



# Synthesis



## AAUW SARASOTA FALL LUNCHEON

Summer is over and it's time for our AAUW members to get together. Doing so with food is even more fun.

September is designated as HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH. Last year we celebrated with a Peruvian meal. This time we will eat Cuban delicacies.

The restaurant is **EL RINCON CUBANO**, located at 1756 N. Honore Ave., corner of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Honore, site of a huge Goodwill Store for shopping after.

The Registration form for Wednesday, September 21, 11:30 a.m. with Lunch served at 12 noon, is on the last page of this *Synthesis*.

You can pay by credit card or check, but you cannot pay at the restaurant.

Please note: Cuban food is seasoned but is not highly spiced. It is tasty but not fiery.

Get a group together to come to the newly renovated, and very popular, Cuban restaurant in Sarasota. Questions? Call Kathy Schersten (941)302-7848 [kathyschersten@gmail.com](mailto:kathyschersten@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Kathy Schersten, Programming Co-director*

## *President's Message – September 2022*

Welcome back. I hope like me y'all are looking forward to the next year. Our Directors for Programs, Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi have our programs lined up and we've secured a new physical location for our meetings. The Community Foundation building is undergoing renovations, so we had to find a new meeting location. The Women's Resource Center on Tuttle just south of Fruitville is our new meeting location (a map and parking info will be in the next newsletter and on the website). We want to see all of our members in person, but I am hoping that I can also get Zoom working from that location for those of you who cannot make our meetings. Following the rise in COVID cases in our county, masks are encouraged but not mandated. In combination with the room not being conducive to refreshments and thinking of those of us who will be masked if you want to enjoy a beverage during the meeting, please bring it with you.

One of my goals for the 2022-2023 season is to support local projects. Using our enthusiasm and knowledge I am asking everyone to increase their volunteerism. Members have given me some great ideas and as soon as I can line the "duckies all up in a row" I'll share information with y'all.



**Sue Casey, President**

## **AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2023**

### **Renew Now!**

Your membership has been vital in making AAUW the only organization advancing gender equity from all sides for more than a century. Because of you, we're working with law makers to reshape unfair systems; partnering with employers on workplace and economic equity; and investing in women who are creating change from the inside out.

Today, we're asking you to continue the legacy of moving women forward and renew your membership!

You can pay all of your dues--branch, state, and national--at once. Here's how:

Renew by check: Write a check for \$93 payable to AAUW Sarasota and mail to:

**AAUW Sarasota, PO Box 3554, Sarasota FL 34230**

*When you renew your membership, you can take pride in knowing that our work together continues to make a difference. Thank you!*

***Submitted by Ellen Roche, Treasurer and Nancy Brennan, Membership***

## Public Policy

I'm sure we all are *very* aware that in November we will be asked to vote for Governor, for a Senator from Florida, state representatives, and others, depending on where we live. AAUW doesn't recommend candidates or political parties, but you are urged to vote for candidates who support gender equity. The League of Women Voters has a wonderful voting resource tool - <https://www.vote411.org>. Just enter your address to find out what offices you will be voting for, who the candidates are for each office, their biographical information, and if they have answered the questions given to all candidates by the LWV, those answers are also there. Additionally, you can access videos of candidate forums that were sponsored by the LWV. This is a wonderful resource for those offices that you don't hear much about.



*Submitted by Diana Sells,  
Director for Public Policy*



## Reaching Out

If anyone knows of a former member of our AAUW branch, even if briefly, who might be curious about what we are up to these days, the Membership committee would like to reach out to them. As we know, circumstances change, and this may be a good time to give AAUW SRQ another look.

Please forward the name and any contact information to Nancy Brennan at [aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com) or call 941-924-5951.

We promise not to nag.

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan  
Membership Director*



## Education Committee

The Education Committee has five areas we work with: **NCCWSL** (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)--an annual conference for college women; **Tech Trek--** a STEM summer camp experience for rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls; **Academic Olympics** – a competition for local area high school students; **Write-Read-Write** – our reading program for a local third grade classroom; **Scholarships** – branch monies helping women and girls complete college or a non-traditional career path.

**We have openings on this committee!** If you have questions regarding any of these areas or if you would like to join us, please contact Jackie Zukley at (708)275-6455.

