



# Synthesis

**OCTOBER 19 - 2 pm**

## *AAUW Branch General Meeting*

**Location: WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER  
340 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota FL 34237**

See next page for directions and parking information.

*Cold beverages and treats available with special thanks to Martha Lindberg and Kathy Oarr.*

Our first Speaker for AAUW Sarasota this year in October is AMBER LAMERSON, Donor Experience Officer for The Bay Park Conservancy, which has been developing 53 acres of land along Sarasota Bay into a public park.

Her previous work with philanthropy was with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Amber has also worked with the New College Foundation and Forty Carrots.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Ms. Lamerson will answer your questions about the plans for a significant part of our city.



*Submitted by Kathy Schersten, Programming Co-director*

### **October Meeting Location and Parking**

Please note that we will be meeting for the next few months at the Women's Resource Center, 340 South Tuttle Ave., Sarasota FL 34237.

Directions: The WRC is on the west side of Tuttle, south of Fruitville Road and north of Bahia Vista.

Parking: Some parking is available in the lot located behind their building. If the parking lot is full, cross the side street and park in the lot for NAMI that is located just north of the Women's Resource Center.



### **President's Message – October 2022**

*As I sit and contemplate what I want to share with our members the thought that keeps on the top of the list is our need for more volunteers. Y'all are probably thinking "volunteers" – I don't want to be obligated to do something that takes a lot of time or lasts for the next year. Our need for volunteers certainly does have opportunities for those who would be willing to give a couple of hours a month for the 2022-2023 season, BUT... we have need for members who can give a couple of hours occasionally – once, maybe twice. Examples – reviewing applications for our scholarships; going for coffee with prospective members and sharing your reason for membership in AAUW; taking our brochures and putting them in places you frequent: the beauty salon, perhaps your place of worship; using information sheets and creating a short "bio" of members for inclusion in our monthly newsletter; opportunities are only limited by your imagination--bet you could think of some way you could help promote us.*

*If you would be willing to be contacted by one of our Board of Directors, please email us at [sarasota.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:sarasota.aauw@gmail.com) and give us your contact info. We promise you won't get any emails threatening you with the fleas of a thousand camels if you decide when we call where we need volunteers isn't of interest. Email us today please.*



***Sue Casey, President***

## ***SPECIAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 6 via ZOOM***

On October 6 we are having a special meeting via Zoom at 10:00 am. The special meeting is to get membership approval to spend up to \$1200 to develop a new website. The website that we currently have is from National and it does not have the functionality that we need currently or in the future. We cannot put anything on the website that requires “interaction” like taking reservations or credit cards for events. Being able to have the ability for “interaction” allows us much more flexibility for our events. The new website will be much easier to access and find information about our branch – great for potential new members. Your Board of Directors is recommending that the membership approve the expenditure.

*Submitted by Sue Casey, President*



Plans are underway for AAUW Florida’s **Tech Trek** in-person STEM camps hosted at Stetson University and Florida Atlantic University. Each campus will welcome 48 campers. Dates will be announced when they are finalized. If you would like to know more about Tech Trek (for rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls) and a video of past camps, go to [www.techtrek-fl.aauw.net](http://www.techtrek-fl.aauw.net).

*Submitted by Jackie Zukley, Director of Education Programs*

## **Academic Olympics**



The Academic Olympic season will begin in **November** so that the All-Star Team has more time to practice before the state competition in the spring. There will be *matches on November 8 and 15.*

Due to exams and winter break, there will be nothing in December. *Matches will resume on January 10 and 17, with the finals on January 24, 2023.*

**You are invited to come and watch these bright students compete.** All the matches will be in the senior quad at Suncoast Polytech, 4650 S. Beneva Rd, near the corner with Proctor Rd.

*Submitted by Eloise Malinsky, Academic Olympics Contact*

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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)

From Nisreen Kalai, New College student

Attendee: NCCWSL Convention May 2022 (Virtual)

“Attending the NCCWSL was an amazing experience! I got to meet people across the country and collaborate in different workshops which I enjoyed because I had different perspectives from everywhere. My favorite workshop was one where we discussed feeling blocked creatively and we also touched on how that effects leadership. I found it interesting how different people viewed leadership in their own contexts of their jobs and communities. The most helpful part of this workshop was bouncing idea back and forth with the other participants on what to do in a college club context.

