



Synthesis

AAUW Branch General Meeting

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

See next page for directions and parking information.



SPECIAL and UNIQUE SPEAKER

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 2:00 p.m.

Mark this date and time for the November General Meeting of AAUW.

A Peer Specialist from NAMI will present her personal story, relating experiences that led her to seek assistance at the NAMI offices. The mission of the National Alliance on Mental Illness **NAMI** (Sarasota and Manatee Counties) is to improve the lives of individuals, families, and caregivers on their journey to mental wellness.

This non-profit provides family grief counseling, mental health clinics for all ages. They work with the local School Board to identify resources specific to students and parents.

Sonya Johnson, our speaker, will share how she recovered from addiction, fought for her children, and successfully navigated through her problems with the immense support of NAMI.

Submitted by Kathy Schersten, Program Director Co-Chair



November 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 – November 2022

I hope that all of us not just survived Hurricane Ian but didn’t suffer any damages to our property or person. I’ve lived in Florida for the better part of 30 years and have seen many major storms descend on Florida – Ian scared me.

I would like to thank those members who attended our Zoom special meeting on October 6. I’m pleased to announce that we will be getting a new website. There will be many steps between now and when we’ll be able to see it, but it will make life much easier for our volunteers and members. One of the biggest upgrades we’ll see is the ability to pay for events/donations online via credit card.

Last month I asked the membership to volunteer time to one of our supported activities/events; one of our goals for the 2022-2023 year is to come out from hiding for our health and give back to our community. One of the first “projects” is the form that can be found in the [Synthesis](#) (pages 11 and 12) asking y’all to tell us more about you and include a headshot photo. For those of you who bring your completed form to the meeting, we’ll take your picture. I promise you won’t see it on a “wanted poster” but published in an upcoming newsletter so we can get to know one another better. Please complete the form and bring it to our meeting.

If you have an idea of how we can give back by mentoring or reading to elementary students... I’m sure you can think of ways that haven’t crossed my mind. Please email me aauwflasey@gmail.com and tell me – let’s make our branch “newsworthy.”



Sue Casey, President

Public Policy



AAUW doesn't endorse any candidates or parties but supports or opposes policies. The following pages contain information that may be useful when deciding how to vote in November.

The first two documents are head-to-head comparisons of the public stances of the major candidates for Florida Governor (Page 4) and Senator (Page 5) on policies supported by AAUW-FL.

Information on the three proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot can be located on Pages 6 and 7.

Another good source of information is vote411.org, free--from the League of Women Voters. Just type in your address and you will find a wealth of information on all the races on the ballot in your area.

Submitted by Diana Sells, Director of Public Policy

Tues., Nov. 8: Election Day, polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Voted vote-by-mail ballots must be received in the Board of Elections office by 7 p.m.



AAUW FL 2022 Head-to-Head Voter Guide: Candidates for Florida Governor

Charlie Crist [D] [Challenger]	Where the candidates stand on:	Ron DeSantis [R] [Incumbent]
Economic Security		
Support	Closing loopholes and expanding protections in existing employment discrimination laws aimed at closing the gender pay gap	Unknown
Support	Requiring employers to provide earned, paid sick days to all employees	Unknown
Education		
Support	Expanding rights and protections for students, including LGBTQ and gender-nonconforming students, who face bullying and harassment	Oppose
Support	Prohibiting the use of taxpayer dollars to fund private or religious schools through voucher programs or education savings accounts	Oppose
Civil Rights		
Support	Protecting access to abortion care, family planning programs, and medical providers	Oppose
Support	Restoring or expanding citizens' right to vote	Oppose

This guide is a public service and is not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. Candidates' positions were determined using their legislative and/or executive record, public statements, and campaign position papers, as well as published information from credible sources.

Support: Candidate has explicitly stated their support for this policy position on the record with no ambiguity, through statements, co-sponsorship, and/or votes.

Oppose: Candidate has explicitly stated their opposition to this policy position on the record with no ambiguity, through statements and/or votes.

Unknown: The candidate has not explicitly stated their support or opposition to this policy position on the record.

Mixed: The candidate has made conflicting statements and/or has taken conflicting votes on this policy position.

