



# Synthesis

## AAUW Sarasota Branch



*Sue Casey, President*

### *President's Message – May 2023*

I recently attended one of the Sarasota Orchestra Master Series concerts and had the opportunity to hear a new symphony by a female composer – *To Make This Mountain Taller*. When Sara Gibson, the composer, appeared on stage to talk about her composition, she talked about women supporting women and that our path through life requires women to support other women. Throughout her life she credited many of her successes to those women in her life who were behind her and supporting her; there are not many female composers. Listening to Sara reminded me of AAUW. Our goal of gender equity requires that we use our collective energies to do anything we can to foster equity and growth – that includes our volunteering – giving of our time and energy as well as your ongoing financial support. If you have any ideas/suggestions of “projects” that we could tackle, please share them with one of the Board members or email us at [sarasota.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:sarasota.aauw@gmail.com).

As for **new projects**: I want to thank – and hope each of you will thank - Estephanie Herrera. We have been searching for new members because as our membership numbers drop what we can accomplish will drop. Estephanie came up with the idea of marketing AAUW Sarasota at the Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market. Dynamite idea! With help from our members and Estephanie’s ingenuity and energy, AAUW Sarasota had a great reception that day (see page 8 for some photos). We gained a new member and have a list of women who may be interested in joining us. A **BIG THANK YOU** to Estephanie for not only conceiving the idea but for making it happen. It is this kind of undertaking that will allow us to grow and continue supporting girls and women.

## 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.



# AAUW SARASOTA SPRING LUNCHEON

WHERE: **Marina Jack Restaurant**  
Two Marina Plaza  
Sarasota, FL 34236

WHEN: **Friday, May 5, 2023**  
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

Upstairs Main Dining Room, Third Tier

Valet Parking available Elevator Available

Reservation form can be found on the last page of this Synthesis.

Due date: **April 28.**

*Please join the fun!*

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



## Directory Changes:

Add New Members: Lois Wilkins and Brenda Yanofsky

Lois Wilkins  
989-430-0478  
[cellololoma2@gmail.com](mailto:cellololoma2@gmail.com)  
5411 Lago Maggio St  
Sarasota FL 34238

Brenda Yanofsky  
[doctorbrenda@me.com](mailto:doctorbrenda@me.com)  
941-955-1220  
8111 Miramar Way  
Lakewood Ranch FL 34232

The new email for Rhona Gahr is: [1rgahr@gmail.com](mailto:1rgahr@gmail.com)

The address for Martha Lindberg is: 700 Cocoanut Ave. Unit 427 Sarasota FL 34236

*Submitted by Nancy Brennan, Director for Membership*

**Find the AAUW Sarasota membership application here:**  
<https://sarasota-fl.aauw.net/files/2023/04/AAUW-Membership-Application-2023-2024-pdf-1.pdf>

## Dues News

The **AAUW Community Hub** is open for dues renewals for 2023-2024. The membership year is July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Dues for new and renewing members are:

National	\$ 72.00
State	\$ 12.00
Branch	<u>\$ 21.00</u>
Total	\$ 105.00

Life and Honorary members pay only state and branch dues: \$33.00.

New members joining for the 2022-2023 year should pay \$93.

Try to log onto the **AAUW Community Hub** to update your contact information and to renew your dues. Below are the instructions for signing onto the system, including who to contact if you have difficulty. Of course, you can still renew by sending the attached application and a check for \$105 made payable to AAUW Sarasota to:

AAUW Sarasota, PO Box 3554, Sarasota, FL 34230-3554.

Ellen Roche ([ellen.roche.AAUW@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.roche.AAUW@gmail.com) or 301 237-3641)

### **Logging onto the AAUW Community Hub: Go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org)**

Click on the “**Log In**” button in the upper right-hand corner.

Enter your email address and password. If you are not able to log in, the instructions below will appear above your email address:

### **Donate, Engage, Renew**

To take any of these actions, please **login or create an account** in our Community Hub database. It only takes a few moments and helps us serve you better and acknowledge your contributions! Here’s how to do it:

If you’re an AAUW member logging in for the first time or if you’ve forgotten your password, click **FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD**.

You may have to request a new password several times for it to work - keep trying!

If you’re an AAUW member with an existing account, simply login with the email address and password you’ve already established.

If you need assistance, please contact [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

Once you can do this, the “**Personal Snapshot**” screen appears. It has your name, address etc. Click on “**My Memberships**” in the menu on the left. You will have a chance to review and revise your contact information.

You might see a screen that says National dues are \$67 or \$72... but just keep going. You will need to select **Florida** and **Sarasota**: Look under **Branches D-K Category**: our branch is listed as **FL3026-Sarasota Branch Dues**. Keep clicking Next/Continue. You will get to a screen where you can enter your credit card information. You will get a screen receipt you can print, and you will get an **email receipt**.


 The logo features a stylized red 'W' inside a red circle on the left. To its right, the text 'AAUW' is in blue, 'TECH TREK' is in large red letters, and 'Camp News 2023' is in green.

