



# Synthesis

AAUW Sarasota Branch  
General Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 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.*



We hear so often the term *renaissance man* used in describing men of distinction and accomplishment within diverse aspects of life. We are confident that our February speaker, Renée James Gilmore, deserves the same designation. She is our own **renaissance woman**. This description fits Renée perfectly when we highlight her accomplishments and passions in the business world, her public affairs television program, and, of course, her Sarasota leadership.

Renée is currently the executive producer and host of WWSB-TV ABC7's *Empowering Voices*. This public affairs program explores issues of interest to communities of people who are underrepresented and whose concerns are quite often not visible to many others. Frequent

themes of her show center on economic empowerment and social justice. Speakers represent Sarasota as well as the state of Florida.

Renée is a fourth generation Sarasotan. After attending local schools, she earned an MBA at Clark Atlanta University and then transitioned into the business world. Her resume includes leading national business initiatives, collaborating with public policy makers to expand business opportunities for various segments of Americans, and eventually becoming the founder of The Saja Group, a marketing and business consulting firm that helps nonprofits increase their impact.

She never lost her love of journalism and that is where her passion centers today.

Renée is ready to share her accomplishments and passions with us on THURSDAY, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. Join us at the Women's Resource Center for a promised program of distinction.

*Presented by: Carol Bernasconi and Kathy Schersten, Program Director Co-Chairs*



## *President's Message – February 2023*

Happy New Year!

Having said that, I am reminded of a segment from CBS Sunday morning on happiness – what it is and why people today are not reporting that they are happy. Happiness, throughout our lives, comes from *connections*--our connections to family, friends, and everyone we include in our lives.

This made me think of AAUW, specifically our Sarasota branch, but also AAUW as a whole. How lucky each of us is to be a member of an organization that devotes its efforts to achievement of equality. To that end many of us have been able to find *connections*. The connections I've made in AAUW have added to my happiness. Not only do I feel good about the contributions AAUW has made to the women of our community, but I also have benefited by the connections I've made with other women through AAUW.

Have you thought about the connections you have made with AAUW – how much happiness has been added to your life as a result of your AAUW membership? I hope a lot. If you haven't been an **active** member, please make 2023 the year you get more involved – think about how much happiness you can add to your year.



*Sue Casey, President*



### **February 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.

# VOLUNTEER



## Nominations

Five Board of Director positions are open for next year: Treasurer, Secretary, Education, Programs, and Nominations. As of now, there are candidates for three positions who have agreed to stand for election.

The remaining two are:

**Director for Programs**, who shall 1) implement and coordinate the overall program of the branch; and 2) chair the Program Committee which includes hospitality, social events, and special projects. (AAUW Sarasota Bylaws Article XI, Section 3a)

**Director for Education Programs**, who shall 1) serve as a liaison to local education institutions; and 2) be responsible for coordinating educational program activities. (Bylaws Article XI, Section 3e). Current branch education activities are Write-Read-Write, Tech Trek, Academic Olympics, and NCCWSL. Each of these has its own chair who reports to the Director.

If you are interested in standing for any of these positions, please contact me at [dsells55@yahoo.ca](mailto:dsells55@yahoo.ca) , or find me at a meeting!

The slate of nominees will be presented at the March general meeting, to be voted on at the April annual meeting.



*Submitted by Diana Sells, Director for Nominations*

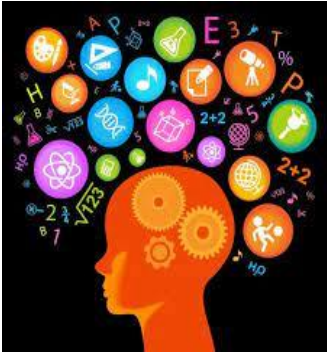
## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

**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 **February 10**. The regular matches will be on **February 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*

### 2023 Tech Trek

### AAUW Florida's summer STEM camp

### for rising 7th grade girls!

The process is underway. The first camp, Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>, will be at Stetson University in Deland, Florida. The second camp held Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> until Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> will be at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter. There will be 48 girls at each camp. They will live in campus dorms, eat their meals in the student cafeteria, use the University classrooms and labs for their core classes and workshops. The core classes and workshops at the camps will be similar but not identical.

Our Sarasota Branch has had **26 nominations** from our local schools! Next step is for the nominees to submit their applications by January 21<sup>st</sup>, and we can begin to interview them starting January 31<sup>st</sup>. I have not yet set dates/time/place for interviews in February, but please let me know if you are interested by emailing me at [Leiland.Theriot@gmail.com](mailto:Leiland.Theriot@gmail.com)! Thank you!



*Submitted by Leiland Theriot, Tech Trek Coordinator*



The **Play Reading Interest Group** will be attending a performance of the suspenseful drama *An Inspector Calls* at the Asolo Conservatory on Sunday, February 26 at 2 p.m. with dinner after the performance. If you would like to join us, you are most welcome. Please contact Nancy Brennan for more information at [aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com) or call 941-924-5951.

Have fun and support the arts in Sarasota at the same time!

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan*



## Walking Group

The Walking Group is dusting off their sneakers again for a walk on Thursday, February 23. 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. Contact Bev at her email below for time and directions.

