



November/December

2023

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*Best Viewed on Full Screen.*

## **President's Posts**

**November 1, 2023**

Dear Members,

We had a fun and productive meeting in October! This was our first joint meeting involving the Manatee and Bradenton Branches of AAUW. A special thank you to Linda Guilfoyle, Vicki Waters and Pat Eggleston for their leadership and contributions.

Our Tech Trek Campers were very positive and enthusiastic presenters! We collected \$132 which will be used to provide gift certificates to the girls as well as to support our donation to the 2004 Tech Trek Camp.

### **Our November meeting will be ...**

Where: The Anna Maria Oyster Bar- Landside

When: November 14th at 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Debi Osborne, Director of Land Protection for the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

Debi is an accomplished speaker and advocate of preserving our natural resources. Hopefully, you will be able to join us for a good meal, fellowship, and new information!

An Evite invitation will be sent to you as well!!

### **Other news:**

Lunch will be ordered via Evite on 12-5-23 and then delivered for our

celebration. Please bring a wrapped/gift bagged used or new book of your choosing for our book exchange

An Evite with details will be distributed by December 5th

Our Board is very aware of the imposters and criminals who are posing as vendors or as one of us. We will be meeting about how to assist you with these fake emails and ways to protect yourself **from** being duped by these bad actors. However, please know that we will never contact you by email or texts for gift cards, donations or bill payments.

**Barb Coolahan**

**Bradenton Branch President of AAUW**

**December 1, 2023**

**President's Post**

Dear Members,

It was great seeing everyone at our November Branch Meeting. Debi Osborne, Director of the Land Protection for the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast was an outstanding Speaker. The fact that Manatee County has 14% of protected land in comparison to Sarasota at 32% are statistics that should concern us. I encourage you to review their website and share this information. A special thank you to Marriane Harrison, Director of Programs.

Our December Manatee and Bradenton Branch social gathering will be ...

**Where: The Manatee Community Foundation**

**2820 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton 34205**

**When: December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

**Why: Holiday Celebration- Book Exchange and Healthy Start  
Donation**

- Please bring a wrapped/gift bagged used or new book of your choosing for our book exchange
- Please consider providing diapers for a contribution to Healthy Start

**Menu**

A Lunch **from** Sage Biscuit will be ordered:

Choice #1- Turkey Cobb Salad

Choice #2 – Tomato and Basil Quinoa Salad

Cost \$30- Please bring a check or exact cash to the event

**Please RSVP by December 15<sup>th</sup> using Evite or contacting me at 941-896-6305**

**Be sure to indicate in your comments your choice of lunch!**

**Happy Holidays and Happy 2024!**

Barb Coolahan, Bradenton Branch and Pat Eggleston, Manatee Branch

AAUW Presidents

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**Next Meeting:**  
**Joint Holiday Get-Together with**  
**Bradenton and Manatee Branches**

**Tuesday, December 19**  
**11:30 PM [Note the Time and location, please!]**  
**Manatee Community Foundation**  
2820 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205

**PROGRAM:**  
**Annual Book Exchange**  
**Bring a wrapped (untagged) book to exchange.**

**LUNCH:**  
**\$30 (EXACT CASH or CHECK only, please)**  
**\$10 of that amount will be a donation.**

**A Lunch from Sage Biscuit will be ordered:**  
**Choice #1- Turkey Cobb Salad**  
**Choice #2 – Tomato and Basil Quinoa Salad**  
**Cost \$30- Please bring a check or exact cash to the event**  
**Please RSVP by December 15<sup>th</sup> using Evite or contacting me at 941-**  
**896-6305**

**Be sure to indicate in your comments your choice of lunch!**

Be sure to **RSVP** when you receive the Evite.

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## CALENDAR 2023-2024

Dates:	Time:	Topics:	Location:
Dec. 13, 2023	11:30 AM	Equal Rights Amendment March (in person and virtual)	
Dec. 19, 2023	11:30 AM	Book Exchange/Holiday Celebration	MCF * (Manatee Community Foundation)
Jan. 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Guardian Ad Litem/Toni Jefferies	AMOB
Jan. 16-17		Florida Legislature LOBBY DAYS	Tallahassee
Feb. 20, 2024	11:30 AM	Christi Haley/Pace Center for Girls	AMOB
March 16, 2024	11:30 AM	Cyn McCullough Women's Issues in the Workplace*	Country Club*
<b>50th and 75th Anniversary Celebration</b>			
April 4, 2024	TBA	Southwest Regional Conference	Venice Art Center
April 16, 2024	5:30 PM	LWV Deb Mazzaferro /Floridians for National Popular Vote	AMOB
May 21, 2024	5:30 PM	Installation/plan for 2024-25	AMOB

\* Joint Meetings with Manatee Branch



# Welcome to Bradenton Branch's Newest Members!

**Sue Casey**  
**Cay Johnson**  
**Sandy Ganter**

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## Public Policy for November/December

Below are some recent updates **from** AAUW FL Public Policy Committee.