This coming June there will be two in-person Tech Trek camps for girls who will be entering the 8th grade in the fall. The first camp, Sunday, June 11 to Saturday June 17, will be at Stetson University in Deland, Florida. The second camp, held Sunday June 18 until Saturday June 24, 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, and 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.

Listed below are the local students who have been accepted to attend Tech Trek 2023 (the list includes which camp they will attend and their school). **Of the 14 candidates that our branch members interviewed, 11 were accepted.**

Thank you to all those who helped including Nancy Brennan, Brenda Gimán, Joan Nasser, Louise Oleyourryk, Virginia Waring, and Jackie Zukley.

Evangeline Ida Delao	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences
Ella Cardell	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Sarasota School of Arts and Science
Hillary Pattison Caceres Pineda	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Brookside Middle School
Kadence Elaine Stuart	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Kadence Elaine Stuart
Maria Afanasieva	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Brookside Middle School
Emory Frandsen	Stetson University, DeLand, FL June 11-17, 2023	Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences
Lila Grace Bornik	Stetson University, DeLand, FL June 11-17, 2023	Sarasota Military Academy Prep
Sabrina Shaheen	Stetson University, DeLand, FL June 11-17, 2023	Brookside Middle School
Anna Brodowska	Stetson University, DeLand, FL June 11-17, 2023	Incarnation Catholic School, Sarasota
Antonia Fout	Stetson University, DeLand, FL June 11-17, 2023	Sarasota Military Academy Prep
Nora Vivian Phillips	Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter, FL June 18-24, 2023	Brookside Middle School

*Submitted by Leiland Theriot, Tech Trek Sarasota Coordinator*



## AAUW Sarasota Scholarships

This year Sarasota AAUW branch will be awarding four scholarships to students in non-traditional technical programs at Suncoast Technical College.

**Hallie Grimsley:** Carpentry Program at the North Port Branch for Suncoast Technical College. Hallie started the Carpentry program so that she could learn a new skill, and her plans are to pursue a career in cabinetry making.

**Kristina Shapovalova:** EMT Student with Suncoast Technical College - North Port Branch

Kristina's ultimate goal is to be a fire fighter. In order to be Fire Certified, an individual must also be EMT certified.

**Michelle Lowe and Kenedy Romanowiz:** Fire Science Academy Suncoast Technical College-Sarasota

Both women demonstrate the characteristics of what are needed in the fire service: a strong work ethic, teamwork, competitiveness, and a strong will to succeed.

*Submitted by Louise Oleyourryk*



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS

The NCCWSL committee (June Benowitz and Joan Nasser) is happy to report that four young women—**Gabrielle Carroll** and **Dahlia Martinez** from the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee, and **Hannah Barker** and **C'erra Tubbs** from New College of Florida—have been registered for the NCCWSL conference.

The conference will be held at the University of Maryland, May 31-June 3, 2023. All four have made their travel arrangements and are thrilled to have this opportunity offered by our Sarasota Branch. We will meet with the four women soon, and we invite any member who would like to meet them to let us know:

June at **email:** [benowitz@usf.edu](mailto:benowitz@usf.edu) or **Joan at** [jdnasser10@gmail.com](mailto:jdnasser10@gmail.com)

*Submitted by June Benowitz*

## Ballet Enthusiasts



Every year we have selected four of the seven ballets as those when we would get together to enjoy the ballet and follow that presentation with dinner at a nearby restaurant.

If you would like to add your name to the list of “Ballet Enthusiasts”, please send an email to Sue McGowan at [suemcg4802@gmail.com](mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com). About two weeks before the ballet you will receive a

reminder and a request to either join us for dinner after or not. I make the dinner reservation at least 10 days before the ballet.

The next and final ballet of our season will be April 29 at the Sarasota Opera House. The program will be *Divertimento No. 15* with choreography by George Balanchine and music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Dinner will follow at **Duval's**.

*Submitted by Sue McGowan*

If you would be interested in assuming the coordinating role for next year's ballets, please contact me at the email above. Thanks!



## “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*

**AAUW Florida Annual Meeting Thursday, May 18 via Zoom 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

*Elect officers, learn about the year's programs and activities, and hold a Town Hall to get up-to-dates on AAUW National.*

*AAUW Sarasota has TWO members who are running for office: Ellen Roche for Director for Finance and Diana Sells for Director for Program. Let's support them by Zooming in!*



## 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 May. 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 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.

*Submitted by Sue Casey.*

### **Sunday, April 23, 2023 - 5:00 pm**

Owen's Fish Camp - **CANCELLED: See email this week for new location.**

### **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://DineIn_Carryout_1122(chwinery.com))

## ***AAUW Sarasota Branch at Lakewood Ranch Farmers' Market***



AAUW Sarasota enjoyed a Sunday Funday at the Lakewood Ranch Farmers' Market where we shared with visitors what our organization is all about, as well as showcasing our initiatives. Due to our group efforts, our branch gained a new member and obtained a full page of contact information for ladies who are interested in receiving more information. The turnout was successful, and we cannot wait to do it again. Special thanks to members Barb Kerwin, Kathy Schersten, Nancy Brennan, Dawn Graber, Carol Bernasconi, Lois Fisch (& family), and Susan McGowan who enthusiastically participated. Also, special thanks to my fiancé Mike for helping us set up the tent, tables, and marketing materials. We appreciate everyone's efforts and passion for growing our membership.

