



# Synthesis

## LET'S CELEBRATE THE SEASON

On **Saturday, December 3rd, 2022**, the Sarasota AAUW will be hosting our **Holiday Luncheon** at the **Meadows Country Club**, arrival time at **11:15 a.m.** Highlights are listed below. All welcome; please join us!

Complete details and reservation form are on the last page of this newsletter. Deadline is **Monday, November 28.**

**A musical program** led by the very accomplished Lee Dougherty Ross, Artistic Director of Artist Series Concerts, accompanied by Michelle Giglio, Musical Vocalist. See the next page for photo and details of Michelle's career.



Lee Dougherty Ross



### **A Secret Santa Holiday Gift Exchange**

We are again doing an encore of last season's Secret Santa. Purchase a gift (\$15.00 value) that you would love to receive, wrap it up and, upon arrival, pick a random name tag to affix to your gift. Please know that if you are NOT able to participate in this exchange, just give Carol a call (941) 346-9915 or email her at [mrsclbread@aol.com](mailto:mrsclbread@aol.com)

**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.



## Michelle Giglio

After many concerts, tours, and recordings in France and throughout Europe, Michelle has returned to her native United States. In 2018, Ms. Giglio performed live music with the nationally known Sarasota Ballet at the Joyce Theatre in New York City as well as at the Sarasota Opera House. The New York Times stated that Ms. Giglio “sang with beauty and eloquence.” In 2013, she was named a semi-finalist in the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Young Artists Competition in New York City. Michelle has sung numerous local concerts with the Sarasota Orchestra, GloriaMusicae, now known as “Choral Artists of Sarasota”, Key Chorale, Artist Series of Sarasota, Anna Maria Orchestra & Chorus as well as the Sarasota Ballet. In November 2019 Michelle performed as part of the “Chopin Project” with the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. In France Ms. Giglio performed with both the Orchestre National de France and the Orchestre Philharmonique de France, in addition to frequent live appearances on France Musique (French national classical music station). Recordings include: *Iphigénie en Tauride* by Gluck with Les Musiciens du Louvre/Orchestre Chambre de Grenoble on the Deutsche Grammophon label, (Archiv) Marc Minkowski, Conductor and *Chichester Psalms* on the Erato label with the Orchestre Philharmonique de France. Ms. Giglio also performed on Celine Dion’s album *S’il suffisait d’aimer*, Sony records as well as in William Klein’s film *Messiah*.

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

## **FEBRUARY 2023 BRANCH MEETING UPDATE**

We are most pleased to announce that our February branch meeting guest speaker will be Ms. Renee James Gilmore, an esteemed Sarasota journalist and public affairs leader. You may know Ms. Gilmore from her guest-hosting visits on the ABC7 *Suncoast View* morning show. But it is her own ABC7 show, *Empowering Voices*, that truly showcases her talents every Saturday morning. She not only serves as the executive producer but also brings guests reflective of our Sarasota community.

More professional information about Ms. Gilmore will be found in the February 2023 Synthesis.

To accommodate this speaking engagement, we need to reschedule our Branch Meeting date. We will meet on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH**, instead of Wednesday, February 15th.

**SAME LOCATION, SAME TIME, THURSDAY instead of WEDNESDAY.**

Mark your 2023 calendars noting this change. This is a speaker you don't want to miss.

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



## *President's Message – December 2022*

A Regional Leadership Conference was held last week. Six of the eight branches from the Southwest Coast participated, with about 40 attending including five of your own Board of Directors.

The topics covered revolved around the issues that every branch faces – some to a higher degree than others. Governance was addressed as well as what other branches are doing, not just governance but membership, branch events, and other things that affect all of us.

One of the challenges I've faced as your President is finding what "magic words" I can share with our members to get some ladies interested in volunteering.

We need volunteers for one to two hours one-time, volunteers for one or two meetings, and volunteers to lead new initiatives. We promise that if you offer your time and tell us how much time you can give our branch, we'll find the perfect fit.

If you want to talk about the possibility of volunteering and just want to chat about that, please call me at (941)735-8324.



*Sue Casey, President*

## *Membership*

**Member request:** One of our members who lives on Holmes Beach, Jo-An Webb, has asked if anyone who lives near that area would be able and willing to give her a ride to the Branch meetings. If you or someone you know are interested in doing this, please contact Nancy Brennan at [aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com) or call 941-924-5951. Thanks for your consideration.

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan, Membership*

## Tech Trek

**AAUW Florida sponsors a summer camp (Tech Trek) for rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls which focuses on Science, Mathematics, and Technology.**

This year Tech Trek camps (two of them) will be held at Stetson in Deland and FAU in Boca Raton. The camps are for different content areas and are not repeated. The students will stay in the schools' dorms for the week.

As in past years, I (Leiland) will be reaching out for volunteers to interview our applications in February.

