

VENICE VIEWS

VOLUME XLIV, No.7

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: KATHLEEN PICKERING

WEBSITES: BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net NATIONAL: aauw.org

MONTHLY MEETING

Venice Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285

Thursday, March 8 12:30 (11:45 for LUNCH)

Pam Clifford, program, Lynn Crandall, hospitality

PROGRAM: Public Policy, Kathy Black, update on current and pending legislation.

Hostesses: Lynda Friedman, Cheryl Totoro, Paula Sala, Barbara Rov, Carol Sbabo, Jan Middendorf, Anne Finger, Kathy Black, Suzanne Biviano, Evelyn Kent



Home Tour Breaks Its Own Record!



The weather could not have been better for a crowd that surpassed all previous Venice AAUW home tours. Final count: nearly 1,100 adults - both men and women – enjoyed both the homes' décor and the personal collections of their owners.

Co-chairs Bev Weltzien and Jan Harris expanded revenues with artisans selling handmade wares at all five homes with a portion of proceeds adding to tour revenues. The fifth home was also the setting for raffle baskets, each having a value of \$200 or more.

No detail was overlooked. Coolers outside each home made chilled water available at a dollar per bottle.

The after-party was another success. Raffle tickets continued to sell during the event prior to drawings for winners. Our wonderful homeowners mingled with tour volunteers and members of the public who bought a ticket to join our celebration. This was a joint undertaking with the Venice Art Center who shared in these proceeds.

Thanks to everyone who helped put the 2018 Tour over the top. It assures the branch's ability to offer re-entry scholarships to area women through the Gulf Coast Community Foundation again this year. And that's something worth celebrating.



A crowd waiting to tour a Venice Island home on Bayshore Drive



Volunteer Bartenders keep the



Celebration at Venice Art Center, scene of after party.

Photos by Diane Sisko



President's Message

Kathleen Pickering

Wow is all that can be said about our 2018 Home Tour. The homes were outstanding and so interesting, the music a special treat and the vendors were a delight. A big applause to Jan and Bev for creating the event and to their committee and to all the members who aided in the Home Tour success. We will be able to give scholarships locally and continue to fund the American Fund at AAUW national which supports women for advanced degrees.

At this month's board meeting we continued to work on our strategic plan, which is no small chore. As soon as the goals are more developed, we will be asking for your input. It is difficult to contain ourselves as there is much to do for women and girls.

Also, this month we decided to put our honorees into two separate events. Our scholarship recipients and the home owners of our Home Tour will be the special people at the Spring Honor's lunch and our Annual meeting will recognize special members and have the installations of new officers. Please try to attend both. Annual meeting on April 12 and the Honor's lunch on April 21.

Our speaker this month Nancy Parrish was so informative and awaking about sexual abuse in the military. It made me think perhaps we should join with other women and girl organizations to work on a program or programs to help girls and women not face sexual abuse. Please let me know if you think this is something we should be engage in.

The mission of advancing equity for women and girls is never done.

Have a good month and see you on March 8th for a discussion on public policy.

TECH TREK THE WINNER AT PATRIOTIC BRIDGE

Various combinations of red, white, and blue adorned the Patriotic Bridge players as they came together to enjoy an afternoon game. Thanks to Fran Brinkman's organization, all went smoothly as the 44 women played. There seemed to be plenty of opportunity for laughter as individual tables found something humorous to share. The delicious treats were an added attraction to this fun filled day.

For the first time Patriotic Bridge gave the day's donations to Florida's Tech Trek. Both Shirley Reid and Marge Ostrom explained what a valuable experience this camp is for the young girls.

Lucky Karen Cianci won \$80 in the 50/50 raffle. The members of the winning team were: Chris Cairns, Joyce Mikulski, Gwen Leth, and Melissa Stofko.

Everyone had a delightful time and we were so pleased to make the contribution of \$526 to Tech Trek.



Marion Mahoney

New Members

LuAnn Cusic

I am originally from Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University with an undergraduate degree in Sociology. I then attended graduate school at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington where I received my Master's degree in Counseling. My husband and I raised our two sons in Delaware where I worked in the field of mental health. Initially, I worked with children (and their families) who were victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. I then worked for the court system doing assessments and providing therapy to parents who were involved in custody disputes over their children. I have spent the past 10 years as a psychotherapist working in the private sector and providing counseling for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families.



In 2014, once our sons were grown and out of the house, my husband and I decided to move to Florida to be closer to our grandchildren. I continue to work and have my own private counseling practice in Osprey, Florida. I specialize in treating depression and anxiety, particularly that which can arise from past trauma, grief and loss, divorce and infidelity, addiction, unemployment, or from any type of major life transition. I have always been particularly interested in helping women who are seeking validation and empowerment in their lives.