P.S. Help us continue to grow by keeping a couple of brochures and bookmarks handy for you to distribute while out and about. Contact Nancy Brennan for marketing materials.

*Submitted by Estephanie Herrera*



## Book Clubs: 2023-2024 Reading Lists



Copyright © 2014 Karen B. Jones. All rights reserved. www.KarenBJones.com

**North County Book Group** meets at the North Sarasota Library. Dates, time, room location, and discussion leader will be printed in the monthly *Synthesis*. Lunch after book discussion is optional. All members are welcome!

- September: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver  
 October: *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand  
 November: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray  
 January: *Never* by Ken Follett  
 February: *The Queen of Dirt Island* by Donal Ryan  
 April: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano

*Submitted by Lois Fisch*

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



### Gulf Gate Read and Discuss Book Group

This group meets at the Gulf Gate Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room. Watch the *Synthesis* monthly calendar for dates and times. All members are welcome, and lunch is optional after discussion.

- October: *The Light We Carry* by Michele Obama  
 November: *The Queen of Dirt Island* by Donal Ryan  
 December: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray  
 January: *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire  
 February: *The Postmistress of Paris* by Meg Waite Clayton  
 April: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

*Submitted by Sylvia Rosenfeld*



# WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Our Sarasota AAUW Branch has had a very successful 2022-2023 season of programs and meetings. Appreciation is due to the Women's Resource Center administrators and volunteers who were most accommodating and provided us with much needed space for our members and guest speakers.

But, did you know that, in addition to programs and resources offered to our community women and their families, the Center also has a very successful **Clothing Boutique**. WRC clients in need of clothes for a new job or interview are free to choose items for such opportunities.

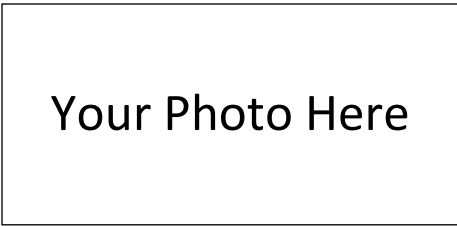
New and gently used women's clothing, shoes, accessories, formal wear, coats, hats, scarves, purses, and jewelry are gladly accepted on Monday through Thursday from 11am- 3pm. For additional information, call (941)256-9721.



Think of them while spring cleaning and when doing closet rearranging. Say hello as a Sarasota AAUW member. Quite possibly you could end up shopping yourself in their well-designed **Career Closet**.

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

*“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).

---

---

# MAY

To place items in the Calendar, contact  
**Sue Casey** [aauwflcasey@gmail.com](mailto:aauwflcasey@gmail.com) or  
**Sue McGowan** at [suemcg4802@gmail.com](mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com)  
 by the 10th of August for the September 2023  
 newsletter.

Date and Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Saturday, April 29 2:00 p.m.	<b>Ballet Enthusiasts</b> 	Sarasota Opera House Contact: Sue McGowan <a href="mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com">suemcg4802@gmail.com</a>	Dinner reservation due by April 19. See page 6 for more info.
On-going Sundays 5:00 p.m.	<b>Meet &amp; Eat:</b> <b>See page 7 of this Synthesis.</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:firthent@yahoo.com">firthent@yahoo.com</a>	All skill levels welcome.
Tuesday, May 2 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.
Friday, May 5 11:30 a.m.	 <b>Sarasota Branch Spring Luncheon</b>	<b>Location:</b> Marina Jack Restaurant <b>Contact:</b> Kathy Schersten (941) 302-8848	See last page of this <i>Synthesis</i> for reservation form and information.
Tuesday, May 16 11:00 a.m. 	<b>The North County Book Group</b>  <b>Book:</b> <i>The Children Act</i> <b>Author:</b> Ian McEwan	<b>Location:</b> North Sarasota Library  <b>Contact:</b> Lois Fisch (941) 735-0378 <a href="mailto:lfisch@utica.edu">lfisch@utica.edu</a>	<b>Discussion Leader:</b> Linda Cornell  Optional lunch following discussion. All members welcome.
Thursday, May 18 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 	<b>Florida State AAUW Annual Meeting via Zoom</b>	<b>Refer to AAUW Florida floriVision, April 2023 issue that came to your personal email.</b>	Election of Officers, Annual Reports, New Nominating Committee, Town Hall

**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
<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: August 10th** is the deadline for the September 2023 issue of the **Synthesis**. Please submit either an email or attached Word document to our **new editor Sue McGowan** at [suemcg4802@gmail.com](mailto:suemcg4802@gmail.com). Photos are appreciated. A PDF file cannot be edited. 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.

<b>Grouper Sandwich with Fries</b>	Please note any food allergy or dietary restriction:
<b>Reuben Sandwich with Fries</b>	
<b>Caesar Salad with Shrimp</b>	
<b>Vegetarian Plate:</b> 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) 302-8848 with your credit card information.

Questions? Call Kathy at (941) 302-8848 **Reservation Deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023**