



President's Message

We have much to look forward to in this bright new year:

- [Abigail Adams, America's Second First Lady](#) - an entertaining look at one of our country's first feminists!
- [Deciding how to spend the money from our fundraiser](#) - always a delightful process!
- [Monthly membership meetings](#) - a chance to hear an inspiring speaker and socialize with our AAUW sisters!
- [Write-Read-Write](#) - what fun it is to buy a book and write a note to a charming third grader!
- [Tech Trek](#) - interviews with amazing girls!
- [Scholarship awards](#) - always an inspiration and an honor to support young women in their pursuit of meaningful careers!
- The election of new officers to the Board - time to step up and volunteer!
- [The Spring Luncheon](#) - a chance to celebrate each other and the good work we've done so far!

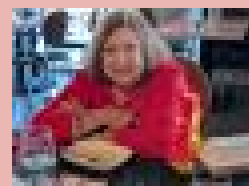
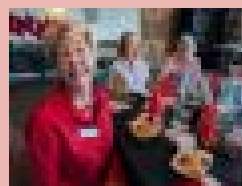
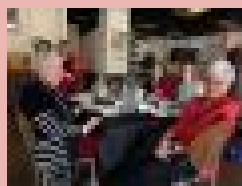
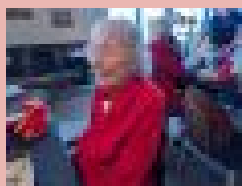
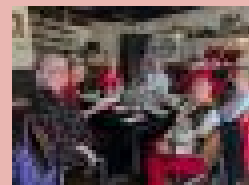
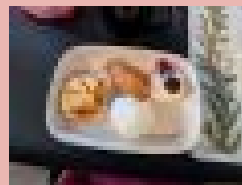
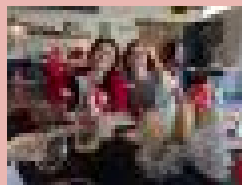
HAPPY NEW YEAR! LET THE FUN BEGIN!

Lois Fisch, President



AAUW Holiday Luncheon

Thank you to all of our members and their friends for joining us at our annual holiday luncheon. It was such a joy celebrating the season together. A special thank-you to our wonderful hosts Kathy Schersten and Carol Bernasconi for putting on another beautiful gathering. Please enjoy a few photos from our event. We're so grateful for this incredible community.



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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2026 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.

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The North County Book Group

**Tuesday, January 20th, 2026 –
11:00 AM**

**Location: North Sarasota
Library (conference room)**

Joan Nasser will lead the discussion of The Space Between Us by Thrity Umrigar.



The Gulf Gate Book Group

Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 –
11:30 AM

Location: Gulf Gate Library

They will discuss James by Percy Everett. Sylvia Rosenfeld will lead the discussion. Lunch will take place afterwards at a local restaurant.



Membership Corner

From Diana Sells

This year, rather than a booklet-type Directory, a printed copy of our branch roster is available at meetings. The information was taken from the National roster, so if you never updated your contact information at that level, it may be wrong. Please let me know of any corrections and I can update you on the AAUW Community Hub. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you let me know and I will send it - I won't send an email copy due to security risks. If you cannot make a meeting feel free to ask someone else that you will see to pick it up for you.

Please make the following corrections:

Roz Lurie: 773-218-1005

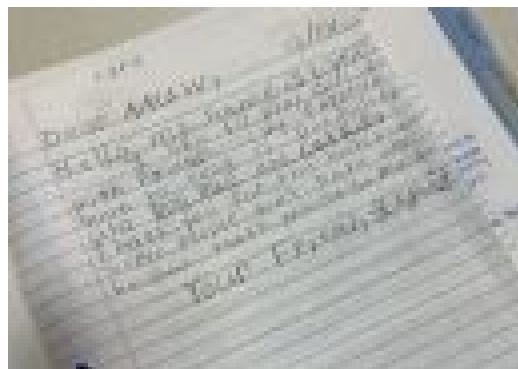
Joan Nasser: 3950 Oakley Green 34235

Janet Mahler: janet.mahler@yahoo.com

Linda Cornell: 941-284-2344

Joan Fox: 941-256-3255

WRITE READ WRITE 2026!



Good news! Two third grade teachers at Booker Elementary School are looking forward to participating in our project. The students are going to write letters to us about themselves and their interests in reading. We hope to distribute the letters to our members by our January 21st meeting.

We may have about forty students so we need your generous help to purchase books (hard cover if possible), and write a return note to your assigned student(s). **Please bring your books and notes, one book per student, in a gift bag to our February 18th meeting.** Sue and Liz will take the books to the classrooms shortly after that. We can look forward to thank you notes from the children in March.

Our goal is to encourage the love of books and reading by giving each child their own book to keep and read. If you would like to participate but cannot attend the January meeting, please call or text ASAP – Liz Smith 248-396-2990.

Thank you, Liz Smith and Sue Ritchey

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



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
Tue. Jan 6th	11:00am	Board Meeting	Sarasota Women's Resource Center
Mon. Jan. 12th	1:00pm	Annual Fundraiser	Unitarian Universalist Church
Tue. Jan. 20th	6:00pm	Public Policy	Zoom

		Forum	
Tue. Jan. 20th	11:00am	North County Book Group	North Sarasota Library
Tue. Jan. 21st	2:00pm	General Meeting	Sarasota Women's Resource Center
Tue. Jan. 27th	11:30am	Gulf Gate Book Group	Gult Gate Library
Sat. Jan 27th	2:00pm	Ballet Program	FSU Performing Arts Center



Meeting Dates

Board Meetings

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

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



2025-2026 Board of Directors

Lois Fisch President	Marcia Hill Secretary	Ellen Roche Treasurer
Diana Sells Memberships	Silvia Blanco Director of Programs	Sue McGowan Public Policy
Sue Casey Past President	Estephanie D. Synthesis / Communication	

AAUW SARASOTA

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