Claudia Hanley



I am very happy to be a new member of the Venice Branch of AAUW. I already know many wonderful members and look forward to meeting and getting to know many more of you.

I feel very fortunate to have had a very rewarding career in teaching and mentoring. In fact, I'm STILL teaching! My career began as an elementary teacher after graduating from SUNY at Potsdam. After a couple of years I had an exciting opportunity to on a national educational project which focused on developing reading curricula with an emphasis on individualization. That experience led to my graduate work at Syracuse University where I majored in special education which naturally focuses on individual needs using a diagnostic/prescriptive model. After graduating, I became the Educational Coordinator at the Center for Human Policy whose mission led to deinstitutionalization and integration of children with special needs in regular public schools. The last several years of my career were spent as a special education teacher and teacher trainer.

I lived my whole life in central NY, mainly Syracuse, NY, before moving to Florida 12 years ago. My passion for tennis and warm weather led me here. I fell in love with the charm of Venice and still feel that tingly feeling when I drive through downtown Venice and along the roads by the beaches.

I have two lovely daughters, one wonderful son-in-law, two grand cats and three grand dogs that I look forward to visiting every year. For fun I enjoy tennis, gym workouts, bicycling, duplicate bridge, traveling, reading, the arts, and entertaining. I hope to become more involved in AAUW when my current work commitments wind down.

NEW MEMBERS



Kindra Muntz

I am delighted to join the AAUW Venice Branch. What creative group of women! I attended a public high school in Delmar, New York, then Radcliffe College, and graduated with a degree in English from Harvard University in 1965. Then my career took several turns. After working in publishing and medical research, and learning what happens when a grant ends... I built an 18-year career in management at the Aircraft Engine Division of General Electric Company, followed by five years as a retail broker at Merrill Lynch, before retiring to Florida in 1998.

Now my focus is on social and environmental justice, and partnering with interfaith and other public interest organizations to promote justice, equity and compassion in public policy. I formed the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections (SAFE) in 2006 to support a campaign for paper ballots, which passed in Sarasota County and now is in effect statewide. SAFE's current effort is for Single Member Districts for electing County Commissioners, to help reduce the cost of campaigns, make races more competitive, and make elected officials more accountable to the voters, rather than to big moneyed interests and their PACs. All are invited to help our HI-FIVE petition drive by printing the petition at www.keepdemocracysafe.org and having five friends and acquaintances fill it out. We have an ambitious goal to put this on the ballot this spring! In addition, as President of the board of UU Justice Florida, a statewide action network, I invite all who would like to add your voice on needed legislation for women's rights and other issues for the public good, to join our Action Network at <http://www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/sign-up>. (This is free and open to the public.) Together we can help change history, as we do good work in so many ways for the education of women and girls.



Armchair Travelers, January 2018

SUNSHINE



Pat Rittner—Knee Replacement

Suzanne Talbot—Double Mastectomy

Cards Would be Appreciated



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Freda Kanetsky | 18 | Mimi Welch |
| 2 | Gretchen Dawson | 23 | Barbara Farrar |
| 3 | Kathleen Pickering | 24 | Karol Olson |
| 4 | Pat Weber | 25 | Mary Emerson |
| 5 | Cathy Edwards | 27 | Pat Swindler |
| 5 | Ann Robinson | 28 | Carolyn Boudreaux |
| 6 | Kira Schneider | 28 | Mary Greenberg |
| 9 | Trena Kelly | 30 | Evelyn Kent |
| 15 | Lois Minnich | 30 | Melissa Stofko |
| 17 | Patricia Bull | | |
| 17 | Camille Cline | | |



Member Spotlight

Mimi Welch

Our parliamentarian is a woman of many abilities, Robert's Rules being just one of them. She turned her attention to these procedures when she was living in the Washington, D.C. area and was appointed to some municipal boards and needed to know how to operate effectively within those decision-making groups. She took an on-line course in Robert's Rules and her knowledge is now a distinct benefit to our branch. She is also an appointed officer by the state organization and acts as AAUW-Florida board liaison for both the Sarasota and Venice branch.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, she's been in Florida for the past 18 years with stints in Texas, California, Virginia and Tennessee as well.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, she was the second woman in the history of the university granted a degree in physics. With graduate work in nuclear energy and related energy disciplines, she went on to become a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy for 25 plus-years. Her career centered on inspections of federal facilities along with appraisals and certifications of commercial nuclear power plants, making sure that new facilities were properly qualified and existing ones met environmental and safety standards. She retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1997.

