

# VENICE VIEWS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: MARGE OSTROM

WEBSITES: BRANCH: [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net) STATE: [aauw-fl.aauw.net](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net) NATIONAL: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH

## MONTHLY MEETING

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Punch Hall, 400 East Field Ave., Venice, FL 34285

Thursday, February 9 at 12:30 (11:45 for lunch)

Kathleen Pickering, program; Judith Ammerman, hospitality

### Program: "THE FACE OF GIRLS 2017"

Speaker: Susan Stewert, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida

Hostesses: Joan Schouest, chair,

Eleanor Locke, Ilda Deming, Lois Minnich, Kathleen Pickering, Jane Farley, Jean Norman

## HOME & ART

February 10, 2017

Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien, Co-chairs

### Plein Air Artists and Artisans

The Home Tour will feature a stellar group of local artists and artisans and we wanted to share the lineup with you. Plein Air artists painting at the homes include Kathy Albright, Mary Erickson, Bill Farnsworth, Karen Hitt, Heather McCullough and Susan Wilcox. Artisans appearing are Diane Boone (jewelry), Debbie Marucci (sculpture), Mike DeMichele (nautical sand sculpture), Linda Tilson (wearable art) and Ruth Miner (wearable art).

### Find us on Facebook

We're posting Home Tour updates weekly on our AAUW Venice Branch Facebook page. Be sure to look for them and "Share" and "Like" these pages to help spread the word about the Home Tour.

### Tickets

Members who need more tickets can contact Suzanne Biviano and she will make arrangements to get them to you.



## Member Spotlight Meet Judy Evenson



Thanks in large part to her efforts as Finance Director for four years, Venice AAUW is one of only three Florida chapters with 501(c)3 status. Judy Evenson set up accounting systems that would allow our financial records to produce customized statements “It was a huge job,” she says, converting existing data to the 15-page form required by the State of Florida.”

That undertaking now allows the chapter to solicit tax-deductible donations, an advantage that enhances our ability to finance projects. Impressive results for a woman with a psychology degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, you might say. That’s the same woman who took 20 credit hours in accounting in the 1980’s because “I always want to keep learning.”

A native of California, she moved to Michigan right after graduation with her husband. She joined an AAUW chapter there because “I didn’t know anyone.” She repeated that with several other chapters, when she moved back to California, and later when she retired to Florida, joining the Venice branch in 2004. In 2006, she began a two-year term as Membership Chairperson for the Venice chapter and also worked on many home tours.

While living in Michigan, she became president of a local swim club and used the accounting skills she had acquired when the club ran into financial difficulties. That led to a job offer from a fellow member of the swim club when she needed to go back to work after a divorce. She spent the next ten years in administrative posts for a company in the printing paper industry

Now remarried, she and husband Tom recently moved from a large home they built when they relocated to Florida in 2000. They moved to Bay Village, a nationally accredited retirement community in Sarasota. That decision formed out of their experience as volunteers for Meals on Wheels. “We saw how lonely some people are who have decided to age in place and decided it was not for us.”

Loneliness would not seem to be a remote possibility for her. In addition to her involvement with AAUW, she has been on the board of the Friends of the Jacaranda Library for 16 years.

She also underwent the training needed to become a lay Stephens minister, part of an organization that offers counseling and active listening support. In this capacity, she has counseled a woman who is a caregiver, another undergoing Alzheimer’s and another person who is terminally ill.

She has three adult children and six grandchildren. Her daughter, a doctor with the Veterans Administration, heads up an amputee unit at a hospital in San Antonio, Texas. One of her two sons is in finance in Houston and the other is a programmer for a Florida company that produces virtual reality helmets for military training.

AAUW has been a constant in her life, joining her first chapter when she was 23 years old. She explains, “It meant a lot to me. Every time, I made a major move, it was a source of meeting new friends.”

