



Synthesis

AAUW Sarasota Branch

General Meeting: Election of Officers and Budget Approval

Wednesday, April 19, 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: Jennifer Rominiecki **President & CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**

Be ready to join your Sarasota branch members at our final meeting of this season when we welcome a woman of accomplishment, Ms. Jennifer O. Rominiecki, President & CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Ms. Rominiecki began her tenure at Selby Gardens in February 2015. She and her family relocated to Sarasota after spending twenty years at major New York City cultural institutions including 15 years at the New York Botanical Garden. It was these years at the N.Y. Botanical that gave her the well-deserved reputation as an expert in management and finance campaigns in support of future growth initiatives.



Since arriving at Selby, Jennifer repositioned the institution as a Living Museum, inclusive of securing a trademark. She also has initiated a master plan that, thus far, has allowed Selby to include Historic Spanish Point in its organization.

Ms. Rominiecki has a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and English, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Lafayette College and has completed the Women's Leadership Forum at Harvard Business School. Presently she serves on a diverse number of Sarasota Boards and has received many honors within our community. Her success surely can be attributed to her leadership skills, business expertise, and her outgoing personality and communication skills.

Let's join each other to make this meeting a *standing-room only* event and give our speaker a resounding Sarasota AAUW branch warm welcome. Mark your calendars for the Wednesday, April 19th meeting and bring along a friend. Attendance at this final season meeting is a MUST.

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



President's Message – April 2023

While allowing my body to heal my broken left wrist, I've had plenty of time to think. As I read about our program presenter for March, I went to the Girls, Inc. website. Their website tells us that like anything else that we want to see changed that one of the keys is to advocate for change.

I ask each of our members to volunteer their time to help AAUW goals be reached by being an advocate. I know that we can be unable to engage in any additional activities, but each of us can reach out to our government representatives – local, state, and national -- and express our concerns when we learn of anything that has the potential or ability to deny us our rights. Whatever topic makes you want to stop and think (you can advocate for anything you are passionate about), please take a moment to write or call your government officials. We can all work toward driving policies and practices that advocate for girls and women.

Thank you for caring and acting.



Sue Casey, President



April 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.

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.



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

Our last social event of this AAUW year will be a luncheon at one of our favorite restaurants: **Marina Jack** on Friday, **May 5** at 11:30 a.m. **A reservation form is included** on the last page of this *Synthesis*. **Due date is April 28.**

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

Program Director Co-Chairpersons: Kathy Schersten & Carol Bernasconi

AAUW Sarasota Proposed Budget 2023-2024

The AAUW Sarasota Board is presenting a budget for next year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)—please see the next page. The members of the branch have the opportunity to review the budget and propose changes at the branch meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. The budget will come to a vote at the annual general meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

The budget has been simplified to make fewer categories. The board member responsible for the area will manage the budget line. Notes are included to explain what is included in each line item.

We are unlikely to spend all of the funds available to us in the current year. Unspent funds will be carried over to the 2023-2024 budget. For example, we are estimating that the funds for the technical scholarship will not be spent in 2022-23. Thus, the funds for this scholarship appear in the 2023-24 budget. The funds remain dedicated to funding a scholarship.

The Carry Forward from 2022-23 of \$5,000 is a conservative estimate based on the year-end estimate from 2022-23. We agreed to hold \$2,500 in reserves. According to this budget, we only have \$2,100 for reserves. We will add to reserves as funds become available. We will not plan to spend the Reserves under normal operations.

We are estimating income from a fundraising event of \$2,000. Variation in this number will mostly affect funds available for the 2024-25 year.

Please contact Ellen Roche (ellen.roche.AAUW@gmail.com) with any questions.

AAUW Sarasota Proposed Budget for 2023-24

	2023-2024 Proposed	
EXPENSES		
Administrative		
Administrative	\$300	Includes copying, postage, miscellaneous
Conventions/State meeting	\$700	Travel
Insurance	\$550	Liability, D&O
PO Box	\$175	Rent
Tech support	\$450	Quicken, Zoom & Web Maintenance
Remembrance	\$50	Donations for deceased members
Yearbook	\$175	Directory printing
Total Administrative	\$2,400	
Communications		
Synthesis (software, copies)	\$100	Software, copies, mailing
Web re-design	\$500	Redesigning our Website
Total Communications	\$600	
Education	\$50	Copies
Membership	\$500	Recruitment, Brochures, New member info, member reception
Programs	\$100	Hospitality, speaker gifts
Public Policy	\$50	
NCCWSL	\$2,500	NCCWSL here and scholarship from Endowment funds
Scholarship - Technical	\$1,250	Funds not spent in 2022-23
Total Expenses	\$7,450	
INCOME		
Dues	\$1,400	70 x \$21 = \$1,470
Fundraising	\$2,000	Net = Income - expenses
Luncheons	\$150	
Total Income	\$3,550	
Carry Forward from 2022-23	\$6,000	From funds remaining on June 30, 2023
Income + Carry Forward	\$9,550	
Balance (Income + CF less expenses)	\$2,100	
Held in Reserves	\$2,100	

Proposed Philanthropy Plan 2023-2024

As with the AAUW Sarasota budget, the AAUW Sarasota Board is presenting a Proposed Philanthropy Plan for next year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024). The members of the branch have the opportunity to review the plan and propose changes at the branch meeting on Wednesday March 15, 2023. The plan will come to a vote at the annual general meeting on Wednesday April 19, 2023.