*Submitted by Director of Education Programs, Jackie Zukley*



## Write-Read-Write!!!



*Look at all these smiling faces!!!*

Amanda McNary's third grade class at Alta Vista Elementary School.

Last spring, Write-Read-Write chairs Sue McGowan and Bev Prechtel collected student letters from the Alta Vista third graders who shared their interests. Our Branch volunteers purchased books for the students. Sue and Bev gathered the books and letters from our members and took them to the school. Each student received a book or two related to their interests as shared in their letters. If members had purchased additional books, those books will be placed in the classroom library. This summer, our members received personal thank you notes from the students. Best of all, Ms. McNary has indicated that she'd like to continue this program next spring!

*Submitted by Sue McGowan*



## Tech Trek 2022 – Florida Virtual STEM Summer Camp for rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders

The 2022 Tech Trek Camp was held virtually during the second week of June.

Girls who were nominated by one of their math or science teachers completed applications and were interviewed virtually by AAUW members who lived near them. Following this process 60 girls who will enter 8th grade in the fall were invited to attend the camp. The girls selected one core course of 10 or 12 hours and 4 1-1/2 hour workshops to attend during camp. The core courses were: Computer Science Discoveries, Qualcomm Wearable Tech, Climate Change, Structural Engineering and Neuroscience. The workshops were Social Media, Everglades and Climate Change, DNA, My Place in Space, Digital Environment, Chemistry, Fitness, Flip Grid, Bullet Journal, and Rube Goldberg. They ranked their core and workshop choices from one to four.

Here is the list of the Sarasota participants and their Flipgrid two-minute videos describing their experiences!

Addison Hartley, Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences <https://flipgrid.com/87412964>

Kimberly Howe, Sarasota Military <https://flipgrid.com/2aaf76c0>

Simone Velez, Brookside <https://flipgrid.com/41f1f800>

Viktoria Cserni, McIntosh

Sydney Paige Hawkins, Brookside <https://flipgrid.com/63223876>

Reese Gibbons, Brookside

Just another reason to celebrate our outstanding schools and students!



*Submitted by Leiland Theriot, Sarasota Branch Tech Trek Coordinator*

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**American Association of University Women**

*The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

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## National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Three students from New College attended **NCCWSL**, a three-day leadership training, inspiration and networking conference held virtually in May. Our Sarasota branch paid for their registration. The theme for the 2022 conference was: “**New Year. New Learning. New Connections.**” Following is a report from student Isabelle Campesi who details her NCCWSL experience. She references a new workshop on “Design Thinking” that was a special half-day session.

*My Experience with the **NCCWSL** conference this year has been amazing. This was my first **NCCWSL** conference and I was amazed by what I learned throughout the conference. Each of the conference speakers were inspiring and I was grateful that they all took time out of their day to speak about a topic that they were passionate about. Even though the conference was virtual, the support that many of the students attending the conference and the speakers had for each other was something that I have never seen before, even in person. As someone who has many different interests within academics, I have always heard that I can only do one thing, and one thing only. The conference this year has helped me realize that many of my interests can intersect with one another and even lead to a new career.*

*The **Design Thinking Workshop** was eye opening as it taught me the skills necessary to think outside of the box and put my plans in action. Being able to interact with other attendees and see how they plan to put their goals into action helped see other strategies that I could use. One of the panels that stood out to me was the **Women and Confidence Workshop**. As someone who has struggled with their own self-confidence, the most important thing that I have learned from this panel is that gaining confidence can be done through collaboration and having close connections. Another panel that stood out to me was **Entrepreneurship, Social Media Influencers, and Big Business Panel**. Growing up surrounded by social media, this panel made me think about all of the different ways social media can be used to educate people on a topic that I am passionate about and create a positive impact in my community. The final panel that really stood out to me was the **Finding the Right Career for You Panel**. This panel combined so many things that I learned from previous panels I attended, including using confidence when applying for a job. From what I learned from this panel, reflection was one of the biggest themes, and reflecting from what you want out of a career, not only helps identify what you are passionate about, but also what you want to see change.*

*Overall, my experience at the **NCCWSL** conference this year was great. I hope more people are able to receive the same opportunity as me to attend this conference and be able to learn and connect with other people who are passionate about their own interests.*

*Submitted by Joan Nasser, NCCWSL Coordinator*



## In Memorium: Jean Edmundson

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Jean Edmundson. Jean was a long-time member of our branch and an avid participant in the branch's Film Group and Book Group. After losing her eyesight, she continued to participate in the book group, listening to the selections with Books on Tape. In recent years she was a resident of Glenridge where she died at the age of 95. She will be missed.