### Want to Become a Literacy Volunteer?

A representative from Literacy Volunteers will be at our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to tell us about the organization and how you might support them in their efforts as a volunteer.

Since 1982, the Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County (LVSSC) has offered free tutoring to adults who want to improve their functional reading, writing, and English-speaking skills. LVSSC is affiliated with ProLiteracy of America, the largest adult literacy organization in the United States. The mission of LVSSC is to promote literacy among adults with the potential to increase their language skills in speaking, reading, and writing English. The ability to speak another language or teaching experience are not required for someone to participate in this program.

## Membership Report

Donna McQuain & Paula Dulski

Our branch membership now stands at 260 members. At our last meeting we added 3 new members. We are continuing to grow.

At our January 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting we had over 100 members in attendance and 9 guests.

Remember to order your AAUW magnetic pins from Anne Russell, Paula Dulski or Donna McQuain. (They are \$8.75) If you previously ordered a name tag please stop by the membership table to see if it is there. We have several waiting to be picked up.

If you have any e-mail changes or updates please notify membership. Thanks!



### Carol Carlson



Carol graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in nursing. She subsequently received a master's degree in Community Health Nursing/Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. She worked for 42 years in various aspects of nursing including, obstetrics, pediatrics, home health, nursing education, and nursing administration. She spent the last 20 years of her career in Quality Management in healthcare, retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Chief, Quality Management, a title she had held for three large healthcare organizations over that time.

She is currently a member of the Smith Mountain Lake, VA, Branch of AAUW but has become a Florida resident after now owning a home in Venice. She and her husband intend to spend the majority of their time in Florida but still maintain a residence on Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia. Carol has two daughters (CPA and physician) and a son (major in US Army), six granddaughters and two step-grandsons in North Carolina, Kansas, and Idaho.

Carol's interests are varied. She is involved with music in various forms, vocal, handbells, and flute and is looking for venues in the Venice area to utilize her talents. Besides music, she enjoys church activities, reading, walking, deep water aerobics, beading and jewelry making, making wreaths from various media, knitting, cross-stitch, card making, theater and concerts, cooking, and decorating. The scarf in the picture was made at her international study special interest group of AAUW in Virginia.

### Sandra Roberts



Sandra hails from Iowa and graduated from Upper Iowa University with majors in English and History, and a minor in Secondary Ed. She worked for the Iowa Department of Human Services for nearly thirty years supervising child protective services, benefit payments and administering departmental operations in a four county area. The highlight of her career was working with the National Indian Child Welfare Act and representing Iowa at the national conferences.

Sandra and her husband Dayton were snowbirds for eight years and moved here permanently in 2011. Sandra plays tennis, bikes, roots for the Iowa Hawkeyes, and loves to watch her equestrian granddaughter who lives in Oklahoma compete in barrel races throughout Texas and Oklahoma. She also has twin step-daughters in Cedar Rapids.

**Pat Blair** – Broken hip – at home recovering

**Jane Farley** – Son-in-law - death

**Walter Seman** – hospitalized for dehydration  
then moved to Harbor Chase

*SUNSHINE – Contact Nancy Bradtmiller*

## President's Message

Marge Ostrom



February is always an exciting month for our Venice Branch. After months of preparation, we host our annual Home Tour. This year's event will be outstanding as co-chairs Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien are incorporating art into the Home Tour by partnering with the Venice Art Center. Artists will be painting original scenes at each of the

houses and their work will be auctioned during an After Party at the Art Center. Houses that reflect art in the home were selected for the tour.

As always, we rely on the membership to volunteer to help with hostessing, parking, selling tickets, and a number of other tasks to make the Home Tour a success. Please be sure that you are doing all you can to support this effort. The funds that we collect provide scholarships for women to meet our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

If you did not attend the Jan 10<sup>th</sup> AAUW Program, Art in the Afternoon, at Island Walk you missed a very enjoyable afternoon. This free event organized by Trena Kelly and open to the public was delightful and attended by 60 plus people. Several artists including Lois Odom and Paula Dulski from the Venice Branch displayed their original artwork. Writers including Donna Costa and Kathleen Schwartz from AAUW, expressed their reaction to the artwork through stories, poems or essays. Trena will be organizing additional Art in the Afternoon programs so be sure to attend.



