

VENICE VIEWS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

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

Home Tour Heroines

Judith Houston

After years of card parties and fashion shows to raise project funds, June Lee Reninger said, "What about a house tour?"



2018 Co-chairs Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien

And so the AAUW Venice Home Tour was born in 2005, replacing those projects which usually brought in about \$4,000 total before expenses. Having come up with the idea, June was put in charge; that included lending her own home as part of the tour. With Fran Brinkman as co-chair, ticket price for the initial tour was \$10.

The pair optimistically printed 500 tickets. June says, "Our map was handmade and served as the ticket. Halfway through the day, we were

running out of tickets." Fran managed to get more printed and the final tally was 821 tickets printed and a profit total of \$7,405.

There were some other lessons from that first event. Each house featured an activity of some kind. At one home, there was a chef and a cooking demo that proved to be a bottleneck as people lingered to watch.

That first Tour was followed by other successes, each raising increasing amounts of money. Paula Smith took it on for two years with Barbara Stevens sharing duties with her in 2007. Colette Sears and Kittie Rodriguez ran the 2008 event. Anne Russell, president from 2007 to 2009, also took over Home Tour duties in 2008.

She was followed by Carol Cudia who chaired in 2009 after, she says, "some arm-twisting" by president Shirley Reid. "It was a daunting experience because I was a new member and did not have a core group of AAUW friends to fall back on." That year the tour included six homes and revenues increased significantly.

Kathy Black and Bea Holt hold the current record for longevity. Bea teamed up with Shirley Reid in 2011, then shared the responsibility with Kathy Black from 2012 to 2015. Kathy continued on for one more year, co-chairing with Nancy Gorno in 2016.

Kathy and Bea are no strangers to the ticket problem; they also had to turn around more tickets in an hour one year as the event attracted more and more participants. "You now have to tell homeowners to anticipate about a thousand people will be going through their homes," Kathy says. Parking is always a problem, especially when Tour homes are located close together. Our Tour, traditionally held on the second Friday in February, came up against the trash schedule in one neighborhood. "Fortunately, we recognized the issue early and were able to work with Waste Management for a very early collection that day."

The 2016 Tour included the home of Bev and Gary Weltzien. In addition to helping us raise funds, Bev got so interested that she became an AAUW member and headed up the 2017 and now the 2018 Tour with Jan Harris as co-chair.

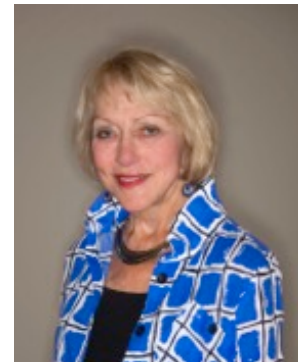
A new record income was also set last year, a whopping \$25,000. The bump in revenue came from a Celebration Party at the Venice Art Center with a separate ticket and a split of expenses and profit with the Center. Higher value raffle baskets and working artisans at each home (who returned ten percent of their sales to our event) made an additional monetary contribution.

As we look forward to this year's Tour, let's salute all these hardworking chairwomen who have made it successful. Mark the date -- Friday, February 9 -- and make it personal by signing on as part of the "crew." As Kathy Black reminds us, "It takes more than 100 people that day to manage the homes. We really need everyone to participate." See you there!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Pickering

