

VENICE VIEWS

VOLUME XLV, No. 6

FEBRUARY 2019

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. Box 515, VENICE, FL 34284

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

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2019

AT 12:15 (11:30 for refreshments)

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 790 S TAMIAMI TRAIL, VENICE, FL 34285

PROGRAM: Christine Kasten, Executive Director, Venice Symphony Orchestra. Christine will discuss her journey in her career choices that led to this leadership position. She will also address the process of selecting its new conductor, Troy Quinn.

(Due to the Home Tour the February meeting falls on the 1st Thursday of the month)



HOME TOUR 2019

Friday February 8 from 10 to 4

Tickets Prior to Tour Day \$20.00

At the Door \$25.00

We have 130 members/friends who have volunteered but we are still in need of Parking volunteers and substitute Hostesses. Please contact Susan Farstrup if you or someone you know can volunteer.

REMINDER: Use aaufveniceviews@gmail.com to send ALL NOTICES TO VENICE VIEWS



President's Message

Kathleen Pickering

We have a lot going on the rest of the year. Hard to think how we will get it all accomplished, but I we know we will. Coming right up is our fabulous home tour which just keeps getting bigger every year. I cannot thank Suzi and her dynamic committee enough for pulling it all together. Key players have been Degen Sayer, homes; Samira Easton and Susan Farstrup, home managers and hostesses; Patti Warner, Tickets; Judy Houston, Publicity; Judy Kolk, Artisans; and so many members are involved in many phases of the day. This is our big event of the year and it makes local scholarships and the American scholarship possible. What a gift to so many women. Thank you.

And then we are on to the Annual meeting in April where we recognize outstanding service by members, and elect the new officers. Following this we do one of our favorite events, the Scholarship Luncheon. We all love to see the meeting of the home owners and the scholarship recipients.

In between these activities we are going to do a Monkey survey to see what is going well in the branch, what you would like different and what dreams you have. Stay tuned, we will give you more information and more details.

Oh, by the way I think the parking situation will be resolved at the next meeting. See you February 7.

Remember this day as it is the first Thursday rather than the 2nd Thursday.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Happy New Year! Our branch is now over 250 members from all walks of life. What a vast array of talents you all bring to our table. This is a big month for us, with the Home Tour coming up on Feb 8. We need well over 100 volunteers for this project, and we all need to sell as many tickets as possible. Remember to turn your ticket sale money in at our February meeting. If you have any questions on this, contact Suzi Barbee. Her info will be found in our Directory, which you all should have. If you did not get one, see me at the next meeting. New members, save the date March 1 for our spring New Member Breakfast, put on by our board. We always love getting to know you better in a smaller setting.

Kathy Black



MEMBER PROFILE

SAMIRA BADAWI EASTON

She considers herself a “global nomad.” Samira Easton was born in Beirut, Lebanon, to an American mother and Lebanese father who at the time was a Professor of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her father’s postings with the Ford Foundation and the United Nations took her to Saudi Arabia, Libya and Italy, where she lived for 25 years before returning to the US in 2009. Samira is fluent in four languages and holds dual U.S. – Italian citizenship.

Her educational path was wide-ranging and included more than 10 different elementary schools with stints of home schooling. She attended Marymount boarding school in Rome as a teen, attended Virginia Tech and later graduated from the University of Virginia with a BA in Foreign Affairs in 1985. In 1987, she returned to Rome, Italy where she met and married her first husband and where her two sons now live, one a doctor and the other studying to become a doctor.

In 2009, Samira returned to the U.S. to obtain her master’s degree. While working full time at Winrock International, a Rockefeller Foundation international development organization with programs in 60 countries in Arlington, Virginia and free-lancing as Italian TV program video editor for MHz Networks, she pursued her master’s degree in Conflict Analysis & Resolution. She went on to join the administrative faculty of George Mason University (Fairfax, Va.) where she was the Student Care & Conduct Coordinator for international students.

In 2016, Samira & her husband Pete moved to Venice to be close to her parents who had retired here. Samira’s mother, Betty Badawi, is a long time AAUW Venice member.

