



Synthesis

AAUW Sarasota Branch



President's Message

As the holidays are all about counting our blessings and being thankful for all things we hold dear. I want to thank all of you that supported our branch by volunteering – we couldn't do it without you. May your Christmas be happy and the New Year bring you good health, laughter, and lotsa hugs. Start the New Year by attending our Ruth Bader Ginsburg fundraiser on January 16!

Sue Casey, President



Hear ye! Hear ye! Here ye!
The Town Crier is Ringing His Bell Announcing
OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER
SHERYL FAYE AS RUTH BADER GINSBURG
SPREAD THE WORD TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY.





The American Association of University Women of Sarasota Presents

SHERYL FAYE AS RUTH BADER GINSBURG



**A Fundraiser to Benefit AAUW Scholarships and Educational Opportunities for Women and Girls
in Sarasota**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
\$45.00 per ticket
Unitarian Universalist Church
3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL**

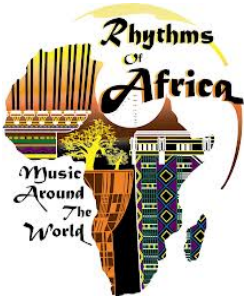
Purchase tickets online at Eventbrite.com for \$45.01: (Search Events, search anything, Ruth Bader Ginsburg)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-sarasota-presents-sheryl-faye-as-ruth-bader-ginsburg-tickets-725465556007?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

AAUW members may pay by check made payable to AAUW SRQ for \$45.00 and mail to Martha Lindberg, 700 Coconut Ave. #427, Sarasota FL 34236

RBG Basket Raffle Tickets: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

Florida fundraising Registration Number is: CH66300. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800- 435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE FLORIDA.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR OUR SPECIAL FEBRUARY MEETING AT A SPECIAL LOCATION

Wednesday, February 21

Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd, Sarasota
2:00 o'clock

Black History Music Through the Ages

Throughout history, music has been central to the African experience— from the African Motherland to the shores of this land called America. The melodies and rhythms of the African Motherland have been captured in Spirituals (which, among other iterations, were used as signal songs on the Underground Railroad to alert and instruct the enslaved Africans) and other forms of Soul Music. Along the way, the music of African Americans has continued to evolve... including social music, classical music, and many other forms. Learn more on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd, Sarasota at 2:00 o'clock.



Corrections to the recent edition of the Branch Directory:

- Please note that the year of directory should read “2023-2024”. You can distinguish the most recent edition by the **dark** background on the AAUW logo.
- Member entry for Judy Beilman: Phone number should be 732-272-2224
- Member entry for Rona Gahr: Phone number should be 414-303-0615
- Member entry for Janet Mahler: Phone number 941-966-8576, email address janet.mahler@yahoo.com, attended Tufts University and SUNY Oneonta
- Member entry for Sylvia Rosenfeld: Phone number should be 941-706-1773

It is with sadness that we note that **Lenore Horner**, a long-time member of our Branch, passed away last month. Lenore was an avid member of the Play Reading Interest group, and many members remember play gatherings at holiday time hosted by Lenore. Those were extra special play gatherings, as they included singing around the piano while Lenore played.



Welcome to our newest member – Sandy Cooke

Sandy is originally from Connecticut and has lived and worked in New York, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and South Carolina. She holds a BS in English education from Central Connecticut State University, an MA in Educational Media from Fairfield University in Connecticut, and school administration from UConn. Sandy holds teaching certification in English grades 7-12, as well as certification in school administration and School Library Media Specialist.

Sandy has worked in secondary education and school administration, publishing (e.g. Scholastic Magazine), and finance. When Sandy moved to Sarasota, she worked part-time as front of house manager for the Sarasota Orchestra. She is now happily retired!

Sandy has two children and became a proud grandmother for the first time in June to Elina, a darling baby girl born to her son and daughter-in-law in southern California.

Sandy loves dogs and travel and hopes to do more river cruising.

So glad you have joined us, Sandy!