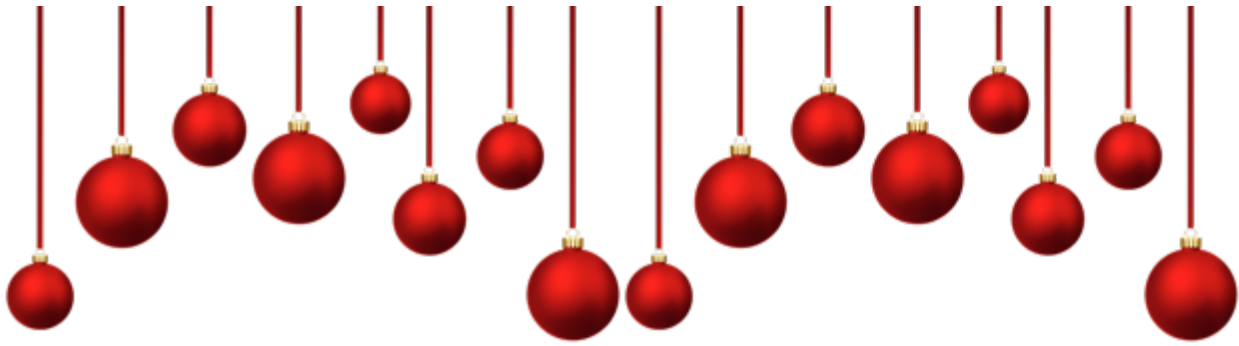
I want to thank you all for participating in democracy in action at our November meeting. All sides were heard and then a vote was taken by paper ballot. To apprise you on what happens next, the \$25,000 fund to be established at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation will be named the AAUW VENICE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND. And the pass-through fund will be called the AAUW VENICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The Foundation will be given AAUW criteria for scholarships and they will make sure that it is entered into their data base.



Once the scholarship applications have arrived at Gulf Coast, they will check them for accuracy and then give the scholarship committee the names of the applicants that meet the criteria for AAUW. AAUW scholarship committee will do the interviewing and selection. The winners will be introduced at the Spring Honors Luncheon.

Coming up very soon is the annual House Tour. At the January meeting you will have an opportunity to preview all the homes, hear about the treasures in the homes and have an opportunity to sign up for your favorite job on the tour.

See you at the Holiday lunch and wishing all of you the happiest holiday season.



2017 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

CO-CHAIRS: Karen Cianci and Lynn Fox

VENUE: Venice Yacht Club

DATE: Thursday, December 14th

TIME: 11:30am – time for socializing

LUNCH SERVED: 12:15pm

COST: \$35.00

Please join all your AAUW friends for a festive holiday lunch.

Menu choices include:

CHICKEN CREPES: crepes with chicken and leek filling, topped with chevre, mango, and toasted almonds, served with rice pilaf; or

PISTACIO CRUSTED SALMON: salmon with orange Valencia reduction, served with rice pilaf and chef selected vegetable; or

SEASONAL VEGETABLE RISOTTO: Arborio rice slow cooked with seasonal vegetables and veggie stock, finished with parmesan cheese and butter

All served with a small house salad with clementine dressing, rolls and butter, key lime pie, and coffee, tea, or iced tea.

Tickets available to purchase mixed drinks, beer and wine.

The festivities will begin with a holiday themed trivia game, so bring your thinking caps. For those who aren't aware, the Board has decided to discontinue the basket silent auction. There will be a 50/50 raffle for those interested.

We were lucky to secure Chris and Karen Romig for our entertainment. They are a flute and piano duo and their program will be an eclectic blend of classical, jazz, and holiday music.

To join us, mail your check, made out to AAUW Venice Branch, to Karen Cianci. Please indicate your menu choice.

Looking for a holiday gift or stocking stuffer?

Consider a ticket to the 2018 AAUW Venice Home Tour – Homes and Treasures

Many members have expressed an interest in giving tickets to the Home Tour as holiday gifts. In response to these requests, the Home Tour Committee has created a Gift Certificate for members to give which will provide admission to the Home Tour on February 9th. You can purchase these festive gift certificates for \$20 (price of Home Tour Ticket) at the registration table at the Holiday Party on Thursday, December 14th at the Venice Yacht Club.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Paula Dulski, Membership Director

The new member breakfast was held at my home on November 3. There were 12 new members and 13 members from the board, committee chairs and Special Interest Groups. The exchange of information was very valuable. A second new member breakfast will be planned sometime in the spring.

The free book exchange in November was very well received. Anne MacIntyre, Dottie Bingham, and Ellen Elie organized the books and helped with selections. The exchange will be continued at future meetings starting in January. Give books--receive books--review books.