- For information on Lobby Days click on <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/lobby-days/>

I will have additional information at our next meeting.

- AAUW FL is supporting Floridians Protecting Freedom in its campaign to place on the ballot a constitutional “Amendment to Limit Government Interference in Abortion.” FPF has notified AAUW that not enough districts have met the total number needed to meet the mandated “geographical diversity” requirement. Manatee is one of those districts. If you want to sign or print out a petition, go to:  
<https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/> Time is of the essence!
- **Student Debt webinar – December 7 at 2pm Eastern** AAUW is hosting an online discussion to provide practical information to people with student loans to help them make the best decisions for themselves to address their student debt. This free event with The Institute of Student Loan Advisors will provide specific and actionable information about income-driven repayment plans like SAVE, and other student loan resources available **from** the Department of

Education, as well as provide an overview of upcoming regulatory and congressional actions impacting student debt. Register at:

- **Equal Rights Amendment March – December 13 at 11:30a (in person and virtual)**

December 13 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the first introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress. As part of the ERA Coalition, AAUW will take to the streets in Washington, DC for a march **from** the White House to Capitol Hill. Information on a virtual action will soon be available.

- Our next Public Policy Issues Forum, **Public Education and Book Bans**, is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6 p.m. Dr. Marvin Dunn, Professor Emeritus at Florida International University and Miami Center for Racial Justice, is the featured presenter. Registration is free and open to members and friends. Register at: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/public-policy-issue-forums/>

- The recording of our **Public Policy Education Forum** **from** November is available. If you missed Dr. Elizabeth Brown (Past President of the United Faculty of Florida, UNF) discussing the impacts of the anti-DEI legislation at our colleges, you can access the recording here:  
<https://vimeo.com/881537463?share=copy>

- Co-Public Policy Director for AAUW FL, Dr. Mary Gatta, also the Director of Research and Public Policy for the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), has shared a resource just released at NACE. This new research was completed in partnership with Break Through Tech at Cornell University. The new report Women and Tech Careers—investigates the current landscape for women pursuing careers in technical fields and what can be done to improve outcomes for women. One of the study's key findings is the impact college career services can have in leveling the playing field for women in general and particularly for women pursuing tech careers:



Specifically --Undergraduate men get more job offers than undergraduate women regardless of whether they use career services, but the use of career services helps narrow the gap between the two groups. **However**, when undergraduate women earning STEM-related degrees use career services, they get MORE job offers than their male counterparts; in contrast, when neither group uses career services, men earning STEM degrees get more job offers.

Here is the link to the report: <https://naceweb.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/trends-and-predictions/the-impact-of-career-services-on-women-pursuing-tech-careers> If members want to learn more about the research, Dr. Gatta can do a virtual presentation exploring the findings. Please let me or Barb Coolahan know if you're interested in Dr. Gatta presenting at one of our meetings.

We are always stronger working together!

*Submitted by Marcia Hill, Director of Public Policy*  
[mshanerhill@gmail.com](mailto:mshanerhill@gmail.com) or text 941-704-5381

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**Here is a great idea if you need a book for our December Book Exchange...**

**Or are looking for something new to read!**

*Submitted by Doreen Colket*



*THE SECOND EDITION BOOKSTORE NEWS!*

*December 2023*



Christmas is here!!  
The Second Edition Bookstore is ready!  
Come check out all our Christmas items.  
We have books, CDs, and DVDs.  
All with Christmas themes.

Today we have lots of newer books in pristine  
condition ready for Christmas gifts for your  
family and friends.  
Many are recent Best Sellers!

We also have wonderful picture books of all types that are excellent gifts.

And don't forget about cookbooks. We have wonderful cookbooks full of  
Christmas recipes and ideas for your holiday entertainment.

There is nothing better than a good book to relax with during the holiday  
rush. So come in and browse our staff picks for a suggestion.  
A guaranteed great read!!

