



Synthesis

AAUW Sarasota Branch

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 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.



Welcome Julie Anderson from Girls Inc.

Our March meeting will offer us the opportunity to hear the many successes of an organization that has served Sarasota families for nearly fifty years. What started as a grassroots program to assist families those many years ago, quickly turned into the local affiliate of the National Girls Inc.

Girls Inc. of Sarasota, whose mission is to inspire all Girls to be Strong, Smart, and Bold, has created research-based after-school and summer programs for girls who need this support. Through collaboration with the education system, community input, and family needs, their programs are tailored to prepare girls for lifelong success in adulthood.

Our speaker, Julie Anderson, serves as the Vice President of Advancement at Girls Inc. She is an experienced fundraising professional whose passion has always centered on cultivating new relationships to further the growth and success within her organization. She proudly showcases the Girls Inc. initiatives both within the Sarasota community and the state, as well as the national headquarters in Washington D.C.

Julie is a graduate of the University of Florida. Her professional life has focused on raising funds for children's organizations here in Florida. She also worked in Seattle WA where she devoted her expertise to fundraising for cancer research.

Sarasota and Girls Inc. served as a calling card for her to resume her personal dedication to witnessing the success of the Girls Inc. mission. Julie will be ready to share the accomplishments of this very well-known and admired organization. Join us for this special presentation about Girls Inc. of Sarasota on Wednesday, March 15th.

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

President's Message – March 2023



Sue's Left Arm....ouch!!!

Our President had a bad fall recently and is unable to type her monthly message.

If you would like to send a card wishing her a speedy recovery, her address is: 1208 56th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209.



Sue Casey, President



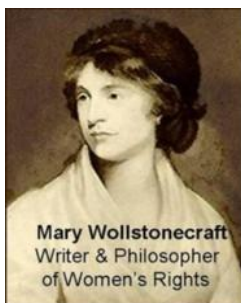
March Meeting Location and Parking

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.

Women's History Month



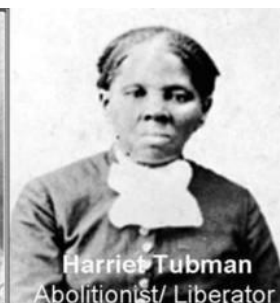
Mary Wollstonecraft
Writer & Philosopher
of Women's Rights



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
CHAMPION OF WOMAN'S
RIGHTS



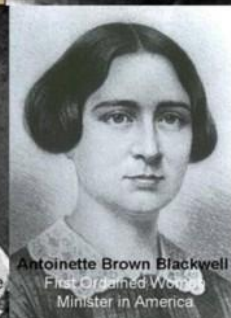
Sojourner Truth
Abolitionist/Suffragist



Harriet Tubman
Abolitionist/ Liberator



Lucretia Mott
Women's Suffrage Advocate



Antoinette Brown Blackwell
First ordained Woman
Minister in America



Lucy Stone
Women's Rights Advocate



Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Women's Rights/Suffrage Leader



MAY 5, 2023 - 11:30 a.m.



BRANCH LUNCHEON PLANS

Our last social event of this AAUW year will be a luncheon at one of our favorite restaurants: **Marina Jack**. (Remember how wonderfully they treated us at our Gala?) Please note the date and time, AND **a reservation form is included** on the last page of this *Synthesis*. We would appreciate your reservation as soon as possible - why not do it now?'

Valet Parking, an upstairs view of the Bay, some of the most popular items on the menu of Marina Jack, and no Business agenda! Come for the fun and the social connections with friends.

Program Co-Chairpersons: Kathy Schersten & Carol Bernasconi

Membership

One of our longstanding members, Eloise Malinsky, is recovering from a stroke and is currently in rehabilitation. As a member, Eloise has supported the Academic Olympics in Sarasota for many years. If you would like to send her get well wishes, her address is 2050 61st St., Sarasota FL 34234.

Feel better soon, Eloise, and we look forward to seeing you at a branch meeting soon.

Membership Request:

We are seeking a volunteer to write a brief biography of new members for the *Synthesis*. This is a good means to introduce the new member to the branch and is a starting point for getting to know our members. The Membership Committee provides the new member with an introductory memorandum with guidance questions for her to follow in crafting her biographical information. Our biographer uses this information and edits a final piece for submission and publication in the *Synthesis*.

