



President's Message

*Wishing you the happiest of holidays
and
a joyous and productive new year.*

Lois Fisch, President

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Season of Sharing

An Opportunity to Assist Families in Financial Crisis



While Sarasota is ranked among Florida's most affluent communities, hundreds of hardworking families are just one paycheck away from the threat of homelessness or one emergency away from having to choose between buying food and paying the electric bill. This fact has never been truer than now, with inflation, job losses due to a variety of factors, the rise in rents and utilities, or a medical emergency.

As a vital community-wide safety net, **Season of Sharing** has helped tens of thousands of people in our region over the past 25 years avert cascading crises by providing temporary financial assistance for essential living expenses.

Partnering with Season of Sharing is our local Patterson Foundation, that contributes \$100,00 for every \$500,000 of donor contributions. We at **Sarasota AAUW Branch** have contributed over \$2,000 in the last two years. Let's kick it up a notch and aim for a minimum of \$3,000 this year! The needs are always there, and there have never been more needs than this year.

For any of you who may be newer to the Sarasota area, there are several articles in the archives of the Sarasota Herald Tribune you can read telling the personal stories of families who have been saved from homelessness by this generosity.

At our annual Christmas gathering to share in friendship (and good food), we offer support to those less fortunate by donating to Season of Sharing, an organization that operates as one of four Seasons of Sharing in our four neighboring counties. If you won't be able to attend the luncheon, you can still send your contribution, made out to Season of Sharing, to Ellen Roche, Treasurer. Thank you.

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AAUW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

make it French!

Holidays are upon us and AAUW is ready for a festive luncheon for our members and family and friends!



Date: Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 | Deadline to Register:

Wednesday, December 5th, 2025

 **Time:** Seating at 11:30am | Lunch at 12:00pm

 **Location:** Claudie's Restaurant, a French delight!
17 S. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34237

 Reserve your seat today!

- Choose your meal
- Invite a friend
- Submit your payment

\$40/ person | \$48/ person with wine | Includes tax & gratuity.

In addition to your selected entree, served to all guests will be:

- **First Course Appetizer:** *Red Pepper Tapenade, Anchovy Tapenade, Black Olives served with Fresh Sliced Baguette*
- **Starter Salad:** *Small Mixed Green Salad with Tomatoes and Croutons, Balsamic & Oil Cream Dressing served on the salad*
- **Dessert:** *Home Made mini Apple Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream, Mini Beignet and Whipped Chocolate Topping*

RSVP by completing and mailing the below registration form and send a check to Carol Bernasconi, 5645 Cape Leyte Dr., Sarasota, FL 34242, or visiting our website at <https://aauwsarasota.org>

For questions or more information, please contact:

Kathy Schersten

 941-302-7848

Carol Bernasconi

 941-346-9915

We can't wait to see you there!

CLICK TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!

DOWNLOAD THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

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Abigail Adams

America's Second First Lady



One Woman. Every Voice.
A One-Woman Show to Inspire & Empower
Fundraiser Performance by Sheryl Faye

Monday January 12th, 2026

1:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church

3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232

All proceeds support AAUW Sarasota

We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW FOR "REMEMBER THE LADIES"!](#)

Supporter

Price: \$45.00

Every seat matters. Every voice counts.

Entry to the performance

Open seating

The Voice

Price: \$150.00

A voice raised can echo for a lifetime

Two entries to the performance

Reserved center-section seating

Name listed in programme

The Legacy (2 available)

Price: \$500.00

For those who shape the future — leaving a lasting impact on generations.

Includes:

Four entries to the performance

Front-row center-section reserved seating

Name/logo featured as an event sponsor in full page ad in programme and on our website

Purpose

Funds raised at the Abigail Adams event will support AAUW Sarasota and its work to support equity for women and girls including programs

such as reading programs for elementary students, teacher support and advocacy for equal pay. Contributions are not tax deductible.

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REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CONTACT 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352), OR FDACS.gov.

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Upcoming Speakers

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Meetings, where we will be hosting two impactful community partners:

January General Meeting – Healthy Start

Start the new year with an inspiring presentation from Healthy Start, an organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, and families. Their mission aligns beautifully with AAUW's commitment to supporting women at every stage of life.

February General Meeting – Tidewell Hospice

In February, we welcome Hospice (Tidewell Hospice), who will share resources, support programs, and insights on compassionate end-of-life care in our community. This is an important and meaningful topic we encourage everyone to learn more about.

We Encourage All Members to Attend. Your participation matters!