Directories are available at every meeting. Updates will appear in the web in the members only password protected section.

Email blasts and the Venice Views are sent to all members. We are aware that some names get dropped from the blast. If you do not receive your newsletter by the end of the month, you can contact me and I will email it to you. The Venice Views is also put on the website near the end of the month.

Office Depot has a discount card for AAUW members. Use this link for the discount card: http://officediscounts.org/wp-content/uploads/aauw_PYFC.pdf

NEW MEMBERS

I am a retired ESOL teacher from Maryland. I am starting my fourth year as a full time resident of Venice. I'm active in Venice Audubon, Wisconsin Alumni Association, volunteering in the ESOL Department at Venice Middle School, and teaching beginning Mah Jongg. My loves are books, birds and Jerry, my 15-year-old Miniature Poodle!

Andie Mercer



Pat Comeau



Thank you for the opportunity to join the Venice AAUW. After traveling to and from Massachusetts for a few years, I made the decision to live in Florida full-time. I now live in Boca Royale with my cat, Garfield.

I am an RN with a BSN and MS in Health Services Administration from Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. The first few years I worked at a hospital in Med Surgery and the ER. I was then recruited as an Army Nurse with both full time and reserved status. I continued this assignment for 23 years and retired as a LTC. The last 20 years before total retirement I was a Health Facility Inspector for the state of Massachusetts. In this role I was charged with ensuring that adequate healthcare was being provided and whether the institution was in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

I look forward to meeting more members and participating in the many activities your group provides. I have an interest in any kind of boating, dining out and the theater.

Joyce Mikulski

I have an undergraduate degree in French from Salve Regina University and a graduate degree in Adult Education from Southern Connecticut State University. I have had a diverse career in education for 42 years, including teaching adults and children in grades three through twelve in the areas of ESOL, French, and Spanish. I am currently an adjunct professor at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut where I teach Spanish.

My husband, Ken, and I are presently becoming Florida residents. We own a home on a beautiful marsh in Old Saybrook, Connecticut and we will spend our summers there. We love being retired, and we travel as often as we can. I am also a Connecticut member of AAUW.

Ken and I are the proud parents of two children; we have four young grandsons who are the loves of our lives. I am very excited about meeting many of you in AAUW and becoming involved in the organization.



Member Spotlight: Meet Pat Boruff

Judith Houston



When she gets involved in something, Pat Boruff is in it for the long haul. She's one of at least eight in the Venice branch who are 50-year plus members. She's also been part of the same aerobics group for 30 years though she says "I drifted in and out depending on the age of my children at the time."

Originally from Riverside, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, she got her degree in child development from the University of Wisconsin, then obtained additional education credits so she could teach, initially in her hometown. After moving to Venice in 1973, she worked with her husband in their business, B&B Bootery, which grew to a chain of four stores under their ownership. She was also a substitute teacher for Epiphany Cathedral School.

With all of this, she still found time to be the volunteer coordinator at Venice Middle School and later Venice High School while her children were students there. She was active with Venice Main Street and the Friends of the Venice Library, serving a stint on that board as secretary. She logged another 17 years as a member of the Venice Code Enforcement Board.

AAUW was another facet of her outreach. "When I came into the organization, it was a core group of women who did everything together." She's still involved, comes to meetings and participates in the Home Tour. In 2005, she was program chair for our branch and, when president Ann Herre stepped down for family health issues, she took over as acting president for the rest of that term. "I just like the fact that AAUW supports women's issues," she says.

Now retired, travel is important to her. That has meant trips to Europe and extensive rambles in the United States. This summer it was a train trip that originated in Chicago and went to the West Coast and back. This also was an opportunity for a family visit; her older son is an executive with Morningstar, Inc. in Chicago. Her younger son teaches in Australia and a daughter manages a medical practice in Longwood, Fla.

She's living proof that getting "out there" is a key to staying vital. "I'm a participant," she states. Applause, applause!

