



Synthesis

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, October 20, 2021

AAUW SARASOTA BRANCH MEETING

via ZOOM: 2:00 pm



Kathy Silverberg, our October speaker, is a Southern lady from Louisiana with a Journalism Degree from LSU. Her career includes Reporter AND Editor at daily newspapers in Louisiana and Alabama, plus regional Publisher for the Herald Tribune Media Group of Sarasota.

While in Alabama, she was President of the Alabama Associated Press Managing Editors Association and on the Board of the Alabama Journalism Foundation.

Kathy and her husband live in Port Charlotte where she has served as President of the United Way of that county, as Chairman of the Board of the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Senior Friendship Centers' Board of Governors, and in the first class of the North Port Leadership Institute sponsored by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

In 2009 Mrs. Silverberg retired from the New York Times Company with 35 years of service, and currently writes a weekly Saturday editorial column for our local paper, the Herald-Tribune. Her columns reflect her keen view of the world on topics that range from the lives of her own grandchildren to a peaceful world of equality. "There could be progress if there could be more listening than talking," a recent quote in Kathy's column.

President's Message October 2021



We have a plan!

At our September Board meeting, we identified the following list of strategic initiatives to focus on during the coming year. Some of them are well underway and others are in the very beginning stages of development. In many cases, your creative input is needed and minimal time and effort will be required on your part. Please offer your help and expertise as you are able.

- Increase, retain, and broaden membership (Sue McGowan)
- Make available an information packet for all guests and outside organizations (Estephanie Herrera)
- Visit local colleges to promote AAUW Sarasota (Estephanie Herrera)
- Develop outreach to encourage non-college bound girls to seek training in high paying occupational/trade areas (Lois Fisch and Jackie Zuckley)
- Develop a plan to fund and award one trade school scholarship each year (Carol Bernasconi)
- Continue to support Tech Trek, Write-Read-Write, and Academic Olympics (Carol Bernasconi and Kathy Schersten)
- Visit each elected official at least once a year to share our branch, state, and national goals and priorities (Diana Sells)
- Participate in state Lobby Days (Diana Sells)
- Share the priorities highlighted in the report *Ageing, Women, and Economic Insecurity in Sarasota County, Florida* with state and local groups, agencies, and politicians (Ellen Roche)
- Partner with The Women's Resource Center to promote and provide opportunities for women and girls to achieve lifetime economic security (Sue Casey)

Lois Fisch, President

Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws to be voted on at the October 20 Branch Meeting

Add:

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS Section 2. Electronic Meetings

Any meeting of the membership, Board committees, task forces or other AAUW Sarasota Branch groups may be conducted in whole or in part by electronic means as long as all persons participating whether in person or electronically, may hear each other and communicate in real time. Participation in an electronic meeting constitutes attendance and any official actions shall be recorded in the minutes.

MEMBERSHIP

The new **2021-22 Directory** will be available soon! A big thank you to Sue Casey for taking care of all the updates and revisions. Copies will be available soon.

For any updates and corrections, please contact Sue McGowan in Membership (suemcg4802@gmail.com). We'll get those changes out to everyone as soon as the next issue. Thank you!

Our committee is working on developing outreach to the community. We have advertised in small, local online publications. If any of you have other ideas for ways in which we can promote our wonderful organization, please forward those suggestions to any of the members.

Sue McGowan, *Membership Chair*

Nancy Brennan

Estephanie Herrera

Bev Prechtel

Anne Salamone

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*



Write Read Write is back!

For any new members, Write Read Write asks a class of third grade students to write a letter to one of us describing something about themselves—what they like to do or read, etc. We then do our best to find a book for each that would fit their interest. About a month after the books have been delivered, the students write us letters telling us what each thought about their book.

This year we plan to once again engage with a class of third graders at a local school. Class sizes are approximately 25 students, so that means we need to be able to assure that a number of our members will participate. We also understand that, because of health concerns, some may not feel comfortable physically shopping for a book. To make it easy for you to still participate, if you are willing to make a contribution, we will do the shopping for you. But for now, we just need to know whether you will participate. Please send either **Bev Prechtel** or **Sue McGowan** a quick email message by the first of October. And thanks!

bevprechtel@verizon.net
or suemcg4802@gmail.com



Holiday Season 2020 left us all missing the camaraderie of our Sarasota AAUW Branch members.

Saturday, December 4th, 2021, we will be meeting once again to celebrate, not only the holiday season, but also each other.

Luncheon festivities will take place at TPC Prestancia Country Club, Sarasota, now owned and managed by the Heritage Golf Group Property. The venue is in compliance with all CDC Guidelines and Recommendations.

Reservation information will follow in the November Synthesis. Be on the lookout!

*Submitted by Carol Bernasconi and
Kathy Schersten, Program Co-Chairs*



BRANCH Member Spotlight

Member **Judy Bielman's** son is featured in the 2022 Sarasota Concert Association program. Put it on your calendar! For tickets call (941) 966-6161.

Violinist Benjamin Beilman and pianist Alessio Bax



Friday, February 25 | 7:30 pm | Riverview PAC

Benjamin Beilman displays his astonishing virtuosity along with international competition-winning pianist Alessio Bax in Busoni's Sonata No. 2 in E minor, Op. 36a, and Franck's Violin Sonata in A major.

Submitted by Ellen Roche



BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap is the theme for our 2022 Fundraiser to "bridge the gap" between our treasury and actual funding of our educational initiatives.

Financial support is critical for us to expand the Scholarship Program, via grants for Trade/Technical studies. Tech Trek and similar projects for young

women deserve additional monetary assistance.

As a core point of our mission, we must seek ways to ensure the growth of these programs by working to provide the needed funds.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for the announcement of our February Fundraiser.

Submitted by Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi, Co-Chairs of 2022 Fundraiser

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.

OCTOBER 2021

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



Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, October 5	11:00 a.m.	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, October 19	11:00 a.m.	North County Book Group via ZOOM Book: <i>Being Mortal</i> Author: <i>Atul Gawande</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>Ellen Roche</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 October 20	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	Please join us. <i>Speaker: Journalist Kathy Silverberg</i>
Tuesday October 26	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group In person! Meet at Gulf Gate Library, 2 nd floor Conference Room. Book: <i>To the Lighthouse</i> Author: <i>Virginia Woolf</i>	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>Betty Schattschneider</i> All AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area. Optional lunch together if circumstances allow.

**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

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



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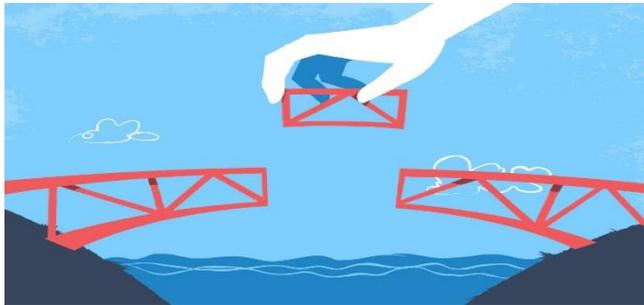
Deadline

October 10th is the deadline for the November 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

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 5, 2022

11:30 a.m.



Bridging the Gap

Supporting AAUW Sarasota
Educational Programs

Fundraiser Luncheon at Marina Jack Restaurant



More info to follow. Watch your [Synthesis](#).