These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to stay informed, connect with fellow members, and support organizations making a difference in

our area. Please mark your calendars and join us as we continue learning, growing, and supporting our mission together.



The Gulf Gate Book Group

Tuesday, December 9th,
2025 – 11:30 AM

Location: Gulf Gate Library

They will discuss The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. Betty Schattschneider will lead the discussion.

The North County Book Group will not meet in December.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Please welcome new member Marlene Yanelli. She is a retired accountant and a dual member with AAUW

Manatee County Branch. Her contact information is in the new Directory.

AAUW Webinars



AAUW offers the following award-winning virtual economic empowerment trainings- Work Smart, Start Smart, and Money Smart- that are specifically designed to address professional challenges faced by women. Check out the schedule for November-December 2025.

AAUW Work Smart:

Know Your Value and Get Paid – Training for early and mid-career professionals on negotiating for fair salaries, better benefits, and advancement opportunities.

AAUW Work Smart: Develop Your Value Statement Deep Dive

Thursday, December 4, 2025

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

AAUW Start Smart:

AAUW Start Smart is specifically designed for college women entering the job market, teaching effective salary negotiation techniques to boost your confidence and negotiation skills.

AAUW Start Smart

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

AAUW Money Smart:

The AAUW Money Smart program is aimed at providing all women with the personal finance information they need to ensure their own financial security.

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)

These programs have already impacted over 190,000 women across the U.S., empowering them with confidence, knowledge, and skills.



The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from an equity-focused, nonpartisan viewpoint? Then be sure to attend as many **AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums** this year as you can. All sessions start at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evenings. They are open to AAUW members and guests. All sessions require pre-registration.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forum Organizer at gatta.mary@gmail.com

You will need to RSVP for each session individually (links below). Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session via email.

[Women in STEM 1/20/26](#)

[Women's Economic Security 3/31/26](#)

If you would like to learn more about the bills that are and will be proposed during the 2026 legislative session and the members of the committee(s) you are interested in following, you can go to <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx>. There you can link to all of that information and go deeper into the bills themselves. You can also sign up to the Legislative Tracking System from this site and keep up to date with all activities and meetings related to those committees you are following. Be in the know. Sign up today.

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AAUW Sarasota Ballet Enthusiasts



Hi, Ballet Enthusiasts

Our next ballet, Written Motion, is coming up on Saturday, November 22, at 2 PM. The performance will be at the Sarasota Opera House, with lunch prior to the performance at 12:15 PM at Duval's Restaurant in downtown Sarasota. If you are attending this performance and would like to join us for lunch, kindly let me know so I can include you in our lunch reservations.

For a more complete description of this performance, visit SarasotaBallet.org. For tickets, contact the Sarasota Ballet Box Office at 941.359.0099.

As always, call or email me at 941.924.5952.

Best, Nancy Brennan 🙏🙏

PROGRAMS		
PROGRAM 4 Written Motion	FSU Performing Arts Center	January 31st 2:00pm
PROGRAM 7 Notes Unspoken	Sarasota Opera House	May 2nd 2:00pm



Calendar of Events			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
11/22/2025	2:00pm	WRITTEN MOTION BALLET PERFORMANCE	Sarasota Opera House
12/2/2025	11:00am	BOARD MEETING	Women's Resource

			Center
12/4/2025	3:00pm	WORK SMART WEBINAR	Online
12/9/2025	11:30am	THE GULF GATE BOOK GROUP	Gulf Gate Library
12/10/2025	11:30am	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON	Claudie's Restaurant
12/10/2025	5:00PM	START SMART WEBINAR	ONLINE
12/17/2025	5:00PM	MONEY SMART WEBINAR	ONLINE
01/12/2026	1:00PM	ANNUAL FUNDRAISER	Unitarian Universalist Church

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Meeting Dates

Board Meetings

December 2 - 11:00-1:00

January 6 - 11:00-1:00

February 3 - 11:00-1:00

March 3 - 11:00-1:00

April 7 - 11:00-1:00

May 5 - 11:00-1:00

June 2 - 11:00-1:00

Branch Meetings

January 21 - 2:00-4:30

February 18 - 2:00-4:30

March 18 - 2:00-4:30

April 15 - 2:00-4:30

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Save The Date- September 25-27, 2026
AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026
Lancaster, PA!



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2025-2026 Board of Directors

Lois Fisch

Marcia Hill

Ellen Roche

President	Secretary	Treasurer
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AAUW SARASOTA

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