## General Meeting Minutes January 14, 2016

Anita Kunkle, Secretary

Following the 11:45 potluck luncheon, President Marge Ostrom welcomed members and guests. Marge then introduced Carol Cudia who introduced the speaker, Dr. Leigh Treco Sierra. Dr. Sierra has a chiropractic practice in Venice and has practiced for 5 years. Her topic, *Quality Years of Life*, will be published on the branch website.

The regular meeting was opened by President Marge Ostrom at 1:10. Minutes of the November 2016 meeting had been published in the Venice Views. As there were no additions or corrections to the November minutes, they were accepted as presented.

Marge Ostrom had the following announcements:

The Giving Challenge netted a check in the amount of \$8,756. Of that amount, \$2,150 was earmarked for Tech Trek and the remaining \$6,606 will be used for Non-Traditional scholarships.

Thank you to Holiday Luncheon co-chairs Pam Clifford and Chris Cairns. The Holiday luncheon was a great success.

Thank you to Trena Kelly for the successful Art in the Afternoon held at Islandwalk. The event was open to the public. Attendance was approximately 70 members and non-members. Another such event will be held in February, date to be determined.

Hospitality Chair Judith Ammerman introduced the January Potluck luncheon chair, Paula Choyke who recognized and thanked the members of her committee.

Membership Director Donna McQuain introduced nine guests. There were 110 people in attendance, including three new members.

Co-Chairs of the 2017 Home Tour, Jan Harris and Beverly Weltzien described the enhanced format for the February 10 event. Art will be featured at each home. The Venice Art Center has partnered with AAUW for an After-Party from 4–6 pm. Tickets are available for both events. Volunteers are needed to help with parking and as hostesses.

Beth Gamel described the upcoming LAF fundraisers. Openings remain for several events. Included are a Russian dinner January 24, a Mimosa brunch on February 25 and an Irish dinner on March 11.

Mimi Welsh spoke about the Florida AAUW State Leadership Conference to be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Sarasota. Mimi encouraged members to attend as participants in workshops each day and attend the annual State AAUW meeting scheduled for Monday morning, April 3. As our branch parliamentarian and the State liaison officer for our branch, Mimi has overseen updates to the Venice branch bylaws. Changes mandated by National AAUW and Florida AAUW are to be included. The new bylaws, effective 1/31/2017, will be printed in the 2017–2018 Yearbook.

Susan Luterbach and Sue Owen gave an update on efforts to encourage applicants for the Non-traditional Scholarships. There is an online application on our Venice branch website. Flyers have been sent to colleges and venues that serve.

women who might benefit. The Honors Luncheon will be held on April 22 at Jacaranda West Country Club. Co-chairs are Maggie Surwilo and Wendy Orlando.

Study Interest Groups chair Suzanne Biviano encouraged members to participate in one of our many S.I.G. s. Folders were available in the rear with information, dates and times. One of the new groups is Kaleidoscope, chaired by Susan Farstrup. January hostess, Betty Badawi, defined the

correlation between a kaleidoscope and various life changes that participants will discuss at upcoming gatherings of the group.

Carol Newnam announced that Charting the Course has exceeded its goal of raising \$1,000,000.

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## Public Policy

Judith Keeler, Public Policy Chair

The newest version of our Affiliate's policy statement is contained in the following by-law sections:  
"ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The purpose of the Affiliate is to further AAUW purposes and policies.

Section 2. Policies and Programs. In keeping with this purpose, the Affiliate shall promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential."

AAUW National has announced the organization's participation in the January 21 Women's March on Washington, corresponding to the inauguration of now President-Elect Trump. It also has reiterated AAUW's commitment to achieving our mission in a non-partisan and non-violent way.