The following information is a timeframe for the Tech Trek selection process:

- Principals with Sarasota middle schools, public and private, have been sent the nomination information and asked to share it with the STEM area teachers of 7th graders. Please note that although Venice is part of Sarasota County public schools, they have their own AAUW chapter independent of the Sarasota branch. I am reaching out to the schools only in our branch area.
- Teachers will submit nominations online using the website provided. The letter has a link to a short video for teachers about the nomination process. You can view it at:

<https://watch.screencastify.com/v/eYLB6Os6smNmK4yhAqxA>

- **Each school can only nominate 5 girls** for Tech Trek Camp. The girls must currently be in **seventh grade**.
- Nominations are due by December 15. After nominations are made, applications are sent out.

- The Tech Trek Student and Family Coordinator will send the application information directly to the family. An informational Zoom session for families is planned for January 7 at 4pm. A link will be sent.
- Applications will be returned to the Student and Family Coordinator by January 22. Girls will designate their camp preference on their application.
- Information regarding the branch applicants will be sent to each branch by February 1. The guidelines to use during the interview will be sent.
- Branch coordinator (Leiland) will establish a review committee and use the guidelines provided to interview and rank applicants from their area.
- All interviews should be completed and rankings sent to Student and Family Coordinators by March 6. Your rankings are very important in the selection process.

Anyone interested in supporting Tech Trek financially may send a check as follows: Checks should be made out to **AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc.** with Tech Trek on the memo line. Mail checks to Tech Trek Florida, P.O. Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468. Do not send money to AAUW National.

Another way to support Tech Trek is through **AmazonSmile**. Please see an article about this program on **the next page** of this newsletter.

If anyone has questions or concerns regarding Tech Trek, let me know.

*Submitted by Leiland Theriot,  
[Leiland.theriot@gmail.com](mailto:Leiland.theriot@gmail.com)*

## DO YOU SHOP AT AMAZON?

Do you know that you can support **AAUW's Tech Trek** by shopping at Amazon Smile?

### AmazonSmile Program

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, **with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.** You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

AmazonSmile has the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as Amazon.com, including Amazon Prime member benefits.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "*Eligible for AmazonSmile donation*" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

You can manage your purchases and other account information on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile using a single account. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile if you have one or create a new account at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) if you don't.

Choosing a Charitable Organization to Support: **Select: AAUW FL Supporting Foundation Inc** On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation. After selecting a charitable organization, you can also activate AmazonSmile on the Amazon Shopping app.

This is a great way to support Tech Trek by using Amazon's funds!

*Ask Virginia Waring if you have questions ([virginia.waring@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.waring@gmail.com))*





## *Write-Read-Write*

For the second year we have partnered with a third-grade class at Alta Vista Elementary School. Our proposal was so well received last year that three teachers want to participate this year!

We make it easy for you to get involved. At our January meeting we will have sample letters prepared (ready for your signature) and note paper if you want to write your own message. Our Write Read Write committee will bring the letters to the teachers to give to her students. The children write us a letter describing the kind of book they would like to have as their very own. We'll get those letters back to you leaving plenty of time for you to select just the right book. I have found that there are wonderful people working at Barnes & Noble and other bookstores to help as needed. If you want to participate but can't get to a bookstore, let any one of us know. We will be glad to do our best to make sure you can participate!

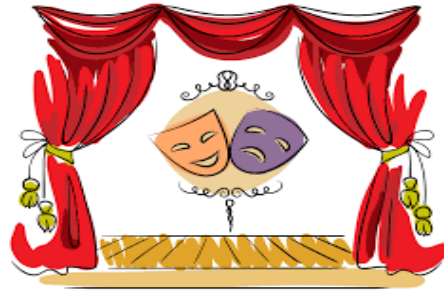
Please purchase only ONE HARDBOUND book for your student to be fair to everyone. Please put your book in a gift bag, if possible, to make it extra-special; and please enclose a short message to personalize your gift. If you are able, we also welcome you to offer to buy a book for a second child! Many of you have already offered to do that, and we welcome others to do the same. With three classes of approximately 20 students in each, we need your support to make this possible. The teachers are thrilled to have our participation, especially after the success of last year's program.

Your student will read their book and write you a thank you letter in return.

Don't miss this opportunity! It is so meaningful to the students, giving them both the opportunity to OWN their very own book but also to have the opportunity to work on their writing and reading skills.

Send a message either to Bev Prechtel at [bevprechtel@verizon.net](mailto:bevprechtel@verizon.net) or Sue McGowan at [suemcg4802@gmail.com](mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com) to let us know you want to participate!





### **PLAY READING INTEREST GROUP**

**AAUW Sarasota Play Readers are celebrating the holidays  
with lunch at Marina Jack's Restaurant on Wednesday, December 7.  
Happy Holidays to all!**

Please call Nancy Brennan at 941-924-5951 or  
aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com for details or if you have any questions  
about the Play Reading Interest Group.