On retirement, she and husband, Brad, lived aboard their 44-foot DeFever trawler and traveled from their base in Longboat Key Moorings around Florida. Sadly, she became a widow in 2003.

Smart, educated women are everywhere in her family tree. Her grandmother was a doctor, becoming an M.D. in 1903. She has two daughters who are medical professionals. Two granddaughters are both recent graduates of the University of Tennessee, one of them now a math professor.

What might you not know about Mimi? She loves sewing and has volunteered her skills in the costume shop of the Sarasota Opera for the past 16 years. Her only regret is she can't do more. She says, "It's such fun but we only work from January through March." Spare time? She says it includes lots of duplicate bridge.

A strong supporter of AAUW educational endeavors including our funding of local re-entry scholarships, she wants fellow branch members to also recognize and back national programs like the American Foundation fellowships.

She's been a strong contributor to our branch for nearly two decades. We thank you for the wit and wisdom you always bring to our efforts.

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

You'll not want to miss our final Art in the Afternoon for 2018 on March 14th at 1 p.m. at Islandwalk at the West Villages. AAUW has linked up with Islandwalk to hold this event again at their spacious Event Center.

Sit back, look at the varied paintings, and listen to storytellers interpret the paintings and musicians play songs relating to the paintings. Light refreshments will be served and its FREE—a benefit to your AAUW membership.

We have paintings from both amateurs and this month will feature acclaimed Maggie McClellan from Englewood. Storytellers also run from aspiring writers willing to try their imagination to published authors.

AAUW friends participating in March are: Kathleen Schwartz, Evelyn Kent, and Dottye Yakovakis and Meryl Balko.

If you haven't attended before, you'll enjoy it. If you're returning, you know you're in for a fun afternoon. Feel free to bring a friend.

Here's one of the featured paintings.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Paula Dulski, Membership Director

There is a National Dues increase effective March 16, 2018. This is the first dues change in a decade. The increase is necessary to achieve quality education and training initiatives and leadership programs. The increase is from \$49 to \$59 for National which brings it from \$80 to \$90 for National/State/Branch. The tax deductibility is \$53 for the National Dues. We will collect dues for the upcoming fiscal year in May and June. Dues are due by July 1, 2018

Do you know someone who is graduating from college this year? You can gift one year of AAUW National membership to as many recent college graduates as you like at no cost to them or you. These grads can be people you know or strangers. Anyone who has completed their undergraduate degree in the past two years is eligible to receive one free membership from an AAUW member. Submit their name, mailing address, phone number and alma mater on the form at www.aauw.org/resources/give-a-grad-a-gift/

Anne MacIntyre organizes the book exchange and she relays this message: Bring a book...take a book...at the monthly meeting Book Exchange. If you forget to bring a book you are still welcome to stop by to see all the good reads that members are sharing....and yes...feel free to take a book to enjoy! The purpose of the Book Exchange is to share books that we have enjoyed with others. The Book Exchange will also be available at the monthly Book Club meetings. Books that are not circulating will be donated to The Friends of Jacaranda Library for their resale shop.

State Convention

April 22-24

Hyatt Recency Sarasota

Registration fee is \$190

Which covers opening banquet on Sunday , lunch and dinner on Monday and breakfast on Tuesday. Registration is due by April 8.

Rooms are \$149 a night until March 22.

Keynote speaker on Sunday night is Kim Church CEO of AAUW.

Please see AAUWfl website for more information and registration

SIG NOTES

SIG (what a great acronym). The AAUW **Book Club** is certainly one of the more interesting "special interest groups". We ladies meet on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 at the Jarcaranda Public Library. Next month's selection is "WONDER" by Emma Donoghue with facilitator Lynda Weston. Just a reminder that you are welcome to call 947-4752 if you have a suggestion of a book you'd like to recommend - our reads span the various genre. Can't say enough how welcoming the group is - Come join us.

Financial Fitness is a new special interest group that meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, 601 Tamiami Trail S. on Venice Island (across from the hospital). The group is for members who want to discuss and learn more about investing and other financial topics of interest to women. We've had very lively discussions at our first two meetings and invite others to join us on Tuesday, March 13th at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact Fran Potter.

General Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2018

Suzannw Biviano, Secretary

The speaker was Nancy Parrish, Founder of Protect Our Defenders.

Meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Pickering at 12:55 PM.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as posted in Venice Views was made, seconded and passed.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$13, 122.21.

Jane Farley reported on the nominating committee.

Beth Gamal invited everyone to Art in the Afternoon.

Nancy Donelson spoke for Hospitality and MahJongg.

Bev Weltzien and Jan Harris spoke on the Home Tour and presented the Proclamation from the Mayor to the chapter.

Pat Weber spoke on Tech Trek and STEM activities planned.

