



October 2020

Web Address: [tampa-fl.aauw.net/](http://tampa-fl.aauw.net/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tampaflaauw/>

Branch Email: [AAUWTampainfo@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTampainfo@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: PO Box 172715, Tampa FL, 33672

ZOOM Meeting ID: 863 116 6778

ZOOM Password: 725238

# The Tiempo

## IN HER WORDS... Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“Did you always want to be a judge” or, more exorbitantly, “a Supreme Court justice?” Schoolchildren visiting me at the court, as they do at least weekly, ask that question more than any other. It is a sign of huge progress made. To today’s youth, judgeship as an aspiration for a girl is not at all outlandish. Contrast the ancient days, the fall of 1956, when I entered law school. Women accounted for less than 3 percent of the legal profession in the United States, and only one woman had ever served on a federal appellate court. Today about half the nation’s law students and more than one-third of our federal judges are women, including three of the justices seated on the United States Supreme Court bench. Women hold more than 30 percent of law school deanships in the United States and serve as general counsel to 24 percent of Fortune 500 companies. In my long life, I have seen great changes.

How fortunate I was to be alive and a lawyer when, for the first time in United States history, it became possible to urge, successfully, before legislatures and courts, the equal-citizenship stature of women and men as a fundamental constitutional principle. Feminists, caring men among them, had sought just that for generations. Until the late 1960s, however, society was not prepared to heed their plea.

What enabled me to take part in the effort to free our daughters and sons to achieve whatever their talents equipped them to accomplish, with no artificial barriers blocking their way? First, a mother who, by her example, made reading a delight and counseled me constantly to “be independent,” able to fend for myself, whatever fortune might have in store for me.

Despite our strong disagreements on cardinal issues — think, for example, of controls on political campaign spending, affirmative action, access to abortion — we genuinely respect one another, even enjoy one another’s company.

The court’s main trust is to repair fractures in federal law. Because the court grants review dominantly when other jurists have divided on the meaning of a statutory or constitutional prescription, the questions we take up are rarely easy; they seldom have indubitably right answers. Yet by reasoning together at our conferences and, with more depth and precision, through circulation of, and responses to, draft opinions, we ultimately agree far more often than we divide sharply.

When a justice is of the firm view that the majority got it wrong, she is free to say so in dissent. I take advantage of that prerogative, when I think it important, as do my colleagues.

Earlier, I spoke of great changes I have seen in women’s occupations. Yet one must acknowledge the still bleak part of the picture. Most people in poverty in the United States and the world over are women and children, women’s earnings here and abroad trail the earnings of men with comparable education and experience, our workplaces do not adequately accommodate the demands of childbearing and child rearing, and we have yet to devise effective ways to ward off sexual harassment at work and domestic violence in our homes.

I am optimistic, however, that movement toward enlistment of the talent of all who compose “We, the people,” will continue.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States since 1993, is the author, with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams, of the book “My Own Words,” from which this essay is adapted.

## Opportunities to Serve

AAUW Tampa is still in search of a Vice President.

Interested?

Please email [aauwtampapresident@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtampapresident@gmail.com)



### ***From the Desk of Dr. Sandra Johnson Austin, President: My Journey To Becoming An Independent Woman***

As I read the excerpt from the book, *My Own Words*, written by the late United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I was immediately drawn to how I was raised as an Independent woman, just like her.

As the oldest of four girls in a household where my mother was an assistant teacher and my father was a construction worker, I grew up around more male cousins than I could count. Come to think about it, I really had no choice, but to be independent, especially if I wanted to survive. My choices were to either feel the wrath of my mother whose expectations were for me to go to college vs. being teased by my male cousins about, “why are you here playing with us boys anyway, Sandra.” To me, I thought my younger sisters and girl cousins were boring; not enough excitement was going on with them. The boys were building things. They were crashing into things, and they were loud! They eventually let me play with them after I beat them a few times playing rock-em, sock-em robots. Those were the days!

In the midst of all that fun, again, the message from my mother was very clear as she would often say, “Sandra, you are going to college.” Oh, let me not forget the look that she would give us when we crossed that imaginary line. My father was a little more fun, but not too much. He was tough on us girls. Through all of those experiences, good and bad, my parents were in fact, preparing me to be an independent woman and more importantly an independent thinker. I did not follow the crowds, although that was often enticing. I was too focused on what was going on around me, such as how buildings and bridges were built. Growing up in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, we had lots of bridges to cross. I had a wonderful teacher tell me that what I was interested in was called civil engineering. So, I studied civil engineering at The Pennsylvania State University where I earned my Bachelor’s degree.

There is one thing that my mother and father never talked about growing up and that was racism and gender inequality, which I faced in college and my career. To survive through those incidents I modeled my mother. She would walk into a room with her head held high, her shoulders back and relaxed, and a smile on her face, as she walked by her naysayers; one foot in front of the other. My mother instilled confidence in me that helps me make it through every obstacle, just like the notorious RBG! May her legacy live on!