Submitted by Nancy Brennan, Membership



Public Policy



The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from a nonpartisan but equity-focused viewpoint? Would you like to be able to ask your own questions of experts regarding these issues? Then be sure to attend as many AAUW Florida Issue Forums

this year as you can. All sessions will start at 6:00 PM and last for an hour. The series is open to AAUW members and guests.

TITLE	DATE	SPEAKERS	RSVP
Gender Pay Gap and Economic Security	March 7, 2024	Dr. Mary Gatta, AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director and Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers	Click here to register for this session
Voting Rights	April 18, 2024	Debbie Chandler, Co-President, League of Women’s Voters. Florida	Click here to register for this session

You will need to RSVP for each session individually. Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session. If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, Co-Public Policy Director, AAUW Florida at gatta.mary@gmail.com.

Meeting with legislators is an effective and exciting way to make sure they understand AAUW positions on our priority issues. And there’s strength in numbers. That’s why AAUW Florida sponsors Lobby Days each year, encouraging branches throughout the state to participate. This year Lobby Days in Tallahassee will be January 16 and 17, 2024. For anyone who has ever been curious about how it works, ask me or Ellen Roche, who attended in 2020. Find us in the picture below! Hotel rooms are organized and partially subsidized by the AAUW-FL, as is some travel. AAUW members from all over the state attend, so it’s a great way to meet our sister members, as well as a fascinating look into how legislation gets passed or fails. The state Public Policy Director gives plenty of instruction of what to do when you are there and you visit the legislative offices in pairs, so you needn’t worry about being on your own. It’s one of the most interesting things I have ever done. For more information click here: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/lobby-days/>



Submitted by Diana Sells, Director for Public Policy

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

LOIS WILKINS



Write Read Write Program

Each year many of our members generously offer to buy a book for a third-grade student at an underserved school. As with last year, Alta Vista Elementary School is that school; and this year we have two classrooms (of about 20 in each) to buy for.

This is how our Sarasota Branch describes the program in our Education Initiatives.

The Write Read Write program targets 3rd grade students who write a letter describing themselves and/or their reading interests. These student letters are distributed to our branch members who individually purchase a book appropriate for that student. The books are delivered to their teacher for distribution. After reading the book, the student writes a note describing how they enjoyed the book. That note is then returned to the AAUW member who provided the book.

On Wednesday, the 13th, I had the opportunity to speak to the two classes. What a joy seeing their enthusiasm and hearing their questions. I will be collecting the names of the students **next week!** I know that everyone will want to participate again. So, I am asking you now to *please send me a quick email saying YES.* My email address is suemcg4802@gmail.com You will be asked to buy one hardcover book, write a letter describing who you are (They were very interested in knowing something about who would be buying a book for them!), and write the letter IN PRINTED FORM ONLY.* You will receive your child's letter in early in January, and we will collect your books and letters at the February 21 meeting at the North County Library. Later in the spring you will receive a thank you note from your student.

Assisting this year in the distribution and collection of the letters and books are Bev Prechtel, Anne Salamone, Kathy Oarr, and Carol Bernasconi.

Because I speak from the experience of many of us, we know that this is a terrific program; and we love to get those thank you notes! Please join us again this year (and if you haven't had the opportunity to in the past, this is a great time to begin!). Thank you.

*Editor's Note: (Cursive is trying to make a comeback, but it isn't here yet!).

Here is the letter each child received on Wednesday.

**American Association of University Women
Sarasota, FL 34243**



December 2023

Hello!

We love to read, and we know that you do, too! Books are very, very special. 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 that would be special for you and 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. Maybe it is about your favorite subject, sports, hobbies, kinds of books you already read, or anything else you especially enjoy. So, please send us a letter. We will be happy to look for a book that is just right for you.

Sincerely,

Your Pen Pal Friends, The Ladies of AAUW

Submitted by Sue McGowan



Tech Trek is currently taking nominations from STEM 7th grade teachers. Deadline for this step is December 15th. At this time there are 3 nominations from Out-Of-Door Academy, 2 from Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences, and one from Booker Middle. I am expecting more this week, as I have been fielding more specific questions from other schools. Tech Trek Stetson camp will be June 9-15 and FAU, Jupiter, will be June 16-22.