For our plan, we are estimating the funds available in 2023-24 to be \$10,000. Once we receive the actual amount (known as the spendable balance), in July 2023, we will create a revised plan in line with the plan approved by the members in April 2023. This revised plan will be put to a vote at the first AAUW Sarasota Branch meeting in October 2023.

In past years, we have used money from the endowments to fund tuition and travel expenses for local college women to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL - pronounced *Nick Whistle*). However, the registration process for the conference makes this difficult. In 2023-24, we are proposing that these funds come from our operating budget, that is from fundraising efforts.

We are working to develop a scholarship for women entering non-traditional fields. As we are creating this new program, disbursement of these funds may be delayed but will not be lost. Any funds unused in 2022-23 will remain part of our spendable balance and be available for 2023-24.

2023 - 24 AAUW Sarasota Endowment Funds Philanthropy Plan

	Plan	Revised	Actual	Notes
Spendable Balance*	\$10,000			
College Scholarships: 2 @\$2,500	\$5,000			
Technical/Vocational Scholarship	\$1,250			
Tech Trek	\$2,000			
AAUW Greatest Needs Fund	\$1,500			
Community Foundation/WRC	\$250			
Balance	\$0			

* Carryover of unspent funds from 2022-2023 plus new funds made available for 2023-24 fiscal year.

Market Value as of March 9, 2023

AAUW Sarasota Branch Scholarship Fund	\$24,418.66
Elizabeth Parker Scholarship Fund	\$55,229.24
Norma Heeps Fund	\$213,265.91
TOTAL	\$270,943.81

Please contact Ellen Roche (ellen.roche.AAUW@gmail.com) with any questions.

Membership



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

Public Policy - Take Action!!!!

Due to a change in the state law, all Florida residents who vote by mail MUST submit a new mail ballot request from their county Supervisor of Elections.

Go to the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections site:

<https://www.sarasotavotes.gov> to check and renew your vote-by-mail status.

And, please, contact your state legislators with your opinions on proposed legislation in Florida. There is nothing more important than letting our elected representatives know we vote and are watching them! Information on how to contact all of them was in the March *Synthesis*.



Submitted by Diana Sells, Director for Public Policy



Spread the Word about AAUW Sarasota Branch

The Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market has approved our free space at their Sunday Market!

AAUW Sarasota branch will be present at the market on **Sunday, March 26th, 2023 from 10:00am - 2:00pm**. All members are invited to join in the fun of showcasing our organization. What better way to inform our community about all the great things happening at AAUW Sarasota Branch than via our members themselves!

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email Estephanie Herrera at Esteph09@icloud.com with the time slot you would like to work the tent with her. Please sign up by Sunday, March 19th. If you are unable to work the tent for 30 minutes to 1 hour but plan on attending the market, please stop by to say hi!

Here is the link to the market which provides a list of vendors: <https://mylwr.com/185/Farmers-Market-at-LWR>

Contact me with any questions! Estephanie Herrera (813) 919-9605



The **Play Reading Interest Group** will be attending a performance of Shakespeare's *Love's Labor's Lost* at the Asolo Conservatory on Sunday, April 16 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 or call (941)924-5951. Have fun and support the arts in Sarasota at the same time!

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

Submitted by Sue Casey



Meet and Eat - Sunday Dinner

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

Here are the links for each restaurant we have selected through the month of April. All reservations are for 5:00 pm. If you want to join us for dinner, **please reply to this email** (aauwflcasey@gmail.com) and let me know you'll be joining us. If you forget to RSVP and on one of the Sundays, you decide you'd like some super company and a good meal – 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, March 19, 2023 - 5:00 pm

(They don't take reservations and Sue is out of town – first to arrive get a table for 4-6)

[Philippi Creek Oyster Bar](#)

5353 S Tamiami Trail

(941) 925-4444

[Phillippi Menu 04-14-20 corona.indd \(creekseafood.com\)](#)

(Continued on next page)

Meet and Eat - Sunday Dinner (continued)



Sunday, March 26, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Hyde Park Steakhouse

35 South Lemon – corner of Lemon and State Street ½ block south of Main - 941-366-7788

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

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

Sunday, April 2, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Grillsmith

6240 S Tamiami Trail

(941) 259 8383

Repeat performance at one of our favs

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

Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Happy Easter

Enjoy your day – see you next week

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Libby's Neighborhood Brasserie

1917 S. Osprey

941-487-7300

[Menu - Sarasota - Libby's - NEIGHBORHOOD BRASSERIE \(libbysneighborhoodbrasserie.com\)](http://libbysneighborhoodbrasserie.com)