Personally, I was feeling a bit stagnant in some of my positions of leadership on campus but talking it out with other likeminded people proved very helpful. I also really loved listening to Nikole Hannah Jones, the founder of the 1619 project. I had known about her project before, so I loved hearing talk about being a journalist and the intersections of her identities as a black woman.

Overall, I think I benefited tremendously from this conference, and I would love to go again; it would especially be great if it were hosted in person!”

*Submitted by Joan Nasser, NCCWSL Coordinator*



Carol Bernasconi and Jackie Zukley will co-chair **Bridging the Gap**, our 2023 Fundraiser. It will be held at Marina Jack’s Restaurant again this next year.

Save the first Saturday in February – that’s **February 4, 2023** – for this worthy cause.

*Submitted by Jackie Zukley*

# From Our President Sue Casey: A New Initiative for the **Synthesis**

## “Getting to Know Me”

What do you know about me?

I sat next to a member of long-standing who expressed surprise that I was the new President. I wasn't surprised since we haven't met in person in over two years – it's VERY hard to get to know one another by looking at a Zoom screen. With that thought, we're going to start a “Getting to Know Me” each month in our newsletter.

For this to happen each of us are asked to complete the two-page information sheet that follows this message. Please print it out, fill it out, and bring it to the September luncheon or the October business meeting.

We need members who will volunteer to read the info sheet, get a picture of the person (we'll ask them to submit a head shot or we can take one at the luncheon/meeting) and then tabulate what the member has written into a paragraph or two, add the picture and get the information to Virginia Waring, our newsletter editor, before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. One or two members will be featured each month in the **Synthesis** in the “Getting to Know Me” section.

All **you** have to do is complete the information form, submit a picture (or tell us if we need to snap one).

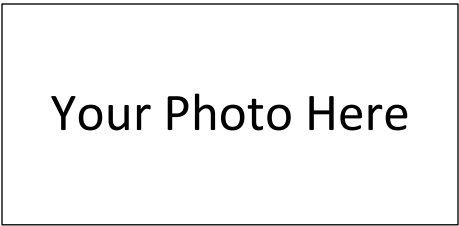
We do need volunteers to gather the information and submit it for publication. Please contact Sue Casey at [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking on this project.

Soon we'll be able to put names and faces together when we see them at meetings/events.

What are you waiting for?

*Submitted by Sue Casey, President*

*“Getting to Know Me”*



**Please PRINT.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and Day only)

Where are you from originally? Where else have you lived and what is your favorite spot?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Education – Please list your schools and your degrees.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you were employed – what was your profession? Yes, tell us about all of them (even the ones you try and forget).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been an AAUW member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you or have you been an AAUW member in another branch? Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to any other organizations? Yes, tell us which ones and if you've held a position in the organization.

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What are your interests/hobbies – how do you spend time away from AAUW activities?

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Tell us about your family – significant other, children, grandchildren – anyone who is special to you.

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Do you have a favorite restaurant? If yes, which one(s)?

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What didn't we ask that you're willing to share (the secret most folks don't know about you until they get to know you really well)

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### **PLAY READING INTEREST GROUP**

Watch this space! Our schedule is currently under development for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Please contact Nancy Brennan at 941-924-5951 or [aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com) with any questions about the play reading interest group.

And check your issues of the **Synthesis**.

We anticipate a first reading in November; stay tuned!

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan*



## **"Meet and Eat"**

No matter what you call it – “Sunday Supper”, “din-din”, “together banquet” – all apply. We meet at various restaurants in Sarasota and enjoy Sunday dinner at 5:00 pm with other AAUW members. We’ve enjoyed some of Sarasota’s best cuisine, lots of great company and conversation that could rival any Sunday family dinner. This is your invitation to join us any Sunday, make new friends and let someone else do the cooking.

Email [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) to get information and/or offer suggestions for restaurants that we should try.