Our historian, Barbara Martinage, requests photos of AAUW activities from members. You may send her digital photos or deliver hard copies to her at any meeting.

Public Policy Report

Kathy Black

A few weeks ago we had state and local elections all over the country in which many women were elected, from city councils, to state representatives, to governors. Our mission in AAUW is advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For this to happen, women need to have a seat at the table. I look forward to the day when, being female in an elected position is so common, it is not even a story. On a personal level, I want to congratulate one of our own members, Mitzi Fiedler, who was elected to the Venice City Council.

On the state level, AAUW is currently watching the Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act, which has recently been filed in the Senate (SB 594) and House (HB 393). Last year this bill did not get a hearing in committee. Read more about this on our AAUW Florida website. You can use your representative resources that you were given at the October meeting to track bills and call representatives on this, and any other issue important to you. You can still get this info from me if you missed that meeting.

A reminder to any registered democrats in district 72, there is a primary on December 5. And for all registered voters, the general election for your representative will be in February. This is a good time to make sure you are registered!

I would like to get a public policy committee together in early December for a planning session. We will be attending AAUW Lobby Days Jan 23-25 in Tallahassee. If you would like to join our committee or to attend lobby days, or for any other information, please call or email me.

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

A performance of songs, stories, paintings and photos

The popular Art in the Afternoon will return to the Islandwalk Event Center, compliments of the American Association of University Women and Islandwalk at the West Villages, for the following dates: January 10 at 1 p.m.; February 21 at 1 p.m.; and March 14 at 1 p.m.

Interesting artists will show their work and creative storytellers will read their stories about the paintings. Musicians will then play a song related to the painting and finally the artist will come to the front and tell us about their art. It will be a very entertaining time.

This event is FREE and open to the public for your enjoyment. Anyone not living in Islandwalk, please contact Trena Kelly for entrance through the gate.

Trena is still looking for people who enjoy writing and telling a story, as well as artists. Please contact Trena to participate.

SIG NEWS

BOOK CLUB-- Nothing like sharing a good read with friends. AAUW'S book group is a friendly place to enjoy that opportunity. On Dec. 11 we "not so invisible women" will be discussing *Calling Invisible Women* by Jeanne Ray at the Jacaranda Public Library. Join us at 1:30 - bring a new member along.

You'll be interested to learn that National AAUW had selected books by women authors for this year's Adelante Book of the Month Club Reading List. Their selection for December is entitled *The Gilded Years* by Karin Tanabe.

Have you been checking your closets to see if you have any gently used children's books you might donate?

EXPLORING THE ARTS--Beth Gamel has graciously volunteered to chair this activity. In December the Downtown Baptist Church of Sarasota presents the 44th annual Singing Christmas Tree. With nearly 300 volunteers it features a 25ft. tree containing 130 voices and a separate orchestra. The concert and musical drama lasts 90 min. Proposed date: Dec 9 at 3:00. Contact Beth Gamel by Nov 27th. The cost is \$15. Prepay is necessary.



A SHOUT OUT FROM OUR HISTORIAN



From our new historian, Barbara Martinage: Members owe a big shout out to **Kathy Black** for her stewardship of the club's historical files. She not only culled five boxes of materials into two plastic cartons chronologically organized and in protective sleeves but she began to digitalize some records. In reviewing those files, it is obvious that she has been a huge "doer" in the club - serving two terms as president; chairing/co-chairing the Home Show for four years; serving as hostess for LAF events; leading SIGS groups; representing our ladies at State conventions and much more. She does it all with grace and a warm smile.



December Birthdays



1	Carol	Cudia	13	Diane	Sisko
1	Barbara	Martinage	15	Dottie	Bingman
3	Kathy	Black	16	Sylvia	Irish
9	Cheryl	Trembley	18	Amy	Schirber
9	Patti	Warner	19	Carol	Sbabo
10	Karen	Cianci	22	Susan	Graves
11	Denise	DeLong	27	Jane	Harris
11	Judith	Kolk	28	Margaret	Collin
11	Jane	Irey	30	Emily	Jennings
12	Susan	Leege	30	Ronnie	Storch
12	Jean	Norman	31	Suzanne	Croco

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, November 9, 2017

Suzanne Biviano, Secretary

The General Meeting of the Venice Branch, AAUW, for November 9, 2017 was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The meeting was called to order by president Kathleen Pickering at 12:15.