**Women of AAUW Tampa, be unapologetically YOU!!!**

## THE NEW NORMAL – STEPS to Keep us connected

AAUW Tampa has been impacted by the health edits issued as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are embracing the 'new normal' - social distancing, remote shopping, wearing masks, and finding new ways to connect. Today, all of us are trying to make sense of the aftermath of closing our country to protect our health. Additionally, the world is grappling with how to make the Black Lives Matter movement, *really matter*. AAUW National and AAUW Florida both endorsed the movement. In the midst of it all, AAUW Tampa continues to take steps to finding ways to get it all done and to keep us connected.

On May 16th, five AAUW Tampa members were installed as board members. They began their tenure on July 1, 2020. All board members jumped in and got to work right away. They have worked tirelessly over the summer to schedule meetings, speakers, fundraisers and meaningful events to keep us all active and connected. There are many opportunities for every member to become involved and connected. Your skills, talents, time and treasures are valued. Please let us know what areas you are willing to contribute in. We welcome your involvement for consultation, small projects, and large or small events. We are flexible and welcome you. Please partner with us. How can you help? Contact us at [AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com).

**We need YOU!!!**

### Membership:

- Help us stay connected by attending our General Membership meeting on ZOOM **every THIRD SATURDAY at 11 AM**. Mark you calendar and download Zoom to your smart phone or computer.
- Invite people you know to get connected and to become members. Think of friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, social groups and organizations, etc.

### Scholarships and Tech Trek:

- These are great committees to get involved with. Pay it forward. Help the next generation of girls and women receive an amazing start to a great opportunity. Contact Jasmine (Scholarships) and Dree (Tech Trek)

### Communications:

- Are you creative and or tech savvy? There is a place for you. We welcome you to help with our Facebook and Instagram pages or our monthly newsletter. Contact Franca Washington at our branch email: [AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTampaInfo@gmail.com).

**ADHOC—Just reach out to us. There is a place for you to connect .**



**WE'RE TENACIOUS AND TRAILBLAZING**

*Advocating equity for women and girls in  
Florida since 1929.*



# YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

Let your voice be heard in 2020 and Vote!

**Election Day: November 3**

**Last Day to Register: October 5**

**Mail In Ballot Application Due: October 25**

#ItsMyVote #FloridaVotes #AAUWVotes

Source: <https://aauw-fl.aauw.ne>



Memberships ended June 30th, 2020. If you have not renewed your membership, this is a friendly reminder to do so TODAY.

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

If you have questions, please contact  
Mrs. Shella Miller,  
Director of Membership  
at email:  
ShellaMiller078@gmail.com.

**WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
AND INVOLVMENT!**

OCTOBER



Adele Ida Walters	5
Marjorie Fontalvo	9
Dree Jenkins	21
Rachel Brink	29



## 2020 Tech Trek Winners!

The following 7th grade girls will experience Tech Trek in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic:

**Jordyn Mitchell, Orange Grove Middle School**

**Kendra Smith, Randall Middle School**

**Jazmyn Thames, Academy Prep Center of Tampa**

**Shelby Thompson, Sgt. Paul R. Smith Middle School**



**AAUW Tampa Saturday, October 17, 2020**  
**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Tanja Vidovic**

AAUW Presents:  
 Ms. Tanja Vidovic.



Tanja Vidovic (She/Hers), originally from Massachusetts, made Florida her home in 2004. She has her bachelor's in fine arts. She is an artist and active environment advocate.

Tanja started a local Art Walk where she displays the work of local artists inside local businesses. Additionally, Tanja worked to create a gardening swap group that has over 13K members, which installed seven community orchards in seven public Tampa Bay parks. She received a Commendation Award from Tampa City Council for this effort. Tanja was the sole winner for her sustainable yard in 2019 and one Pinellas County's "water wise" Award.

Tanja is also a part-time radio show host for "Sustainable Living" on WMNF 88.5FM Tampa for the past three years where she discusses sustainability with local experts. In 2019, Tanja was awarded WMNF New News programmer of the year.

Tanja has also been a local firefighter/paramedic for almost 13 years. During this time she passionately fought for women's rights. She successfully sued the department for gender discrimination. This effort cost Tanja her job. She battled in federal court for over two years. After winning her pregnancy discrimination case in federal court, she returned back to duty as a firefighter/paramedic.

To hear from this inspirational speaker, join us on Saturday, October 17th at 11 AM via Zoom.



Board Meeting October 10, 2020 10:30 to 11:00 Via Zoom	General Meeting October 17, 2020 11:00 am-12:30 pm Via Zoom
---	--

Board Meeting November 14, 2020 10:30 to 11:00 Via Zoom	General Meeting November 21, 2020 11:00 am-12:30 pm Via Zoom
--	---

***Board of Directors***

President	Dr. Sandra Johnson Austin
Vice President	Vacant
Director of Programs	Irene Bemby
Director of Membership	Shella Miller
Director of Finance	Yvette Williams
Director of Public Policy	Dr. Lucinda Hovi
Director of Scholarships	Jasmine White-Bynum
Director of Tech Trek/STEM Activities	Dree Jenkins
Director of Communications	Franca Washington
Recording Secretary	Mattie Parr
Corresponding Secretary	Connie Fountain
Copy Editor- This Issue	Franca Washington