If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Nancy Brennan at aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com or call (941)924-5951. Thanks for your consideration.

Submitted by Nancy Brennan, Director for Membership

The word "Welcome" is written in a vibrant, multi-colored cursive font. The letters transition through a spectrum of colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

Meet our newest member: Lois Wilkins

Lois holds a BA in Music Education from Illinois Wesleyan University and an Executive MBA from the DeVos School of Management, Northwood University. She is a cellist who has performed in civic, community and symphony orchestras in New York City, Evanston, Illinois; Midland, Michigan; and Bloomington, Illinois. Lois has been active in community service in her various residences, especially with public schools.

Lois is an avid traveler and enjoys traveling around the world visiting people of different races, cultures, and nationalities. She is a member of the Speakers' Bureau for Asian Women Engineers at Dow Chemical and has presented in Hong Kong, China, and South Africa in that capacity.

Lois and her husband David have lived in Illinois and Michigan, and after David's retirement from Dow Chemical Company in Midland moved to Montreal, Canada. They have been residents in Sarasota since 2018. Lois and David are the parents of four children and have one grandchild.

Lois is currently president of two small businesses and is active in Delta Sigma Theta, Bradenton chapter, a service organization; Bradenton chapter of the Links, Inc. and is a member of the Manasota Masala Giving Circle. She is also chair of the African American Cultural Resource Center of the Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Public Library.

Welcome, Lois!

Submitted by Nancy Brennan, Director for Membership

Public Policy - [Take Action!!!!](#)

Many of our members have strong feelings about recent actions of the Florida Governor and the Florida legislature. The best way you can let them know how you feel is to contact your state representatives. For the best way to find out who your representatives are and their contact information, go to

<https://myfloridahouse.gov/findyourrepresentative> for your representative, and

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators/Find> for your state senator.

These will give you up-to-date information based on your address. You may find that your district has changed due to redistricting and your representative has changed.

Your call or email needn't be long – just a few lines stating that you are a constituent, and you disagree (or agree) with his or her stance on your topic. Call or write often! Don't worry about having to defend your position with a learned argument - you won't be engaging in a dialogue; your stance will be noted.

The latest post on the AAUW Florida Advocacy blog regarding the topic of academic freedom can be found here:

<https://aauwadvocacyflorida.blog/2023/01/19/we-stand-for-academic-freedom/>

You can sign up to receive these posts, or just read them at the website listed. There are only a few posts each year, so you won't be inundated with them. And you may find some wording that helps you write your own emails of protest.



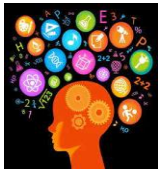
Submitted by Diana Sells, Director for Public Policy

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

February 14th was the final match of this important competition among eight Sarasota high schools. All schools played remarkably well during the season.

AAUW’s Eloise Malinsky, former Coach of the Pine View Team, and exceptional Moderator for the past few years, has health issues that short-termed her part this year. Jacquelyn Cetola, first year Calculus teacher at Pine View, stepped in with poise and skills. Kathy Schersten, former Moderator and co-founder of the Academic Olympics, served as “Judge” at the matches.

The winning trophy (nicknamed “The Culture Vulture”) was won by Pine View with Cardinal Mooney in Second Place. AAUW Sarasota Branch is listed as a Supporter; the School District as Sponsor and is the only financial assistance for the program. The games exhibit competition and camaraderie with immense displays of sportsmanship.

AAUW members, and the public, are invited and encouraged to watch these teenagers and feel pride of our history with Academic Olympics. Schedules for 2024 will be announced in the *Synthesis*.

Submitted by Kathy Schersten for Eloise Malinsky, Academic Olympics Contact



Academic Olympic Champions 2022: Pine View School



The **Play Reading Interest Group** will be meeting on Wednesday, March 8. It will be hosted and presented by Gayle Kloss. The play is “to be announced.”

Please contact Nancy Brennan for more updates at aauwsrqbrennan@gmail.com or call 941-924-5951.

Submitted by Nancy Brennan

2023 Tech Trek:

AAUW Florida's summer STEM camp for rising 7th grade girls!