*Submitted by Leiland Theriot
AAUW Tech Trek Coordinator
Sarasota Branch*



Benderson Babes

Every Wednesday at 11:30 am - the absolute best remedy for the mid-week blahs. 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.” 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.



Meet and Eat Sundays

Sunday dinner with your AAUW friends—good times with great people. All are welcome to join us, share a dinner, and spend time with your AAUW family. All reservations are for 5 p.m. If you want to

join us, **please reply to this email** (aauwflcasey@gmail.com) to let me know. If your plans change, or you forgot to RSVP and you decide you'd like to come, just call (941-735-8324) or email me so I can update the reservations.

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 5:00 PM

C'est La Vie

1553 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236

941-906-9575

<http://www.cestlaviesarasota.com/reservations/#>

Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 5:00 PM

Seasons 52

170 University Town Center Drive

Sarasota, FL 34243

(941) 702-9652

<https://www.seasons52.com/menu/all-day/entrees>

Sunday, December 31, 2023 - 5:00 PM

Happy New Year – traditionally this isn't a great night to eat out – if you're alone and want to share, contact me and we'll do something.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 - 5:00 PM

Duval's

1435 Main Street

Sarasota, FL 34236

941-312-4001

<https://www.duvalsfreshlocalseafood.com/dinner>

Sunday, January 14, 2024 - 5:00 PM

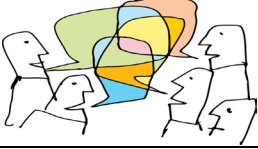

Wicked Cantina

1603 N Tamiami Trl

Sarasota, Florida 34236

<https://wickedcantina.com/lunch-%26-dinner>

To place items in the Calendar, contact Sue McGowan by January 10 for the February 2024 Newsletter at suemcg4802@gmail.com. Please send them in Word format. I cannot edit a PDF file. You can text or call me at 781-264-2450. Thank you.

Date	Time	Event	Location / Contact	Notes
Tuesday January 2	10:30	AAUW Sarasota BOARD MEETING 	Women’s Resource Center 340 S. Tuttle Ave. Sarasota, FL Contact: Sue Casey at aauwfcasey@gmail.com	All members are welcome.
Monday January 16	1 p.m..	AAUW FUNDRAISER SHERYL FAYE presents RUTH BADER GINSBURG	Unitarian Universalist Church 3975 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL Contact: Martha Lindberg at annie.barnewell@outlook.com	Bring your neighbors, friends, family!
Friday January 19	1:30 p.m.	Third Friday Bridge	1500 1500 Glen Oaks Drive E	Contact Maureen First at firthent@yahoo.com for details.
Tuesday January 23 	11:00 a.m.	Gulf Gate Book Group <i>Aristotle and Dante by Benjamin Alire</i>	Gulf Gate Library 7112 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231 2 nd floor	Discussion Leader: Betty Schattschneider All members welcome. For more information contact Sylvia Rosenfeld at Sylros10@yahoo.com Jocelyn Baskey @yahoo.co.uk
Saturday January 27	2:00 p.m.	Ballet Enthusiasts	Asolo Theater Dinner after the ballet. A reminder will be sent to all Ballet Enthusiasts.	Sue McGowan at suemcg4802@gmail.com no later than January 10 to join for dinner after.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

**AAUW Sarasota Branch
Elected Officers and Directors 2022-2024**

OFFICERS

President (2022-2024)	Susan Casey
Vice President (2022-2024)	Vacant
Secretary (2021-2023)	Estephanie Herrera
Treasurer (2021-2023)	Ellen Roche

DIRECTORS

Program (2023-2025)	Martha Lindberg
Membership (2022-2024)	Nancy Brennan
Public Policy (2022-2024)	Diana Sells
Communications (2022-2024)	Dawn Graber
Education Programs (2023-2025)	Lois Wilkins
Nominations (2023-2025)	Lois Fisch
Past President, (ex-officio, non-voting)	Lois Fisch
Synthesis Editor	Sue McGowan



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

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