Also on a national level, AAUW has declared April 4 as Equal Pay Day.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Carol Johnson
4	Shirley Thompson
8	Mary Lou Thetford
10	MaryAl Gagnon
12	Katie Morey
13	Erna Cunningham
13	Beth Gamel
13	Karen Mullen
21	Ilda Deming
21	Jeri Jaminet
22	Adele Cohill
23	Lidia Madrazo
24	Gayle Grant
27	Paula Choyke



Outdoor Adventure SIG enjoyed a fabulous day on the Inland WaterWay on January 17th. Branch member, Paula Dulski, captained the pontoon boat northward. Along the way the group viewed nesting osprey pairs, diving white pelicans and frolicking dolphins. The day was ideal for cruising the waters along Casey Key. After a waterside lunch stop, members returned to the Venice dock and regained their land-legs.

## VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location and Notes
W	1	10:00	Bridge Discussion	Barbara Stevens,497-5328	Meet at Barbara Stevens' home
Th	2	11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Anne Herre or Ann Robinson <a href="mailto:aauwduplicate@yahoo.com">aauwduplicate@yahoo.com</a>	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes. Must sign up ahead of time.
F	3	12:00	Euchre	MaryAl Gagnon	Euchre and lunch at Hotel Venezia on 41. Reservations needed, contact MaryAl.
W	7	TBD	Movie Group	Evelyn Kent	Contact Evelyn for movie title, place and time.
Th	9	12:30	General Meeting	Hospitality: Judy Ammerman	Lunch served at 11:45. Venice Presbyterian Church.
F	10	10AM – 4PM	<b>ANNUAL HOME TOUR</b>		
F	10	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	<b>No French Today – SEE YOU AT THE HOME TOUR</b>
F	10	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	<b>No Bridge Today – SEE YOU AT THE HOME TOUR</b>
M	13	10:00	Board Meeting for Strategic Planning	Marge Ostrom	Marge Ostrom's home.
M	13	1:30	Book Club	Barbara Martinage	Book discussion at Jacaranda Library, <b>FEB:</b> "The Desert Queen" by Janet Wallach. <b>MAR:</b> "The Silk Roads: A New History of the World" by Peter Frankopan
W	15		<b>Deadline for March Venice Views</b>		<b>Send articles and/or photos by email to the editors at <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a></b>
W	15	6 p.m.	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	Saltwater Café, 1071 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis. Please email or call Melanie Odom by Monday, February 13.
W	15	12:00	Cook's Corner	Pat Blair	Hostess: Pat Boruff. Theme: <u>Heart Healthy</u>
Th	16	1:30	Armchair Travelers	Anne Finger	Barb Tompkins presents Spain and Portugal. Meet at King's Gate club room, Nokomis. Capacity 24.
Th	16	11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Anne Herre or Ann Robinson <a href="mailto:aauwduplicate@yahoo.com">aauwduplicate@yahoo.com</a>	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes. Must sign up ahead of time.
F	17	12:00	Euchre	MaryAl Gagnon, 496-4773	Euchre and lunch at The Venezia on 41. . Reservations needed, contact MaryAl.
M	20	8:30	Explore With Your Camera	Nancy Gorno	The group will go to the Venice Rookery. Contact Nancy.
T	21	10:00-2:00	Outdoor Adventure	Bea Holt	Bike the Legacy Trail northward, lunch stop – plan 10 miles round trip. Contact Bea Holt via email for details.
W	22	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Mary Greenberg, Flo Bennett	Beach Road Boutique Restaurant, Englewood. Contact Mary or Flo for reservations & directions.
W	22	9:30-2:30	Exploring the Arts	Pam Clifford	Ringling College Art Glass exhibit followed by lunch at the Rosemary. Car pooling from Nokomis. Contact Pam if you wish to attend.
Th	23	10:00	Play Readers	Fran Brinkman	Meet at Fran's home.
F	24	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Meet at The Venezia before Bridge for Fun
F	24	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Bridge and lunch at The Venezia on 41. Reservations necessary. Call Anne Russell or Georgie Ann Fedako.
M	27	1:00	Art in the Afternoon	Trena Kelly	At Island Walk. Some AAUW friends are writing or displaying art. Call Trena Kelly for gate access. She needs names for gate entrance.