Sunday, April 23, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Owen's Fish Camp

516 Burn's Lane

941-951-6936

Parking can be a challenge leave time to find a spot

[Current Menu - Owen's Fish Camp \(owensfishcamp.com\)](http://owensfishcamp.com)

Sunday, April 30, 2023 - 5:00 pm

Cooper's Hawk Winery and Restaurant

3130 Fruitville Commons Blvd

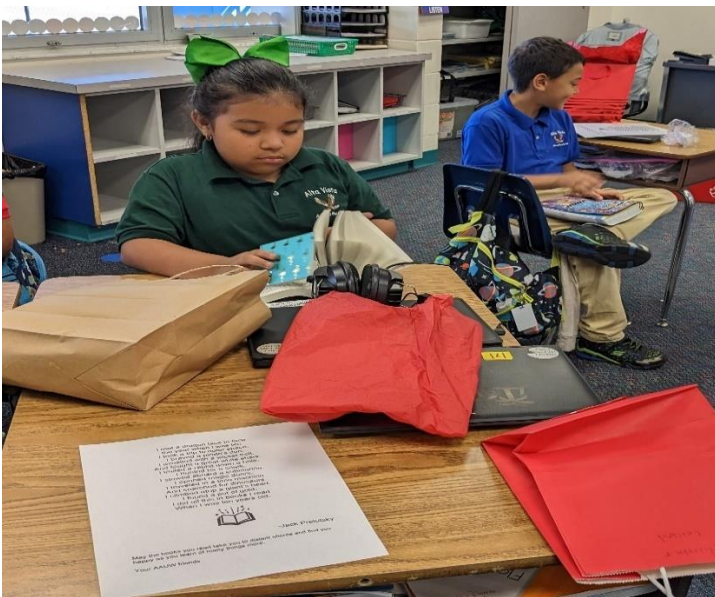
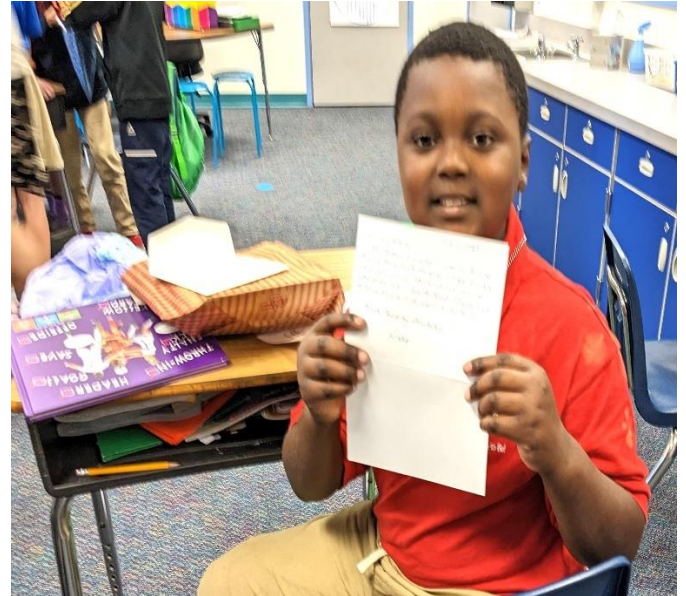
941-263-8100

From fresh squeezed lemonade to gluten free/food allergies offerings

[DineIn Carryout 1122 \(chwinery.com\)](http://chwinery.com)

Write-Read-Write

Thanks to the generosity of our AAUW sisters we were able to collect enough books to be able to bring a book to every student in three third-grade classes. It is tremendously gratifying to see the excitement these students show when they open their gift bags and find the letters, the poem, and the book you gave. It was the high point of the week for us. We can't urge you enough to get involved next year—and there may be even more third-grade students at Alta Vista who would love to get a book from us.



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).



APRIL 2023

To place items in the Calendar, contact **Sue Casey** aauwflcasey@gmail.com or **Virginia Waring** at vwaring@gmail.com by the 10th of April for the May 2023 newsletter.

Date and Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
On-going Sundays 5:00 p.m.	Meet & Eat: See pages 8 and 9 of this Synthesis.	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, April 4 10:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Location: Women’s Resource Center Contact: Sue Casey at aauwflcasey@gmail.com	All members welcome.
Tuesday, April 18 11:00 a.m. 	The North County Book Group Book: <i>The Vanishing Half: A Novel</i> Author: Brit Bennett	Location: North Sarasota Library Contact: Lois Fisch (941) 735-0378 lfisch@utica.edu	Discussion Leader: Lois Fisch Optional lunch following discussion. All members welcome.
Wednesday, April 19 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: Jennifer Rominiecki Selby Gardens
Tuesday, April 25 11:30 a.m. 	Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group Book: <i>Isaac's Storm</i> Author: Erik Larson	Location: Gulf Gate Library, Meeting Room A Contact: Sylvia Rosenfeld (941) 706-1773 or sylros10@yahoo.com	Discussion Leader: Carol Bernasconi 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

April 10th is the deadline for the May 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**