



Synthesis

AAUW Branch General Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Location: Women's Resource Center, 340 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota FL 34237
See next page for directions and parking information.



Wilma Davidson, Ed.D., President of Sarasota Pen Women branch



Barbara L. Jendrysik, Artist-Illustrator

We can't think of a better organization to "kick-off" our 2023 branch speaker series than one that has as historic and admirable reputation as our own AAUW.

The National League of Pen Women was founded in 1897 in Washington D.C. and is heralded as the oldest multi-discipline arts organization for women in the U.S. with currently over 80 branches. The Sarasota branch was founded in 1957 by a group of female professionals, whose mission was, and continues to be, to provide a place for women to share their artistic talents. Their talents include the visual arts, letters (writing) and music. Besides carrying on the National Organization mission to inspire each member's creativity, they also offer outreach to the community. An awards program, *Launching Leaders in the Art* connects members with the Sarasota and Manatee high schools. Its goal is to provide a positive, stimulating partnership between Pen Women, teachers, and high school seniors.

On Wednesday January 18th we will be welcoming two members of the Sarasota Pen Women branch. Wilma Davidson, president and co-author of several books on the art of communication, and Barbara Jendrysik, local artist and book illustrator, will be joining us. They promise to share stories of their awesome organization and will provide an exhibit of some of their members' creative works. They look forward to meeting us and we, certainly, look forward to meeting them! Hope to see you all at the January meeting.

Submitted by: Carol Bernasconi, Program Director Co-Chair



President's Message – January 2023

Greetings to All. Best wishes for the new year – 2023!! Hope to see everyone at our January meeting.

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



January 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.

Margaret Mead:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

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



Public Policy

DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dialogues

Did you know that AAUW Florida has a vimeo account, where you can find recordings of many state meetings and events? Go to the AAUW Florida website - <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/> - and look on the right side of the home page, headed AAUW Links. The last entry is AAUW videos.

There are currently 29 videos on the site, including the last zoom convention in April, and recordings of the DEI discussions that run monthly on zoom by Jonnie Mae Perry, the state DEI Chair. They are presented on Saturday mornings, and more information and the upcoming schedule of live discussions can be found here:

<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/2021/10/16/dei-dialogues/>

Submitted by Diana Sells, Public Policy Director

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

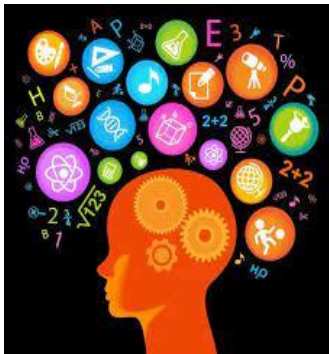
Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional.

Academic Olympics



The new dates for the Academic Olympic matches have been set. There will be a practice match on **January 10**. The regular matches will be on **January 17, 24, and 31** and on **February 7**.

The Finals will be on **February 14**.

The matches will be held again at **Suncoast Polytech** and will begin as close to 3:00 as possible.

We invite you to come and observe a match. You will be impressed with these high school scholars.

Submitted by Eloise Malinsky, Academic Olympics Contact



Walking Group

The Walking Group is dusting off their sneakers again for a walk in January on the 3rd or 4th Monday. We will be walking on the River Walk in Bradenton for 5-6K steps. There are lots of benches and beautiful views so whatever your step score is you can join us. We will probably lunch at Mattison's, or Oak and Stone, or even

Pier 22 depending on what the group decides. The details will follow in early January.

If you would like to join our small but mighty group or are curious as to what we are up to, please email BevPrechtel@verizon.net to be added to our emails.

Submitted by Bev Prechtel

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!

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 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.

If you haven't already signed up, send a message either to Bev Prechtel at bevprechtel@verizon.net or Sue McGowan at suemcg4802@gmail.com to let us know you want to participate!





“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



“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.

Dinners for January will be announced in a future email. Please be sure to RSVP (941) 735-8324) so we know you will be joining us. All are welcome!

Submitted by Sue Casey



Photos from Our December Holiday Luncheon

Thanks to Sue McGowan for the photos.



Program Co-Directors Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi



Singing The Twelve Days of Christmas



Smiling Faces, Good Food, Sharing the Spirit of the Season





“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?

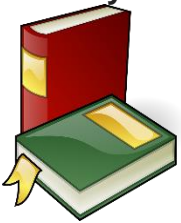

Tell us about your family – significant other, children, grandchildren – anyone who is special to you.

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).

JANUARY 2023

To place items in the Calendar, contact **Sue Casey** aauwflcasey@gmail.com or **Virginia Waring** at vwaring@gmail.com by the 10th of January for the February 2023 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. All welcome!
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	1:00 p.m. to 3:00	Social Bridge	For location and more info contact Maureen Firth at firthent@yahoo.com	All skill levels welcome.
Tuesday, January 17 	11:00 a.m.	The North County Book Group Book: <i>Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War</i> Author: Catherine Grace Katz	Location: North Sarasota Library, Edward James II Meeting Room Contact: Lois Fisch (941) 735-0378 lfisch@utica.edu	Discussion Leader: <i>Kathy Oarr</i> Optional lunch following discussion. All members welcome.
Wednesday, January 18	2:00 p.m.	AAUW Sarasota Branch Meeting	Location: Women’s Resource Center (see page 2 for directions/parking) Contact: Carol Bernasconi (941) 346-9915 or mrsclbread@aol.com	Speakers from the Sarasota branch of the National League of Pen Women
Tuesday, January 24 	11:30 a.m.	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group Book: <i>The Lincoln Highway</i> Author: Amor Towles	Location: Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room A Contact: Sylvia Rosenfeld (941) 924-8603 or sylros10@yahoo.com	Discussion Leader: <i>Jocelyn Baskey</i> All AAUW members welcome 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

January 10th is the deadline for the February 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.