# BULLETIN BOARD

## A Request from Mary Emerson

AAUW members who have LIKED our Facebook page. Please "share" the posts about the upcoming Home/Art Show on your news feed. This will do a lot to extend the reach of our advertising.

Thank you very much!

## LAF FUNDRAISERS

Do take the time to relax and dine with our generous members in their homes who are supporting LAF. Whether you go to brunch, dinner or a party you will get to know members better and support a great AAUW cause. To attend just call your hostess and send her your \$35 check made out to AAUW LAF. Have fun. Questions? call Beth Gamel

Feb 25    Mimosa Brunch  
              Ellen Franck

March 11   St Patty's Dinner  
              Beverly Weltzien

## Magnetic Name Badge \$8.75

**YOUR  
NAME**  
Your University or College  


write check to : Anne Russell  
include your name and college

Interested in biographies of women who have made a difference in history - come join our SIG group as we discuss "The Desert Queen" by Janet Wallach. It's the story of Gertrude Bell- an ally of Lawrence of Arabia. (Me thinks she was a real life spy.) Read more about the book and her life on Amazon.com. Kathy Dierstein has volunteered to lead our discussion. Can't make the Feb 13th. meeting, then add us to your calendar for March 13, when the discussion will be on "The Silk Roads: A New History of the World" by Peter Frankopan with Anne Finger as facilitator. We gather the second Monday of each month at 1:30p.m. in the community room at Jacaranda Library.

Armchair Travelers meets in member's homes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 1:30 PM in November and January through April. On February 16 Barb Tompkins will present her trip to Spain and Portugal. Mary Lou Thetford will share her experience on the Mountaineer Train through the Canadian Rockies on March 16. We are still looking for a presentation for April 20. Please contact Anne Finger if you are interested in this group, may have a story to tell or wish to be on the email list.



Venice Views Editor for February Issue  
Lynn Kroll

Donna McQuain: e-copies circulation  
[veniceaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaauw@gmail.com)

Anne Russell: Printed copy circulation

## DONATION OPTIONS

*Mail this form and your check to:*  
**AAUW, VENICE BRANCH, P.O. BOX 515,  
VENICE FL 34284**

- Fellowship Fund:** checks payable to AAUW. Write Venice (FL) American Fellowship #4390 on the memo line.
- Tech Trek:** checks payable to AAUW. Write Florida Tech Trek on the memo line.
- Legal Advocacy Fund:** checks payable to AAUW-LAF.
- Re-entry Scholarship Fund:** checks payable to AAUW, Venice Branch. Write Re-entry Scholarship Fund on the memo line.

For more information about these Funds, go to <http://venice-fl.aauw.net/donate>.

AAUW and AAUW Venice Branch are 501(c)3 entities so every contribution is Tax Deductible.

## PLAN AHEAD

Feb 9	General Meeting
Feb 10	Home Tour
Feb 13	Board Meeting – Strategic Planning
Feb 25	Mimosa Brunch – LAF Fundraiser
Mar 6	Board Meeting
Mar 9	General Meeting
Mar 11	Irish Dishes & Drinks – LAF Fundraiser
March 31 -	Florida AAUW State Annual Meeting &
April 2	Leadership Conference
April 10	Board Meeting
April 13	Annual Meeting
April 22	Spring Honors Luncheon
May 8	Old/New Board Meeting
June 11-17	AAUW Florida Tech Trek Camp 2017
June 14-17	AAUW National Convention