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan*



## **“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*





# "Meet and Eat - Sunday Dinner"

This is how AAUW Sarasota does Sunday dinner. For anyone who doesn't have family to enjoy a shared meal – we have the AAUW solution: Sunday dinner from various restaurants in Sarasota, our version of Blue Bloods Sunday dinner. We hope you'll come and enjoy a good meal and great company. Unlike the family, we promise the conversation is friendly and often funny.

The scheduled dinners for the next 4 weeks are listed below. Included are links for the menus for each of the restaurants. All reservations are for 5:00 pm. If you want to join us for dinner, **please reply to this email** ([aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com)) and let me know you'll be joining us. If you forget to RSVP and you decide you'd like some super company and a good meal on one of the Sundays – no problem - just call (941-735-8324) or email me so I can update the reservations. If I don't get email/calls telling me you'll be joining us, I won't go to the restaurant – nothing worse than expecting to spend dinner with friends and finding yourself dining alone.

## **Sunday, November 20, 2022 5:00 pm**

Hyde Park Steakhouse (941) 366-7788

35 South Lemon – corner of Lemon and State Street ½ block south of Main

Come enjoy one of their "early bird" specials – 3 course meals starting at \$21.95

[Sarasota Dinner Menu \(hydeparkrestaurants.com\)](http://hydeparkrestaurants.com)

## **Sunday, November 27, 2022 5:00 pm**

Shakespeare's English Pub (941) 364-5938

3550 South Osprey Avenue

Sarasota 34239

After days of turkey with leftovers, it's time for a great burger. They brag "*All of our burgers are made with 8 oz of pure ground Black Angus beef.*"

Click on the link: [Shakespeare's shakespearesenglishpub.com](http://shakespearesenglishpub.com)

## **Sunday, December 4, 2022 5:00 pm**

Grillsmith (941) 259 8383

6240 S Tamiami Trail

Menu: [Grillsmith: Craft by Fire](#)

## **Sunday, December 11, 2022 5:00 pm**

Carraba's Italian Grill (941) 925-7407

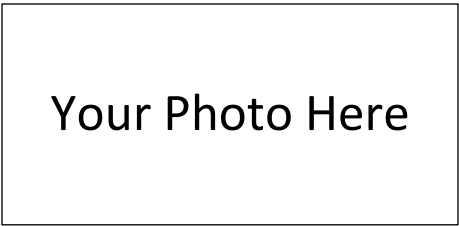
1940 Stickney Point Road, Sarasota, FL 34231

[M2-3W 1022 FB \(flippingbook.com\)](#)

As Christmas holiday gets closer, we can decide if we want to do a dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The next two Sundays are Christmas and New Year's.

*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).

---

---




---

---



## DECEMBER 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 December for the January 2023 newsletter.

| Date  | Time                                     | Event   | Location / Contact  | Notes   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| On-going Sundays  | 5:00 p.m.                                | <b>Meet &amp; Eat</b>   | Various local restaurants.<br>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. All welcome!   |
| 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   | 1:00 p.m. to 3:00                        | <b>Social Bridge</b>  | For location and more info contact Maureen Firth at <a href="mailto:firhent@yahoo.com">firhent@yahoo.com</a>  | All skill levels welcome.   |
| Saturday, December 3<br> | 11:15 a.m.                               | <b>AAUW Sarasota HOLIDAY GATHERING</b><br> | Luncheon at the Meadows Country Club<br><br>Contact: Carol Bernasconi (941) 346-9915 or <a href="mailto:mrsclbread@aol.com">mrsclbread@aol.com</a>                                      | Music, gifts, sharing. See page 1 for details.<br><br>All members welcome.<br><b><u>Reservations required by November 28!</u></b><br><i>See last page.</i>                                      |
| Sunday, December 4 and December 11  | 5:00 p.m.                                | <b>Meet &amp; Eat – Sunday Dinner</b>   | Location:<br>Contact: Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>   | Come and share a meal. See details on <b>Page 9</b> of this newsletter.   |
| Wednesday, December 7   |  | <i>Play Reading Group Luncheon</i>  | Marina Jack’s Restaurant  | For details, call Nancy Brennan at (941) 924-5951 or <a href="mailto:aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com">aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com</a>   |
| Tuesday, December 13<br> | 11:45 a.m. (Note time change from 11:30) | <b>Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group</b><br><b>Book:</b> <i>The Chancellor</i><br><b>Author:</b> Kati Martin              | Location: Gulf Gate Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room<br><br><b>Contact:</b> Sylvia Rosenfeld (941) 924-8603 or <a href="mailto:sylros10@yahoo.com">sylros10@yahoo.com</a> | Discussion Leader: <i>Sylvia Rosenfeld</i><br><br>All AAUW members welcome regardless of whether or not they live in the Gulf Gate area.<br><br>Optional lunch together at a nearby restaurant. |

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

**Officers**

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

**Directors**

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



**Synthesis** is published monthly September through May by the American Association of University Women  
Sarasota Branch  
P.O. Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230

**Deadline**

**December 10th** is the deadline for the January 2023 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.



## 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 34242](#)

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****