The agenda was approved by a show of hands. The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as posted in the Venice Views. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$33, 531.25.

Announcements were made: New members by Paula Dulski; Hospitality Committee recognized; Holiday Luncheon; election of Mitzi Fiedler to City Council. It was also announced that Paula Choyke would take over as SIGS Director and Fran Potter would take over as Finance Chairman.

Old Business: Debate of the previous motion to establish a Scholarship Fund at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. Kathy Black made a motion that debate on the main motion, amendments or incidental motions be limited to no more than five (5) minutes. Motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands. Paula Choyke made a motion that the vote on the main motion regarding the scholarship fund be taken by written ballot. The motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands. Debate followed, governed by Roberts Rules. Call for the question was asked for by Fran Brinkman. The motion was seconded and passed by a 2/3 vote. Votes were counted by Fran Brinkman and Judy Houston. The motion was carried 69 to 50. The ballots were taken and sealed by secretary Suzanne Biviano, pending any demand for a recount.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25. The program, "Minding our Money" was presented by Fran Potter.

VENICE BRANCH AT PLAY



Eight members went on a pontoon cruise up the intercoastal waterway then stopped at Pop's for lunch. The ladies from L to R are Paula Dulski, Anita Kunkle, Jeri Jaminet, Ellen Elie, Sue Owen, Pat Ritner, Dottie Bingman and Donna McQuain.

VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR **DECEMBER**

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location and Notes
F	1	12:00	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre and lunch at Ramada Venice Hotel Venezia
T	5	9:30	Board Meeting	Kathleen Pickering	Emmanuel Lutheran Church room 103
W	6	10:00	Bridge Discussion	Barbara Stevens	Meet at Barbara Stevens' home.
Th	7	11:30	Duplicate Bridge	Karen Mullen	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes.
F	8	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Meet at Jacaranda West Country Club.
F	8	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell Georgie Ann Fedako	Bridge and lunch at Jacandra West Country Club. You must sign up in advance.
Sa	9	3:00	Exploring the Arts	Beth Gamel	Singing Christmas Tree. Contact Beth Gamel by Nov 27. The cost is \$15. Prepay is necessary.
M	11	1:30	Book Club	Barbara Martinage	<u>Calling Invisible Women</u> by Jeanne Ray. Meet at the Jacaranda Library.
W	13	12:00	Cooks Corner	Janet Schotz	Salad bar and cookie exchange at home of June Lee Reninger.
Th	14	11:30	Holiday Luncheon	Karen Cianci and Lynn Fox	Venice Yacht Club
F	15	Deadline for January Venice Views			Send articles and/or photos by email to the editors at aauwveniceviews@gmail.com
F	15	12:00	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre and lunch at Ramada Venice Hotel Venezia
W	20	4:00	Lunch Bunch Etc.	Paula Choyke	Happy Hour at Bone Fish Grill in Venice. Please email or phone Paula to sign up.
Th	21	11:30	Duplicate Bridge	Karen Mullen	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes.
F	22	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Meet at Jacaranda West Country Club.
F	22	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell Georgie Ann Fedako	Bridge and lunch at Jacaranda West Country Club. You must sign up in advance.

REMINDER

Submissions to Venice Views should be sent to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com .
The deadline is the 15th of the month.



Venice Views Editor for December:
Susan Farstrup

Paula Dulski: e-copies circulation

Anne Russell: Printed copy circulation

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AAUW, VENICE BRANCH, P.O. Box 515
VENICE FL 34284

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___ **Legal Advocacy Fund:** checks payable to
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Scholarship Fund on the memo line.

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

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