp. An additional 49 campers (7<sup>th</sup> graders rising to 8<sup>th</sup> grade) were selected by eleven branches to attend the 2021 camp.

All 94 campers, representing 20 branches from throughout Florida, spent an action-packed week engaged in all manner of STEM activities.

A few statistics:

- All campers receive \$750 sponsorships to attend; families pay \$25
- 55 % of campers were White, 11% African American, 16% Asian, 13% Hispanic and 6% were other.
- Five core classes (see below)
- Sixteen lab workshops (see below)
- Virtual field trips were offered to all campers on Friday (see below)
- Each day girls attended Professional Women's Panels featuring women from across the country who work in various STEM areas (see below)
- Our major sponsors this year were Stetson University, QUALCOMM: Wireless Technology and Innovations, and NextEra Energy.

**CORE CLASSES** – Campers attended one core class for 2 hours each day at the camp. Campers selected their core courses on a first come, first served basis. 2021 campers attended the morning sessions and 2020 campers participated in the afternoon classes, except for Computer Science which was a morning only class.

**Computer Science Discoveries:** Work with various programs and learn about the computer and what resources it provides for discovery. Instructor: Ashley Woodard who is currently teaching in St. Johns County Schools. (Monday-Thursday)

**Qualcomm Wearable Tech:** Step-by-step instructions for setting up a microcontroller and how to use a breadboard • Hands-on coding and engineering challenges • Learn how to build an LED circuit, get it to blink and send Morse code, using a microcontroller power source • Connect a Servo motor and write code to control the motion Instructors: Tamara Payne, Taneshia Williamson and Amanda Ellis who are currently teaching in Volusia County Public Schools. (Monday-Friday)

**Marine Mysteries:** The class will expose you to a broad variety of topics including the general biology, anatomy and physiology of oceanic fauna ranging from tiny plankton to sharks, sea turtles and dolphins. Class will include information about career options in marine science. Hands on experiences provided. (Monday-Thursday) Instructors: Dr. Danielle Ingle who is a Post Doc Research Associate at Texas A & M University at Galveston, Dr. Jamie Knaub from Florida Atlantic University and Aubrey Clark who is a Graduate Research Assistant at Florida Atlantic University. (Monday-Thursday)

**Structural Engineering:** Use the engineering design process to build a tower that can withstand as much weight as possible. Campers will design 2-D blueprints which will be used to build a 3-D tower out of balsa wood. The strength of the tower will be dependent on balancing tension and compression forces. Participants will be amazed with their ability to build a tower with such strength using lightweight wood. Throughout the process, the engineers will learn proper measurement techniques, the science of engineering, and self-confidence. Instructor: Cheryl Huey who is currently a teacher in Palm Beach County Schools. (Monday- Friday)

**Neuroscience:** Learn basic science of the anatomy and function of the brain and nervous system. Hands on experiences including VR experiences are involved. Instructors: Dr. Nicole Baganz and Dr. Chelsea Bennice who are working in FAU's Brain Institute's ASCEND Program. (Monday-Thursday)

**WORKSHOPS:** A total of 16 labs workshops were offered the students. Tech Trek teachers presented a 90-minute lessons. Each camper selected one workshop each day. 2020 and 2021 campers were mixed for these sessions. Sessions were limited to 25 campers each session.

**Flip Grid Fun in Action:** Traci Jones--- Learn how to use this great online video discussion tool to create personalized videos of your Tech Trek experience. Videos can be recorded as many times as needed before uploading, and can have the addition of emojis, text, stickers, and drawings. Time to create videos to share with your sponsors and supporters who made this week possible for YOU! Offered Monday and Wednesday.

**DNA:** Dr. Becky Mercer---Explore your own DNA and how DNA is used by scientists today. Offered Monday and Tuesday.

**The Brain and Learning:** Cheryl Huey--- Every person's brain is unique, making them special. Are you logical and mathematical or creative and artistic? Do you prefer to learn through auditory, visual, or hands-on activities? This course is designed to study the science of learning. Campers will explore their inherent strengths with the goal of learning how to overcome their weaknesses. Join us as we explore our brains through fun and engaging activities.

**Exercise Science and Group Fitness:** Harlee Goodfriend--- Girls will learn the difference between cardiovascular, muscle endurance, strength and flexibility training. Opportunity to apply the information by taking a hybrid style, multi-level, group exercise class, combining cardio dance, Zumba, barre and vertical Pilates. Offered Monday and Thursday.

**My Place in Space:** Jennifer Hamilton---How big is the solar system? What do constellations really look like? What is my place in space? We will look at scale models of the solar system, discuss if astrology really works, and understand how the stars are positioned. Offered Tuesday and Thursday.