AAUW-FL 2022 Head-to-Head Voter Guide: Candidates for Florida Senator

Val Demings [D] [Challenger]	Where the candidates stand on:	Marco Rubio [D/R] [Incumbent]
Economic Security		
Support	Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen existing employment discrimination laws aimed at closing the gender pay gap	Oppose
Support	Passing the FAMILY Act to create a national paid family and medical leave insurance program	Mixed
Education		
Support	Defending and strengthening Title IX protections	Oppose
Support	Increasing funding for college affordability programs like Pell Grants and student loan cancellation programs	Oppose
Support	Investing in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education for women and girls	Unknown
Civil Rights		
Support	Ensuring access to reproductive healthcare—including contraception and abortion	Oppose
Support	Supporting the John R. Lewis: Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and expand voting access	Oppose

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**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED
STATE OF FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
Compiled by: AAUW Florida Public Policy Committee

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT	DESCRIPTION	IF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT FAILS...	WHO OPPOSES AND WHY (if expressed)?	WHO SUPPORTS AND WHY (if expressed)?
<p><u>1 Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes</u></p> <p>Sponsor: Florida Legislature</p>	<p>Authorizes the state legislature to pass laws prohibiting flood resistance improvements made to a home from being taken into consideration when determining a property's assessed value for ad valorem property tax purposes.</p> <p>Major changes to a home can affect the assessed value of property, causing it to go up or down. This amendment creates an exemption for changes that protect property from flood damage projects such as; elevating structures, landscaping for storm water runoff, waterproofing basements, and elevating furnaces, heaters and electrical panels, etc.</p>	<p>The status quo, will be maintained, and homeowners' flood resistance improvements might result in higher property assessments and higher property taxes.</p>	<p>League of Women Voters Florida (LWVFL) - "No position taken; League's position that "no tax sources or revenue should be specified, limited, exempted, or prohibited in the Constitution", however, the proposal has merit because it promotes sustainability"</p>	<p>Florida Legislature "It would incentivize property owners to reduce the damage storms inflict on their properties, and could reduce property insurance claims when the state property insurance market is in a <u>crisis</u>, and reduce the risks of expensive taxpayer bailouts."</p> <p>Florida TaxWatch - A Win Win for taxpayers.</p>
<p><u>2 Abolish the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)</u></p> <p>Sponsor: Florida Legislature</p>	<p>The measure would repeal Section 2 of <u>Article XI</u> and amend Section 5 of <u>Article II</u> and 5 of <u>Article XI</u> of the <u>Florida Constitution</u> and abolish the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). CRC is comprised of 37 appointed members, who meet at 20-year intervals to examine amendment proposals that can be submitted by voters or lawmakers for placement on the ballot.</p> <p>This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution."</p>	<p>The Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) would Not be abolished.</p>	<p>LWVFL - "The League opposes any limits on citizens' abilities to be architects of their own Florida Constitution."</p> <p>The Florida Sun-Sentinel - work to improve, not abolish</p>	<p>Florida Legislature</p> <p>Florida TaxWatch - "Abolishing the CRC still leaves Florida taxpayers four ways to place constitutional amendments on the ballot, all of which require approval of Florida voters."</p>

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<p><u>3 Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Service Workforce</u></p> <p>Sponsor: Florida Legislature - HJR1</p>	<p>Amend <u>Section 6</u> of <u>Article VII</u> to authorize the Florida State Legislature to provide an additional homestead property tax exemption of \$50,000 on the assessed value between \$100,000 and \$150,000 exempting that amount from all taxes other than school district taxes, for property owned by certain public service workers.</p> <p>Public service workers that qualify would include K-12 classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, paramedics, active national Guard, and state child welfare service employees.</p> <p>The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated the amendment would reduce local property tax revenue (except school district tax revenue) by \$85.9 million beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.</p> <p>The state legislature did not specify in the measure how one would prove they are eligible for the tax exemption.</p>	<p>Homestead exemption for certain public service occupations up to \$50,000 would not be created.</p> <p>Have no effect on property tax revenue collected by local governments.</p> <p>Render moot the bill that would have created the new homestead exemption if the amendment had passed.</p>	<p>LWVFL - "The proposal may have merit, but the League has a longstanding position that no tax sources or revenue should be specified, limited, exempted, or prohibited in the Constitution".</p> <p>Florida Association of Counties - "It could shift more of the tax burden to businesses and renters who would include members of the targeted population."</p>	<p>Florida Legislature (This amendment originated based on a join resolution from the Florida House and Senate).</p> <p>Florida TaxWatch - "Believes the benefits of Amendment 3 far outweigh the negative consequences of a tax shift."</p>

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SEASON



On **Saturday, December 3rd, 2022**, the Sarasota AAUW will be hosting our **Holiday Luncheon** at the **Meadows Country Club**.