*As an added Christmas Bonus,  
When you bring this newsletter to the Second Edition  
Bookstore you will be entitled to another item of the  
same or lesser value free with your purchase!*



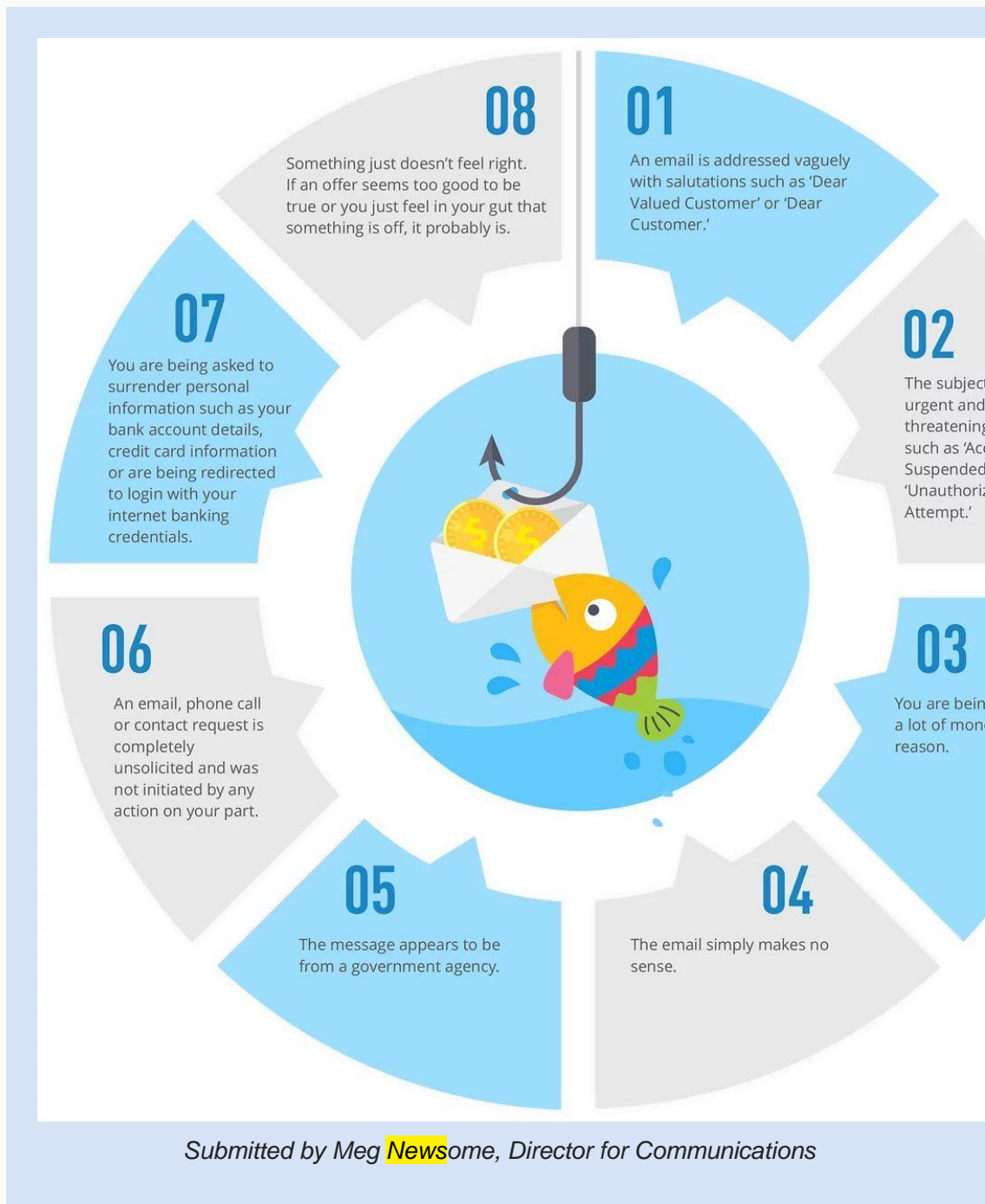
*From all the volunteers at the Second Edition Bookstore  
We wish all our wonderful customers a very Merry Christmas  
and all the best for 2024!!*

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**BEWARE OF SCAMS AND FRAUDS!**

We are all vulnerable, so it pays - sometimes literally - to be alert.

Before opening any attachment or image, before even replying, check the actual address of the sender. If the address doesn't seem right, don't reply! When in doubt, verify. Call a trusted friend first. Don't ever send personal information, money, or gift cards, to anyone you suspect. Scammers have become extremely convincing, and they will indicate urgency that you act right away. Take the time to think first!





## Spotlight on ...

### Vicki Waters

Vicki Waters was born in Charleston, SC, but moved with her family to Northern Virginia when she was 10 years old. She went through school in Arlington but spent summers in SC with her matriarch grandmother and 21 first cousins and aunts and uncles nearby.