**Bullet Journal:** Leslie Grossman--- Learn simple techniques that will help you organize all the important things in life. Regardless of who you are, where you are, your age or even your profession... You WILL learn to make the most of your day/week/month using these tips.

**Chemistry Lab at Home:** Jackie Foti-- -Campers will take part in various chemistry experiments at home. Do the experiment and learn why it happens. Offered Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Rube Goldbergs Galore!** Kelly Homa--- Girls will review and utilize the sciences that make a Rube Goldberg machine work. They use a complicated series of actions to simply move an object from one place to another. Combine these concepts to create a machine to complete a simple task using laws of physics and energy for a whole lotta fun!!

**Stop We're Animating:** Ashley Woodard-- -Girls will be introduced to the basic skills required for creating Stop Animation Movies. They will then develop a script, storyboard, characters, and setting for a 30 second public service announcement. Girls will produce their own animations.

**Hurricane Heroes:** Kristin Hanshaw--- Attention heroes, Florida is in need of some super scientists and engineers. Your mission? Design a protective barrier to help fend off storm surges and protect our beautiful home.

**Astrophysics:** Dr. Mel Nynka--- Learn what it takes to build a satellite from the ground up from a working astrophysicist.

**FIELD TRIPS:** With a virtual camp, virtual field trips were in order for 2021. Campers chose from the field trips offered based upon their core course schedule.

1. Environmental Resource Management Palm Beach County--GPS and mapping (unlimited Participants)
2. Adventures at the South Florida Science Center: Brain in Action & Chemistry Concoctions. (25 Participants)
3. Toyota Teen Drive 365 On Demand: The Engineering Behind Safety (25 Participants) Offered twice
4. Loggerhead MarineLife Center (25 Participants)
5. NextEra Energy Solar and Wind Power Field Trip (25 Participants)
6. Brookhaven Lab: Accelerator Science Program explores charged particles and nuclear acceleration (25 Participants)

**PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S PANEL:** Moderated by Pat Ross

Monday through Thursday all campers and staff were invited to attend a virtual professional women's panel moderated by Pat Ross. Women from across the country were able to participate since the sessions were virtual. Campers were encouraged to ask questions. On Friday two guest speakers from Qualcomm spoke to the camp.

## Monday: Women in Science

1. **Dr. Marianne Porter** - marine biologist FAU
2. **Dr. Ilaria Drago** – researcher Max Planck
3. **Dr. Jill Barabas** – Hoof & Horn Veterinary (large animals)
4. **Dr. Melania Nynka**—Research Scientist, MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space and Science
5. **Dr. Andrea Levin**—Pharmacy Professor at Nova Southeastern University

## Tuesday: Women in Technology

1. **Daksha Chokshi** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
2. **Rachel Weeks**—Systems Test Engineer, United Launch Alliance
3. **Savannah Bell**—Sr. Software Engineer, Medtronic (robotic surgery)
4. **Melissa Zhdankin**--Electromagnetic Technologies, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation

## Wednesday: Women in Engineering

1. **Lourdes Avellano** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
2. **Marina Santarpia** – Aerojet Rocketdyne
3. **Christina Yero**-- Civil Engineer, Design and Construction Engineering and Inspection for Roads and Bridges.
4. **Diana Rivera**--Civil Engineer in water and wastewater engineering; specifically water chemistry

## Thursday: Women in Mathematics

1. **Laryssa Ryback**—Market Risk Management
2. **Corrinne Clarke**—statistician Oncology Program Manager
3. **Kate Ballard**-- statistician at NASA Langley
4. **Jamie Wingfield**—Ameriprise Finance Advisor

## Friday: Women from Qualcomm

**Luna Hu and Lily Yip**

**FUNDRAISING:** Under the guidance of Fundraising Coordinator Sally Bailey AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. has raised the funds to provide Tech Trek Camp each year since 2013. Funds have come from branches, individuals (members and non-members), businesses and corporations, community and family foundations. AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. received a \$2000 grant from AAUW in 2021 to assist with technical support for the virtual camp. They also received a grant for \$10,000 from Stetson University which was used to pay for supplies. NextEra Energy provided the field trip and solar energy rover constructed by the campers free of charge for Tech Trek. Qualcomm provided their Thinkabit Lab training and some supplies for the Wearable Tech workshop as well as \$5000 from AAUW FL. The AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. greatly appreciates all support for Tech Trek Camp.

## BRANCH Member Spotlight



Congratulations to member **Leiland Theriot**, who has been appointed Educational Outreach Coordinator of the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. Her new endeavor will focus on expanding and strengthening their school outreach programs, in which Leiland is well versed, which supports the musical arts development of young musicians and music lovers.