Highlights will include:

A musical program led by the very accomplished Lee Dougherty Ross, Artistic Director of Artist Series Concerts, accompanied by Michelle Giglio, Musical Vocalist. Both ladies are most excited to be joining us for an encore of a previous Holiday visit.



Lee Dougherty Ross



Michelle Giglio

A Secret Santa Holiday Gift Exchange

We are again doing an encore of last season's Secret Santa. Purchase a gift that you would love to receive, wrap it up and, upon arrival, pick a random name tag to affix to your gift. \$15.00 value, ladies. Please know that if you are NOT able to participate in this exchange, just give Carol a call or email her.

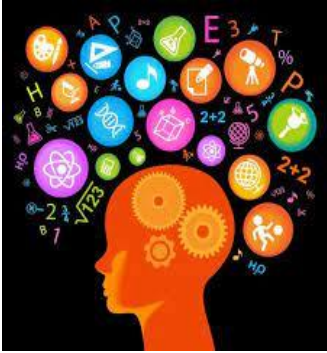
Season Of Sharing Charitable Donations will be collected. Cash or check, made out to Season of Sharing, will be presented to the Community Foundation from our Sarasota AAUW Branch.

These highlights, as well as good eats and great conversation, promise to offer a festive luncheon. Look forward to seeing our Branch sisters and any guests who may join us. The more the merrier!!

You will find the details and reservation form on the last page of this newsletter.

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

Academic Olympics



Due to the fact that schools are not in session now due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian, Academic Olympics will not begin in November as originally planned. Instead it will begin in January as it has in past years. I will supply dates as soon as they are finalized.

Submitted by Eloise Malinsky, Academic Olympics Contact

Please note:

Bridging the Gap, our annual Fundraiser, is postponed until 2024.

Submitted by Carol Bernasconi and Jackie Zukley, Fundraiser Co-Chairs



PLAY READING INTEREST GROUP

Our first play reading of the year will be *Crimes of the Heart*. Date: Wednesday, November 2. Time: 2:00 p.m. Location TBA: Please call Nancy Brennan at 941-924-5951 or aausrqbrennan@gmail.com for details or if you have any questions about the Play Reading Interest Group.

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 to get information and/or offer suggestions for restaurants that we should try.

Submitted by Sue Casey

Plans for October/November

Sunday, October 23 – 5:00 pm – change of pace and enjoy some Italian – **Carrabba’s** – North Sarasota – 5425 University Parkway, 841-355-4116. Click on the link to view their menu [M2-3W 0922 FB \(flippingbook.com\)](#)

Sunday, October 30 – 5:00 pm – **Pier 22** – I’ll try and get us reservations on their patio right on the river – the views are spectacular. [1200 1st Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205 - \(941\) 748-8087](#) – you’ll be glad you made the drive – the food and choice of wine are great – they have valet parking (I would recommend – carpooling). This is one you don’t want to

miss. Click on the link to view their menu [Menu - PIER 22](#)

Sunday, November 6 – 5:00 p.m. Today is the day we fall forward – keep that in mind when you’re planning on joining us. **Libby’s Hillview – request for a “repeat performance” - 1917 S Osprey Ave - [\(941\) 487-7300](tel:(941)487-7300) Click on the link to view their menu [Menu - Sarasota - Libby's - NEIGHBORHOOD BRASSERIE \(libbysneighborhoodbrasserie.com\)](#)**



"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 or call (941)735-8324. Hope to see you next Wednesday.

Submitted by Sue Casey

“Getting to Know Me”



Please PRINT.

Please complete this form and bring it to a meeting.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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).

Photos from our well-attended September Luncheon at Rincon Cubano



Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi, Programming Co-Directors Welcome All!



