

AAUW Bradenton

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Branching Out

Branching Out is published monthly by the Bradenton Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#), P.O.Box 14099, Bradenton, FL 34280-4099



President's Message

Dear members,

Happy New Year! As we welcome in 2021, we can say that "hindsight is 2020" with real conviction! For the Bradenton Branch the new year ushers in a continuation of our virtual branch "meetings" and adaptations of spring activities that must take different forms to achieve the same goals.

Thank all of you who helped warm up the holiday for the girls at Just For Girls Middle School by contributing to the cost of the mini blankets. At our December Zoom meeting, member and principal Dee Ralph shared photos of the girls with the cute throws that were our gifts. Dee said, "It will be a warm

([to continue, click here](#))

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ZOOM Meetings



We will continue to meet via ZOOM through the end of 2020. To join the meeting, click on this link between 6:45 and 7:00 on January 19:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

Zoom is free and easy to use. You just need a computer, tablet, or smart phone with WiFi access. Click on this link to sign-up for a free Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/signin>. You can also download the *.exe file and install ZOOM Client.

If you are unfamiliar with using ZOOM, there is an excellent tutorial at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOUwumKCW7M>.

Test your microphone and speaker when prompted. To mute or unmute your voice, hover over the red microphone icon to . During a busy meeting, it's best to be muted until you need to be heard. Make sure your camera video is enabled. Please call or text Meg Newsome (941-704-2707) or Judy Griffin (941-323-4639) for additional individual assistance.



January Program:

Jane Plitt-Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote.

Social Time at 6:45.
Guest speaker at 7:00.
Meeting to follow.

Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) for her interview in [Sarasota Magazine](#).

President's Message (cont.)

and snugly break for the Just for Girls Middle students.

Thanks for wrapping us in your love AAUW! Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2021." Supporting this school is a Goal 3 strategy of our Strategic Plan.

Members participating during our December meeting shared books and movies that made a lasting impression them. A great list of books was compiled in addition to holiday socializing.



Are you joining us for the **January 19th** meeting? We are happy to welcome back **Jane Plitt**, one of our former "Women of Achievement" and former head of the National Organization for Women. Jane has shared some of her work with us before and was scheduled for one of our lunch meetings last year, but the pandemic caused us to cancel. We are so happy we were able to reschedule Jane. You probably have friends or neighbors who would enjoy hearing from her, so please invite them to Zoom with us on January 19th!

Remembering Pat Cobb

I am saddened to share that I recently learned of the death of a former member of our branch, Pat Cobb. Many of you will remember her as an active and interesting member of the branch for many years. I recall lively dinner conversations with her. Below is her obituary.

Patricia Cobb April 26, 1928 - November 8, 2020

Keene, New Hampshire - Formerly of Sarasota, Bradenton and Longboat Key, Florida, Pat moved to New Hampshire in 2017. She was a long-time middle school teacher in the Manatee County school system. organizations, including the Red Cross swimming programs, many Longboat Key youth programs, youth advocacy with Manatee County courts, many activities with the Sunnyside Community where she lived before moving north. She enjoyed clowning, remote control sailboats, play reading, AAUW, Rotary and most especially travelling the world, visiting all 7 continents. Pat was predeceased by her husband, George and daughter, Johanna (Gigi). She is survived by daughters; Susanna Toumanoff (Peter) and Laura (Henk den Braber), six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. No local Services are planned. Memorials may be made to the American Red Cross or the [Alzheimer's Association](#).

AAUW Bradenton Monthly Meetings

Date: January 19, 2021

Location: ZOOM

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

Time: 6:45

Program: Jane Plitt-
Celebrating 100 Years of
Women's Right to Vote.

[Click here for interview in Sarasota Magazine.](#) – You will not want to miss this program!

Next Monthly Meeting:

Date: February 16, 2021

Location: ZOOM

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6030763851>

Time: 6:45

Program: TBA

SAVE THE DATE

February 16th – Branch
Monthly Meeting

March 16th - Amy Wich,
Pace Center for Girls

Postponed: There will not be
2020 Women of
Achievement

March 17 – Virtual Lobby Day
(AAUW Florida)

April 16, 17, 18 – Florida
Leadership Conference:
"Women Together in the
Sunshine State"

A Note From Jane Plitt (January Guest Speaker)

My presentation will be:

"The Challenge: From Suffrage to Equality... Are We There Yet?"

Whoopie, women have had the vote for 100 years, but did it bring full equality for women? Join Jane Plitt, Visiting Scholar and Bradenton resident, as she shares the historical saga to bring about equality for American women and identifies the challenges that remain. Plitt is the author of three books about Martha Matilda Harper ([Martha Matilda Harper and the American Dream](#), [Martha the Hairpreneur](#), and [Martha's Magical Hair](#)), a prize-winning businesswoman and community advocate. She is featured in the ongoing exhibit at the Rochester Museum and Science Center as a changemaker who change the world.