Leiland has been serving the Sarasota AAUW branch as our Tech Trek Coordinator. She has been invaluable in this role and we are sure will be a success in her new role.

*Submitted by Carol Bernasconi*



*“We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever.”*

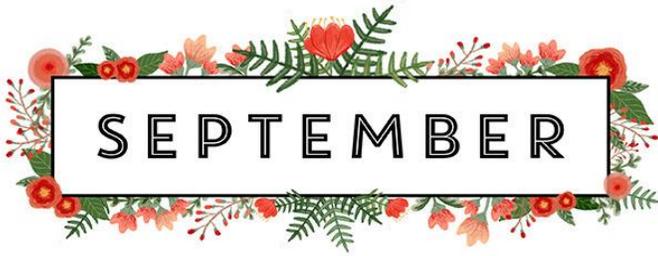


*Susan B. Anthony 1820-1906*

### AAUW

Founded in 1881, the American Association of University Women is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

- **Our mission:** Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy.
- **Our vision:** Equity for all.
- **Our values:** Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional.



## SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, September 7	11:00 a.m.	<b>AAUW Sarasota BOARD MEETING via ZOOM</b>	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	All members welcome.
Wednesday September 15	11:30 a.m.	<b>AAUW Sarasota BRANCH LUNCHEON</b> 	El Patio Latino  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch, <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	<i>Please join us. See reservation sheet on last page of this newsletter and send it in by <b>Sept. 7.</b></i>
Tuesday, September 21  	11:00 a.m.	<b>North County Book Group via ZOOM</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>Klara and the Sun</i>  <b>Author:</b> Kazuo Ishiguro	Sign in on your computer or phone via Zoom. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	Discussion Leader: <i>Lois Fisch</i>  If you are not currently a member of this group and would like to attend, please contact Lois Fisch <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a> All members welcome.
Tuesday September 28  	11:30 a.m.	<b>Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group</b> In person if library permits  <b>Book:</b> <i>The Four Winds</i> <b>Author:</b> Kristin Hannah	An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.  <b>Contact:</b> Sylvia Rosenfeld <a href="mailto:sylros10@yahoo.com">sylros10@yahoo.com</a> or Jocelyn Baskey <a href="mailto:baskey0@gmail.com">baskey0@gmail.com</a>	Discussion Leader: <i>Mimi Welch</i>  All AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.

**AAUW Sarasota Branch**  
**Elected Officers and Directors 2021-2023**

**Officers**

President (2020-2022)	Lois Fisch
Vice President (2020-2022)	Susan Casey
Secretary (2021-2022)	Estephanie Herrera
Treasurer (2021-2023)	Ellen Roche (acting)

**Directors**

Program (2021-2023)	Carol Bernasconi Kathy Schersten
Membership (2020-2022)	Sue McGowan
Public Policy (2020-2022)	Diana Sells
Communications (2020-2022)	Sue Casey
Education Programs (2021-2023)	Jackie Zukley
Nominations (2021-2023)	Diana Sells
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](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)



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Sarasota Branch  
P.O. Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230

**Deadline**

**September 10th** is the deadline for the October 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 LUNCH MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 11:30 a.m.**

**EL PATIO LATINO** 1100 No. Tuttle Ave. (near Ed Smith Stadium)

\$35 (includes tax & \$4 tip)

Reserved for 20 people (can add more)

**MENU**

*Choice of:*

- ❖ **Pollo Milanesa** (Breaded Chicken Breast, served with French fries & salad)
- ❖ **Pescado Sudado** (Steamed Fresh fish fillet with red peppers, onions, tomatoes and served with white rice)
- ❖ **Quinoa Salad** with red onions, red peppers, tomatoes, cranberries & served in a mold with Balsamic Vinaigrette & Passion Fruit (pictured below)

Dessert – Ice Cream

Coffee/Tea

\*\* Glass of Sangria (gratis from owner)

*NOTE: Restaurant is Peruvian. Food is NOT HOT & SPICY.*

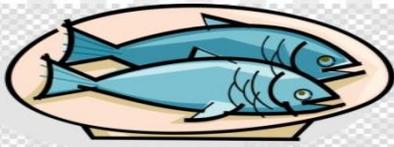
✂-----**DETACH & MAIL BELOW**-----

RESERVATION TO SEND WITH PAYMENT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch Choice: Please Select One for each person attending.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Pollo Milanesa (Chicken)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pescado Sudado (Fish)	<input type="checkbox"/> Quinoa Salad
		

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Per Person

Check Made Payable to: **Sarasota Branch AAUW**

Mail to: Kathy Schersten  
4693 Glebe Farm Rd  
Sarasota, Fl 34235

**Deadline for Reservation: September 7, 2021**