We were all so happy to see each other in person!




Have another Empanada!!



NOVEMBER 2022

To place items in the Calendar, contact Sue Casey aauwflcasey@gmail.com or Virginia Waring at vwaring@gmail.com by the 10th of November for the December 2022 newsletter.

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
On-going Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Meet & Eat	Various local restaurants. Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	Meet at a Sarasota restaurant and enjoy an AAUW “Blue Bloods” family dinner.
On-going Wednesdays	11:30 a.m.	Benderson Babes	Meet at Benderson Park . Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	Enjoy some nature and camaraderie, then do lunch if you wish.
Third Friday of the month	1:30 p.m. to 3:30	Social Bridge	For location and more info contact Maureen Firth at firthent@yahoo.com	All skill levels welcome.
Tuesday, November 1	10:30 a.m.	AAUW Sarasota BOARD MEETING	Meet at Women’s Resource Center. An invitation will be sent a day or two before the meeting. Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	All members welcome.
Wednesday, November 2 	2:00 p.m.	Play reading Group <i>Crimes of the Heart</i>	Location TBD Call Nancy Brennan at (941) 924-5951 or aauwrsqbrennan@gmail.com	All welcome. Please join us for lots of smiles.

Calendar continued on next page

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Sunday, November 6	5:00 p.m.	Meet & Eat	Location: Libby's Hillview Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	Come and share a meal.
Tuesday, November 15	11:00 a.m.	North County Book Group Book: <i>The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel</i> Author: Kati Marton	Location: Fruitville Library Conference Room Contact: Lois Fisch lfisch@utica.edu	Discussion Leader: <i>Gen Discount</i> All members welcome. Lunch after optional. Contact Lois Fisch if you want to be on the mailing list: lfisch@utica.edu
Wednesday, November 16	2:00 p.m.	AAUW Sarasota Branch General Meeting	Note location: Women's Resource Center 340 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	Join us for our in-person meeting! Speaker: <i>Sonya Johnson, NAMI</i>
Tuesday, November 22	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group Book: <i>Belonging</i> Author: Nora Krug	Contact: Sylvia Rosenfeld sylros10@yahoo.com (941)924-8603 or Jocelyn Baskey at Jocelyn_baskey@yahoo.com , co.uk or (419)559-6319	Discussion Leader: <i>Kathy Schoenhals</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

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

Deadline

November 10th is the deadline for the December 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

SARASOTA AAUW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

WHERE: The Meadows Country Club
 3101 Longmeadow
 Sarasota, Fl. 34235
 (941) 371- 6000

WHEN: Saturday, December 3, 2022
TIME: Guest Arrival: 11:15 a.m.
 Welcome: 12:00
 Luncheon: 12:15 p.m.

** Ramp & Elevator Availability, if Needed



MENU

Meal Selections served with House Garden Salad and Rolls & Butter.
 Hot coffee or tea; Iced tea Station Cash Bar Available

Entree Choices:

- Tropical Grilled **Chicken** Breast Served over Coconut Almond Rice with Fresh Mango Relish & Baby Carrots
- Pan Roasted **Salmon**, Herb Risotto, Roasted Red Pepper Cream Sauce, served with Haricot Vert
- Three Cheese **Ravioli** with Roasted Seasonal Vegetables, Sage and Seasonal Mushrooms in a Brown Butter Sauce

Dessert: Caramel Crumble Apple Pie

✂-----**DETACH & MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM** -----✂-----✂

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

Lunch Choice: Please select one of the following entrees. Use separate reservation for each person.

	Chicken	Please note any food allergy or dietary restriction:
	Salmon	
	Ravioli	

Enclosed: \$_____ \$36 Per Person **Checks and Credit Card payments are acceptable.**

Check payment: Send completed reservation form(s) and check to: [Carol Bernasconi, 5645 Cape Leyte Drive, Sarasota FL 34232.](#)

Make check payable to: **Sarasota Branch AAUW.**

Credit card payment: Send completed reservation form(s) to Carol Bernasconi at above address. Call Kathy Schersten at (941) 302-7848 with your credit card information.

Questions? Call Carol at (Home) 941-346-9915 OR (Cell) 201-965-8411

Deadline for Receiving Reservation: Monday, November 28, 2022