Looking forward to connecting, if only remotely.

Jane

From AAUW:

Learn — *Dig deeper into the issues that matter*

Over the last month, AAUW has [communicated](#) with the Biden-Harris transition team about the actions we and our coalition partners would like to see the incoming administration take to support the economic security and education of women and girls. COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on women and people of color, and we must take bold steps to address economic disparities and inequitable educational opportunities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We [asked](#) the Biden-Harris Administration to focus on equity issues, including increasing the minimum wage, advancing pay equity, canceling student debt, suspending implementation of the new Title IX rule, and prioritizing gender and racial equity across departments and programs. We also [urged](#) them to appoint candidates to key cabinet positions who have a deep understanding of systemic barriers to equal opportunity faced by historically marginalized communities and have a record of advocating for the civil rights of all working people and students they serve.

Engage — *Share the important work we're doing*

- Ensure you engage in every AAUW action in the new year and [become a Two-Minute Activist](#) today.
- Re-watch some of the [top policy webinars of the year](#): The Status of Latinas in the United States During COVID-19, Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court, and Social Media Advocacy 101.
- Access the AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) [resources](#), which share best practices for AAUW members and others to incorporate inclusive practices into their branches and daily lives.

An Opportunity to Collaborate with Sarasota AAUW

You may have heard that last year **Sarasota AAUW** commissioned a report from Dr. Mary Gatta like the ones she had done for **Florida AAUW** on economic insecurity in older women in Florida. This one focuses just on Sarasota County. Sarasota AAUW is disseminating the report to stakeholders, especially our elected representatives. The **Venice AAUW** is joining with them, and they have invited the Manatee and Bradenton branches to collaborate as well since some of our state representatives cover parts of both Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Would you be willing to join their committee, headed by **Ellen Roche**? Mostly your commitment will mean participating in some zoom calls, and, if we can ever safely visit legislative offices, perhaps an in-person visit to hand-deliver a copy of the report and do some lobbying. If you are interested, please contact our Public Policy Director, Mary Schmidt or President, Marcia Hill. The report is on the Sarasota branch's website [AAUW ECONOMIC SECURITY | Sarasota \(FL\) Branch](#).

Diana Sells, Public Policy Director for AAUW Sarasota, shared this opportunity with us since our branches work well together on past Start Smart and Work Smart workshops for our residents.



Calling all AAUW Artists:

It's that time of year again! AAUW's 12th annual art contest opens January 6, and your work could be among the winning entries.

To enter, [submit your photography or a digital photo](#) of your painting, drawing, sculpture, collage or other form of art through the AAUW website. All entries are accepted, but we encourage you to look through your portfolio for works that speak to AAUW's mission.

AAUW members will select their favorite entries via ranked-choice voting. Winning entries will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to members in the spring. The back of the cards will include the winning artist's biography, a fact about AAUW and a highlight of their local branch affiliation when applicable.

This year's winners could include someone from your branch or state, so spread the word through your member communications!

For more information on submitting artwork or to see last year's art gallery, please visit the [AAUW Art Contest page](#).

We hope to see your work in this year's contest!

Best,



Tremayne A. Parquet,
Deputy Director of Advancement & Partnerships

[AAUW](#)

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Washington, DC 20005

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[unsubscribe](#)

NOTE:

The **Book & Movie Recommendations** from the December Meeting / Holiday Celebration will be in the **February Newsletter**.

**AAUW Florida--Tenacious & Trailblazing
Save these Dates:**

**Virtual Lobby Day: March 17
More info coming.**

**Leadership Conference: April 16, 17, 18
“Women Together in the Sunshine State”**

Although our Conference and Annual Meeting may not be in-person, we will come together virtually renewing acquaintances and rejuvenating our commitment to equity for women at all stages of their lives.

Be prepared to be;

- An Inspired Leader,
- Attuned to the issues of Diversity and Inclusion,
- Able to address Women’s Economic Insecurity, and
- Aware of Social Justice Initiatives.

In April, together we will reset our Agendas for 2021-22 creating an Action Plan -- Tenacious and Trailblazing!!!!

Together, we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all.

**Special Interest
Groups**

Most Special Interest Groups are not yet meeting regularly.

January Birthdays

Bea Moran CA
Jacqueline D’Alessio NJ



**Book
Group**

The Book Group will meet Thursday, January 7, at 1:30 pm at Blackstone Park in Palmetto (weather permitting).

Jane Snyder will lead the discussion of *At Weddings and Wakes* by Alice McDermott . For information call Carolyn Reynolds at 941-720-6575. Come join us.

Update on Tech Trek from Florida AAUW

Last year our branch, in collaboration with the Manatee County Branch, solicited middle school girls to participate in the Tech Trek summer camp experience. The girls were recommended by their teachers and selected by a committee of members through an interview process. We applied for and received a grant from the Rotary Club to help finance the project. The pandemic blocked the opening of the camp and postponed it to summer 2021. The money is still allocated in our budget.