It is our branch tradition to make a donation to our scholarship fund in Jean's name.

Our condolences to her family.

Cards may be sent to Jeff Edmundson, 2 South Canby St., Portland, OR 97219.



## SEPTEMBER 2022

To place items in the Calendar, contact Sue Casey by the 10th of September for the October 2022 newsletter: [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com)

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday, September 6	10:30 a.m.	<b>AAUW Sarasota BOARD MEETING</b>	Meet at Women's Resource Center. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting.  <b>Contact:</b> Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	All members welcome.
Tuesday, September 20	12:00 noon	<b>North County Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War</i>  <b>Author:</b> Catherine Grace Katz	<u>Meet at 12 noon (change of time for this meeting only)</u>  Location: Betty Johnson North Sarasota Library, Meeting Room II  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	Discussion Leader: <i>Kathy Oarr</i>  All members welcome. Lunch after optional.  Contact Lois Fisch if you want to be on the mailing list: <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>
Wednesday, September 21	11:30 a.m.	<b>AAUW Sarasota Fall Luncheon</b>	<b><i>El Rincon Cubano</i></b>  Contact: Kathy Schersten at <a href="mailto:kathyschersten@gmail.com">kathyschersten@gmail.com</a>	<b>Join us!</b> <b>Deadline for reservations: September 14</b>  <b>See last page for details and reservation form.</b>

## *From our May 2022 Spring luncheon at the Sarasota Art Museum*



*Thank you for all your hard work to our 2020-2022 President Lois Fisch.*

*Flowers presented by Carol Bernasconi, Programming Co-Chair.*



*Enjoying Lunch, Left to right: Audrey Laue, Virginia Waring, Diana Sells, Bev Prechtel, Nancy Brennan*



*Lois Fisch accepting a glass plaque.*



**AAUW Sarasota Branch  
Elected Officers and Directors 2022-2024**

**Officers**

President (2022-2024)	Susan Casey
Vice President (2022-2024)	Jackie Zukley
Secretary (2021-2023)	Estephanie Herrera
Treasurer (2021-2023)	Ellen Roche

**Directors**

Program (2021-2023)	Carol Bernasconi Kathy Schersten
Membership (2022-2024)	Nancy Brennan
Public Policy (2022-2024)	Diana Sells
Communications (2022-2024)	Sue McGowan
Education Programs (2021-2023)	Jackie Zukley
Nominations (2021-2023)	Diana Sells
Past President, (ex-officio, non-voting)	Lois Fisch
Parliamentarian <b>Synthesis</b> Editor	(Vacant) 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 SARASOTA FALL LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

## El Rincon Cubano

1756 N Honore Ave.  
Sarasota, FL 34235

11:30 WELCOME

12:00 LUNCHEON served

### MENU CHOICES

- **Roast Pork** -- served with black beans, yellow rice & plantain/yucca.
- **Arroz Con Pollo** -- Baked Chicken, yellow rice, black beans & plantain/yucca.

*(The above two choices come with 2 chicken & 2 beef croquettes & 1 tamale)*

- **Fish** -- served with white rice, onions & sweet peppers, black beans & plantain/yucca. *(This choice comes with 2 spinach empanadas)*

Dessert -- Flan

Coffee/Tea

Complimentary glass of wine for guest.

Full Cash Bar Available.

✂-----DETACH & MAIL BELOW-----✂

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

	Roast Pork	Please note any food allergy or dietary restriction:
	Baked Chicken	
	Fish	

### \$30 Per Person

**Charge** amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Discover

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### OR

**Check** amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable to **Sarasota Branch AAUW**

**Please send payment with reservation. DEADLINE: September 14, 2022**

Send to: Kathy Schersten, 4693 Glebe Farm Rd., Sarasota, FL 34235

Information: call 941-302-7848 or [kathyschersten@gmail.com](mailto:kathyschersten@gmail.com)