It was announced that the Honors Luncheon will just be for the Homeowners and Scholarship winners. Installation of officers and other chapter honors will occur at the Annual Meeting in April.

State Convention will be held April 22-24 at the Hyatt Regency in Sarasota.

Paula Dulski announced a current membership of 250 with 125 attending today.

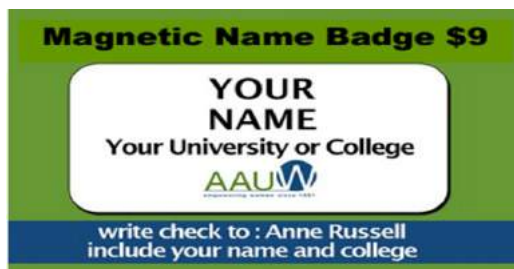
Kathy Black spoke on Tallahassee Lobby Days.

Chris Cairns reported on two LAF functions.

Pam Clifford requested ideas for a program for newly announced May meeting.

There are plans for a summer picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM



AAUW MAGNETIC NAME BADGE: A name badge may be purchased at the monthly General Meetings by submitting the following information to Anne Russell or Paula Dulski along with a payment of \$9. If paying by check, make the check payable to Anne Russell.

VENICE AAUW MAGNETIC NAME BADGE ORDER:

Your name as you wish it to appear

School name as you want it written. Include state. _____

You will receive the name badge at the next meeting, or call Anne to pick up if need earlier. You can also send this form and payment directly to Anne Russell. See the directory for her contact information.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND RAISERS

March 15, 2018

Thursday 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Italian Dinner - BYOB

Hostesses:: Linda Friedman, Cheryl Tortora, Connie Smith

13181 Ipolita Street in Island Walk, Venice

Call Linda at 401-714-1585 for reservations and directions

\$35.00 donation to LAF

April 5, 2018 Date subject to change

Thursday 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Wine and Cheese Tasting

Hostesses: Donna McQuain and Kathy Black

Heron Creek in North Port

Call Donna at 941-876-3977 or Kathy at 518-744-3379 for reservations and directions

\$35.00 donation to LAF

VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR MARCH

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Thur	1	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Karen Mullen	Mission Valley CC. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes
Fri	2	12:00	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre and Lunch
Fri	2	1-4	Mahjonn	Nancy Donelson	Wendy Orlando, hostess
Wed	7	11-12	Exploring The Arts	Beth Gamel	Pottery Demo by Alan Kech, Venice Art Center
Wed	7	10:00	Bridge Discussion	Barbara Stevens	Barbara Stevens' home
Thur	8	11:30	Meeting	Kathleen Pickering	Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Fri	9	10:30	French Conversa-	Jane Metcalf	Jacaranda West CC
Fri	9	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Bridge and Lunch @ Jacaranda West CC
Mon	12	1:30	Book Club	Barbara Martinage	Meet at Jacaranda Library to discuss Wonder
Tues	13	10:30	Financial Fitness	Fran Potter	Gulf Coast Community
Thur	15	1:30	Armchair Travelers	Anne Finger	Meet @ Penny Nettleman's to hear about her
Thur	15	Deadline for April Venice Views			Send Articles and/or photos by email to the
Thur	15	11:30	Duplicate Bridge	Karen Mullen	Mission Valley CC. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate
Fri	16	12:00	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre and Lunch
Mon	19	TBA	Exploring With Your	Nancy Gorno	Laurel District of Sarasota
Wed	21	6:00	Evening Out	Kay Olson	T J Carney's
Fri	23	10:30	French Conversa-	Jane Metcalf	Meet at Jacaranda West Country Club
Fri	23	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Bridge and Lunch @ Jacaranda West CC
Wed	28	TBA	Lunch Bunch	Mary Greenberg	Amore's in Sarasota, RSVP Paula Choyke

Girls STEAM Ahead

The AAUW STEM committee AAUW members had an organizational meeting with the Jacaranda librarian to plan STEM activities for girls 9 to 12 years old. The title of our event is "Girls STEAM Ahead". We will be holding it on April 28th at the library from 10 AM until 12:30 PM. The event will have four stations – Science, Technology, Engineering and Art/Math. We are very excited about partnering with the library. Our next meeting is on March 12th at 10 AM at the Jacaranda Library. Please come and see how you can help.



A DNA Explorer



Building Bridges

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.

___ **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.

Venice AAUW is a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the I.R.S. (federal tax identification # 38-3867484) and the State of Florida (#85-8016052898C-6), and does not engage in professional solicitation. 100% of contributions received are used to fulfill the organization's mission. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Registration #CH42325 (Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.



Venice Views March Editor

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