*Submitted by Sue Casey*



## “Benderson Babes”



Every Wednesday at 11:30 am - the absolute best remedy for the mid-week blahs. It’s getting a vitamin shot from like-minded women – just what the doctor ordered.

We bring our folding chairs and meet under the shade of the trees at Benderson Park, enjoying gentle breezes. We spend about an hour sharing everything from current topics to “problem solving” (amazing what a group of females can do together) the conversation is as varied as the ladies who join us. After we’ve chatted, we head off for lunch– where we go for lunch varies each week and is decided by majority vote– come join us and give us your opinion of where we should dine.

For details on where we meet, send an email to [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) or call (941)735-8324. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

*Submitted by Sue Casey*






Our holiday luncheon and festivities will be taking place on **Saturday, December 3rd, 2022**. This year we will be gathering at the beautiful Meadows Country Club, 3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota.

Delicious eats and beverages, holiday entertainment, Secret Santa visits, and fabulous conversation is on the menu for a promised day of festive fun.

Make sure to mark your calendars to join your Branch sisters, friends, and guests on December 3rd. You will find all reservation information in the November **Synthesis**.

*Submitted by: Carol Bernasconi and Kathy Schersten, Co-Directors of Programming*

**OCTOBER 2022**  To place items in the Calendar, contact Sue Casey [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) or Virginia Waring at [vwaring@gmail.com](mailto:vwaring@gmail.com) by the 10th of October for the November 2022 newsletter.

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
On-going Sundays	5:00 p.m.	<b>Meet &amp; Eat</b>	Various local restaurants. Contact: Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	Meet at a Sarasota restaurant and enjoy an AAUW “Blue Bloods” family dinner.
On-going Wednesdays	11:30 a.m.	<b>Benderson Babes</b>	Meet at <b>Benderson Park</b> . Contact: Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	Enjoy some nature and camaraderie, then do lunch if you wish.
Third Friday of the month	1:30 p.m. to 3:30	<b>Social Bridge</b>	For location and more info contact Maureen Firth at <a href="mailto:firthent@yahoo.com">firthent@yahoo.com</a>	All skill levels welcome.
Tuesday, October 4	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.
Thursday, October 6	10:00 a.m.	<b>Special Meeting via Zoom</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	Discuss possible new website expenditure.
Tuesday, October 18 	11:00 a.m.	<b>North County Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>Life After Life, A Novel</i>  <b>Author:</b> Kate Atkinson	Location: Betty Johnson North Sarasota Library, Edward James Meeting Room  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	Discussion Leader: <i>Lois Fisch</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, October 19	2:00 p.m.	<b>AAUW Sarasota Branch General Meeting</b>	<b>Note location:</b> <b>Women’s Resource Center, 340 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota</b>  <b>Contact:</b> Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	<b>Join us for our in-person meeting!</b>  Speaker: Amber Lamerson, The Bay Park Conservancy
Tuesday, October 25 	11:30 a.m.	<b>Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>Silver Star</i>  <b>Author:</b> Jeannette Wall	<b>Contact:</b> Sylvia Rosenfeld <a href="mailto:sylros10@yahoo.com">sylros10@yahoo.com</a> (941)924-8603 or Jocelyn Baskey at <a href="mailto:Jocelyn_baskey@yahoo.com">Jocelyn_baskey@yahoo.com</a> , co.uk or (941) 559-6919	<b>Discussion Leader:</b> <i>Janet Mahler</i>  All AAUW members welcome to join the group regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.  Optional lunch together at a nearby restaurant.

**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



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)

**Directors**

Program (2021-2023)	Carol Bernasconi Kathy Schersten
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Membership (2022-2024)	Nancy Brennan
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Public Policy (2022-2024)	Diana Sells
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Communications (2022-2024)	Sue McGowan
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Education Programs (2021-2023)	Jackie Zukley
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Nominations (2021-2023)	Diana Sells
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Past President, (ex-officio, non-voting)	Lois Fisch
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Parliamentarian <b>Synthesis</b> Editor	(Vacant) Virginia Waring
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Sarasota Branch  
P.O. Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230

**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](mailto:virginia.waring@gmail.com)