Our Sarasota Branch members will be interviewing the 13 applicants from our local schools during the month of March. Recommendations are sent to the State Tech Trek program where final decisions are made. Please let me know if you have any Tech Trek questions by emailing me at Leiland.Theriot@gmail.com! Thank you!



Leiland Theriot, Tech Trek Coordinator



Walking Group

The Walking Group will not walk in March.

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



"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

Sunday dinners are temporarily "on hold" until Sue Casey heals. She will email members with a new list of dates and restaurants as soon as possible.



Write-Read-Write

The books will be delivered to the third-grade classrooms in March in coordination with the three teachers. Thanks to all who participated. Thank you notes from the children will be delivered at the April meeting.

Below is a poem that goes into every book gift bag. It seems to say a lot about the value of reading in a gentle way a child might relate to.

I met a dragon face to face
the year when I was ten.
I took a trip to outer space.
I braved a pirate's den.
I wrestled with a wicket troll.
And fought a great white shark.
I trailed a rabbit down a hole.
I hunted for a snark.
I stowed aboard a submarine.
I opened magic doors.
I traveled in a time machine
And searched for dinosaurs.
I climbed atop a giant's head.
I found a pot of gold.
I did all this in books I read
When I was ten years old.



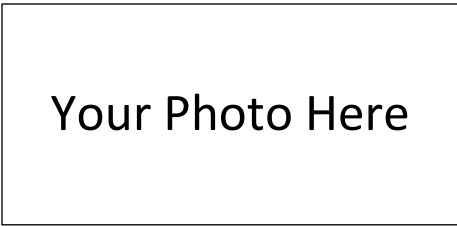
-Jack Prelutsky

May the books you read take you to distant shores and find you happy as you learn of many things more.

Your AAUW friends

Submitted by Sue McGowan, Write-Read-Write

“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).



MARCH 2023 - To place items in the Calendar, contact Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com or Virginia Waring at vwaring@gmail.com by the 10th of March for the April 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, March 7 10:30 a.m.		Board of Directors Meeting	Location: Women’s Resource Center Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	All members welcome.
Wednesday, March 15 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	Speaker: Julie Anderson, Girls Inc.
Tuesday, March 21 11:00 a.m.		The North County Book Group Book Selection for 2023-2024	Location: North Sarasota Library Contact: Lois Fisch (941) 735-0378 lfisch@utica.edu	Optional lunch following discussion. All members welcome.
Tuesday, March 28 11:30a.m.		Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group Book Selection for 2023-2024	Location: Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room A Contact: Sylvia Rosenfeld (941) 706-1773 or sylros10@yahoo.com	Discussion Leader: 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)	Vacant
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

March 10th is the deadline for the April 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.



AAUW SARASOTA SPRING LUNCHEON

WHERE: **Marina Jack Restaurant**

Two Marina Plaza
Sarasota, FL 34236

Upstairs Main Dining Room, Third Tier

WHEN: **Friday, May 5, 2023**

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

Valet Parking available

Elevator Available

MENU SELECTIONS: *Exact meal may differ from photos below.*

Classic Reuben
With Fries



Grouper Sandwich
With Fries



Caesar Salad
With Shrimp



Vegetarian
Plate



Dessert: Double Fudge Chocolate Cake



Coffee / Tea

Cash Bar Available

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

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Please select one of the following entrees. Use separate reservation form for each person.

Grouper Sandwich with Fries	Please note any food allergy or dietary restriction:
Reuben Sandwich with Fries	
Caesar Salad with Shrimp	
Vegetarian Plate: Fresh seasonal plate of vegetables featuring asparagus, grilled tomatoes, sautéed garlic spinach, carrots and broccolini, served with rice pilaf and edamame dumplings, accented with balsamic reduction	

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

Check Payment: Send completed form(s) with check payment (Payable to: **Sarasota Branch AAUW**) to: Kathy Schersten, 4693 Glebe Farm Rd. N., Sarasota FL 34235.

Credit Card Payment: Send completed form(s) to Kathy Schersten at above address and call Kathy at (941) 302-7848 with your credit card information.

Questions? Call Kathy at (941) 302-7848

Reservation Deadline: **Friday, April 28, 2023**