Vicki earned a BA in Spanish and Latin American Studies at Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, SC. Additionally, she studied at Georgetown University focusing on professional training in copy editing.

In 1966 Vicki left SC for Bolivia where she served for three years in the Peace Corps. After serving as a community development Peace Corps volunteer, Vicki began working as the assistant academic advisor at the Defense Language Institute in Maryland and moved to Monterey, CA when the headquarters consolidated with the West Coast school.

That move paved the way for Vicki to meet and fall in love with “a dashing Army Lieutenant Colonel” named Sasha Taurke. Vicki said she reluctantly agreed to marry him so that she could follow him to a fascinating assignment in Frankfurt, Germany, where Lt. Taurke would serve as the American liaison to the Soviet Military Mission in Frankfurt.

After three years there, they moved to Falls Church, VA where Sasha retired from the US Army, and Vicki decided to work for an Oklahoma Congressman because of concerns about the policies and direction of the Reagan

administration. After about four years as a legislative assistant, she said she “returned to the sanity and focus of the military” to become a program analyst in the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), a part of the National Defense University. She and Sasha retired to Bradenton in 1992.

Retirement is still a busy time for Vicki who has been an active member of AAUW Manatee since 1995 and joined the Bradenton Branch several years ago. She has held many positions with the Manatee Branch, including the presidency. She served as FL AAUW Public Policy Director **from** 2009-11. She has been active with the local Democratic Party since the 1990s, helping candidates and advising them on strategy and tactics.

Vicki is an avid follower of international **news**, also enjoys reading, travelling in the family recreational vehicle across the US, and visiting family on both coasts, plus a niece in Hawaii. She is blessed with four step-grandchildren who affectionately call her “Granny.”

Since Vicki was born on October 17th, she is a Libra, an astrological sign represented by the scales, reflecting balance and harmony. Libras, it is said, strive to create equilibrium in all areas of life — especially when it comes to matters of the heart. Need some balance in your life? Maybe Vicki’s friendship is just what you are looking for!

*Submitted by Marcia Hill*

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**AAUW - Bradenton Branch Strategic Plan  
2023-2024**

### **Mission**

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**

### **Value Promise**

AAUW promotes programs and research to break through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

### **Vision Statement**

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

### **Diversity Statement**

AAUW seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

### **Goals and Strategies**

#### **Goal 1 – Membership – Increase and sustain a diverse membership in the Bradenton Branch of AAUW.**

\*Increase media exposure of all Branch projects and activities.

\* Develop a marketing plan that includes outreach to other girls' and women's organizations, communities, schools, colleges and universities, sororities, etc.

#### **Goal 2 – Public Policy – Engage and support the Bradenton Branch in strengthening the AAUW efforts and initiatives.**

\*Increase participation in the 2 Minute Advocate.

\*Support Equal Pay Initiatives.

\*Collaborate with the League of Women's Voters on voter registration.

**Goal 3 – Branch Initiatives – Promote and increase engagement in the  
Bradenton Branch activities and initiatives.**

\*Sponsor Tech Trek STEM Camp for girls entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

\* Provide scholarships for deserving students.

\*Engage and support all Branch activities and initiatives

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**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Officers and Directors for Bradenton Branch\*  
2023-2024**

**President/Administrator**

**Barbara Coolahan**

**President-Elect/Director for Membership**

**Mary Schmidt**

**Treasurer/Director for Finance**

**Linda Lewis**

**Secretary/Director for Diversity**

**Judith Griffin**

**Director for Programs**



**Marianne Harrison**

**Director for Public Policy**

**Marcia Hill**

**Director for Communications/Webmaster**

**Margaret (Meg) Newsome**

**President Scholarship Foundation/College University Relations**

**Sandra Stone**

**Treasurer Scholarship Foundation/AAUW Funds**

**Linda Guilfoyle**

**Tech Trek Chair/STEM**

**Linda Guilfoyle**

\* Contact information is included only on this newsletter.

On the website, the contact information will not appear.

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

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

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### **Committee Members**

#### **Tech Trek**

Linda Guilfoyle, Marianne Harrison, Patty Benson (Manatee Branch), Marlene Yarnelli (Manatee Branch)

### Scholarship

Linda Guilfoyle, Sandra Stone, Sue Hauck, Marcia Hill, Doreen Colkert

### Communications

FaceBook ( Marcia Hill), AAUW site (Barb Coolahan), Evites and Newsletter (Meg Newsome)

*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.*



### Important to Know

*National AAUW*

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

*Florida AAUW*

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



# About AAUW

We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!