Since health safety conditions are still a concern, Florida AAUW has adapted Tech Trek to a virtual experience scheduled for July. Our branch is committed to participating. Girls who were invited last year will be able to participate this summer, and an additional group of girls will be chosen. The goal is to provide parallel activities to those provided in person: core courses, group discussions, hands on experiences, time to talk with STEM professionals and college students and a virtual field trip.

The sponsorship fee of \$750 is half of the previous amount. If you would or a business or group you know would like to offer a donation, **do not send any Tech Trek funds or donations to AAUW National**. All donations collected should be sent to **Tech Trek Florida, P.O. Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468**. Checks should be made out to **AAUW FL Supporting Foundation, Inc. with Tech Trek on the memo line**. Checks made out to Tech Trek will be returned to the writer.

Barb Coolahan and Linda Guilfoyle are continuing to lead this project so if you have helped in the past or would like to be involved now, please contact one of them. (or contact Marcia Hill). We are looking forward to welcoming the girls to Tech Trek (virtually!).



2020-2021 Monthly Meetings Dates, Times, and Locations

January 19th, 2021 – ZOOM 6:45 p.m. Jane Plitt-Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote. [Click here for interview in Sarasota Magazine.](#)

February 16th, 2021 – ZOOM 6:45 p.m

March 16th, 2021 -- TBA (scheduled as 5:30 p.m. at IMG Academy Golf Club

March 17 – Virtual Labor Day (AAUW Florida)

April 16, 17, 18 – Florida Leadership Conference: “Women Together in the Sunshine State”



BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW MEMBERSHIP

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

NEW BRANCH MEMBER

Note: Information you provide is printed in the Branch Membership Directory unless otherwise indicated.

Member Type and Dues

Membership Type _____ Annual _____ Life _____ Dual (name primary branch) _____

_____ Dues for Annual Members: \$83 (\$59 National + \$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch)

(\$46 of National dues plus \$12 Branch Dues are Tax Deductible)

_____ Dues for Life Members: \$24 (\$12 State + \$12 Bradenton Branch)

_____ Dues for Dual Members: \$12

_____ I would like the branch newsletter emailed to me monthly @ no charge

_____ I would like the branch newsletter delivered by mail. I am adding \$10 for postage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name _____ Nickname _____

Florida Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Business Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Email Address _____

The branch sends invitations for monthly meeting reservations by e-mail. If you do not have email, enter NONE. *Those without email will be contacted by phone.*

Summer Address (if different from above) _____

_____ Zip _____ Summer Phone (____) _____

Please provide the following information for the branch directory:

Undergraduate Degree ___ BA ___ BS

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Graduate Degree _____

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Graduate Degree _____

College: _____ Year: _____ Major _____

Current Profession or Retired: _____

BRANCH INTEREST -- Check any of the following that you might enjoy.

___ Evening Book Club

___ Friday Friendly Bridge Group

___ Evening Gourmet Group

___ Publicity

___ Communications

___ Public Policy

___ Scholarship Selection

___ Membership

___ Greeting at Monthly Meetings

___ Membership Directory Update

___ Website/Social Media Updates

___ Women of Achievement Luncheon

___ Trivia Night Event

___ Tech Savvy Event

___ Work Smart/Start Smart Event

MAKE CHECK OUT TO "BRADENTON BRANCH AAUW"

MAIL TO: Mickie McElroy, 10437 48th Court E., Parrish FL 34219

512-917-6768, mickiemc@utexas.edu

Important to Know

AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Founded in 1881, membership is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent or higher degree.



National AAUW

<http://www.aauw.org/>

Florida AAUW

<http://aauwfl.aauw.net/>

Bradenton Branch

Website: <http://bradenton-fl.aauw.net>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Bradenton-Branch-103388217778483>

Branch Leadership 2020-2021

President - Marcia Hill: mshanerhill@gmail.com

Past President - Judy Griffin:

jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director of Finance (acting) – Mickie McElroy:

mickiemc@utexas.edu

Secretary – Fay Murphy: faymurph@aol.com

Director for Programs – Judy Griffin:

jdthgriffin@gmail.com

Director for Communications – Meg Newsome:

meggnewsome@outlook.com

Director for Public Policy – Mary Schmidt:

mcsrealtor@aol.com

Scholarship Foundation President – Elaine

Graham: ebebeg@aol.com

Scholarship Information:

aauwbbscholarship@gmail.com

Bylaws Chair/ Parliamentarian – Ruth Qualich:

qualir@yahoo.com

Bridge Group: Lois at lwblevins@msn.com

Book Club: Carolyn Reynolds: 941-720-6575

Just for Girls: deeisnice@gmail.com