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](mailto:BevPrechtel@verizon.net) to be added to our emails.

*Submitted by Bev Prechtel*

## "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*





## ***Write-Read-Write***

We have received the sweet letters from all the students in the three (!) third grade classes. There are 52 children all eager to receive a book of their very own. Their letters show such appreciation for what we are doing for each of them. And we are so grateful for the outpouring of support already from our members willing to participate.

To make it a bit easier for you, we decided to write a general letter from our AAUW branch to introduce ourselves. Here is the text of that letter:

*Hello!*

*We love to read, and we know that you do, too! We are a group of ladies who want to share their joy and fun in reading with you. We would like to buy a book for you that would be special and be just what you want to read. However, we can't do that unless you tell us something about yourself and the things that are most interesting and exciting to you. And, if there is one specific book or author you know about that you would love to have for your very own, let us know. So, please send us a letter. We will be happy to look for a book that is just right for you.*

*Sincerely, The Ladies from AAUW*

There will be a signup sheet available at our January meeting where you can choose the name(s) and we will give you their letter(s). Please remember that we are buying just one hardbound book for each child. We will collect the books at the February meeting. Please send us an email if you cannot get your letter in person. We can send it to you.

If there are any questions, you can always contact either one of us at Bev Prechtel at [bevprechtel@verizon.net](mailto:bevprechtel@verizon.net) or Sue McGowan at [suemcg4802@gmail.com](mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com).



*Submitted by Sue McGowan and Bev Prechtel, Write-Read-Write*



## Meet and Eat - Sunday Dinner

As we look toward the next month of Sunday dinners, we're going to celebrate ALL February birthdays on Sunday, February 5 with a **special treat** at Sunday dinner. We hope we have good turnouts for all our dinners. Sunday dinners we get to share great conversation with great food. If you have a restaurant you'd like to try, let me know.

Because I make reservations so the restaurant of the day can accommodate all of us, PLEASE email/call me and let me know on any Sunday you'll be joining us. If I don't get requests for reservations, I may not be at the restaurant on the date scheduled. You can let me know as late as that Sunday (except 2/5). Email [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) or call/text 941-735-8324. I'm trying to find *new* restaurants – with a variety of price points that we can experience together.

Sunday, **January 22**, 2023 – 5:00 pm – **DRY DOCK WATERFRONT GRILL**

412 Gulf of Mexico Dr, Longboat Key, FL 34228

(941) 383-0102 - Click on the link for the menu

[Menus for Dry Dock Waterfront Grill - Longboat Key - SinglePlatform](#)

Sunday, **January 29** - 5:00 pm – **BRICK'S SMOKED MEATS**

1528 State Street – Sarasota 34236 – (941) 933-1435

Click on the link for the menu

[BRICKS+Dinner+Menu+4.18.22.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Sunday, **February 5**, 2023 – **5:30** (NOTE TIME) **EUPHEMIA HAYE**

This is our February birthday celebration dinner – this restaurant is a dining experience – not to be missed – we'll do the dessert room after dinner.

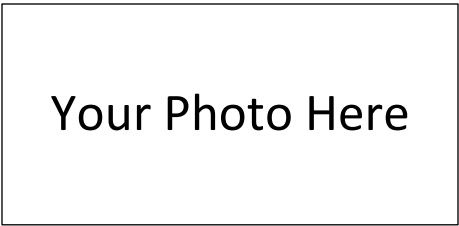
5540 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, (941) 383-3633

Click on the link for the menu

[Menus for Euphemia Haye Restaurant & The Haye Loft — Euphemia Haye Restaurant & The Haye Loft](#)

*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.

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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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2023

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 February for the March 2023 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. 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.
Tuesday, February 7 10:30 a.m.		<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>Location:</b> Women's Resource Center Contact: Sue Casey at <a href="mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com">aauwflcasey@gmail.com</a>	All members welcome.
<b>THURSDAY, February 18</b> 2:00 p.m.		<b>AAUW Sarasota Branch Meeting</b> <b>Note the date!</b>	<b>Location:</b> Women's Resource Center (see page 2 for directions/parking) Contact: Carol Bernasconi (941) 346-9915 or <a href="mailto:mrsclbread@aol.com">mrsclbread@aol.com</a>	<b>Speaker:</b> <i>Renée James Gilmore</i>
Tuesday, February 21 11:00 a.m. 		<b>The North County Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation</i> <b>Author:</b> Imani Perry	<b>Location:</b> North Sarasota Library, Edward James Meeting Room II  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch (941) 735-0378 <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	<b>Discussion Leader:</b> <i>Ellen Roche</i>  Optional lunch following discussion.  All members welcome.
Tuesday, February 28 11:30a.m. 		<b>Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>Violeta</i> <b>Author:</b> Isabel Allende	<b>Location:</b> Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room A  <b>Contact:</b> Sylvia Rosenfeld (941) 706-1773 or <a href="mailto:sylros10@yahoo.com">sylros10@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Discussion Leader:</b> <i>Betty Schattschneider</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
<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**

**February 10th** is the deadline for the March 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.