For the past several months, Samira has been working for the upcoming AAUW Home Tour as co-chair of the house managers committee (along with Susan Farstrup). It’s an assignment where her organizational and administrative skills are being put to good use. She’s enthusiastic about helping to raise the funds that can provide re-entry scholarships. “I’m very committed to helping other women. Education is the key to everything. I am personally aware of the daily challenges women face in completing their education – I didn’t get my master’s degree until 30 years after my bachelor’s!”

Samira is currently working as a Realtor at Keller Williams Realty Select. In her free time, she volunteers with the Venice Newcomers and enjoys taking oil painting classes at the Venice Art Center. One of her paintings will be featured in the January “Art in the Afternoon” series hosted by AAUW members Trena Kelly and Beth Gamel.

Judith Houston

Venice AAUW General Meeting on January 10, 2019

The meeting was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

The Program was two parts: Deputy Kathy Duff of Sarasota Sheriff's office spoke on security and ways to prevent personal crimes; Tommy Whittaker described her home and its history. The home will be featured on the 2019 AAUW Home Tour.

The general meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Pickering at 12:45 PM.

The minutes were approved as published in Venice Views.

Paula Choyke gave the treasurer's report: \$12,838.72 in the checking account, \$5,000.16 in the savings account.

Kathleen Pickering described the Monkey survey that will come out to members in March and thanked Pam Cox for all her help with the survey.

The nominating committee is interested in candidates for President, Membership, and Secretary, to be elected in April.

Treena Kelly discussed Arts in the Afternoon, to be held at Island Walk on Monday, 1/14/2019.

Home Tour information was presented. Sue Farstrup discussed hostesses for each home and requested names for a back-up list. Additional parking people are also needed. Patti Warner provided information on tickets sales. Ticket packages were distributed and money will be collected at the Feb. 7th meeting, the day before the Home Tour. An incentive is provided this year: for every 5 tickets a member sells, their name will be entered in a drawing for a prize. There will be a training session on January 29th at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation building for ticket sellers on credit card use.

Membership director Kathy Black announced there were 112 members attending. New members were introduced.

Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien discussed development ideas - fundraising, grant writing and long-range planning.

Pat Webber discussed a robot building project being offered to girls 10-18 years of age.

\$219 was raised by passing the basket for raffle tickets for a raffle basket at the Home Tour.

Talks are being held for a possible coordination with Florida Studio Theater to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Biviano, Secretary.

Venice Branch Activities Calendar for February

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location and Notes
F	1	11:30	Mahjongg	Wendy Orlando Nancy Donelson	Ramada Venezia 425 US 41 Bypass
F	1	11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre and lunch at Pelican Pointe
T	4	9:30	Board Meeting	Kathleen Pickering	Gulf Coast Community Foundation
W	6	10:00	Bridge Discussion	Barbara Stevens	Meet at Barbara Steven's home
Th	7	11:30	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege Karen Mullen	Mission Valley CC. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes
F	8	10-4	Home Tour		
M	11	1:30	Book Group	Barbara Martinage	Discussion of "Killers of the Flower Moon; The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann at Jacaranda Library
T	12	10-11:30	Financial Fitness	Fran Potter	Discussion of using wills, trusts and other estate planning vehicles. Classroom 103 Emmanuel Lutheran Church
T	15	Deadline for March Venice Views			Send Articles and/or photos by email to the editors at aauwveniceviews@gmail.com
M	18	10-3	Outdoor Adventure	Bea Holt	Kayak on Siesta Key estuaries to Midnight Pass. Rentals Available
Tu	19	10:15	Exploring with your Camera	Diane Sisko	Venice Theatre backstage tour followed by lunch
W	20	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	British Open Pub. Call or email Melanie Odom by 2/18
W	20	Noon	Cooks Corner	Janet Schotz	Home of Judy Weber. Theme: Comfort Food
Th	21	11:30	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege Karen Mullen	Mission Valley CC. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes
Th	21	1:30	Armchair Travelers	Anne Finger	To be determined. Contact Anne Finger
F	22	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Meet at Jacaranda West CC
F	22	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Jacaranda West CC
W	27	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Paula Choyke	Café Venice. Contact Paula Choyke for reservations



FEBRUARY

1	Hurney	Ginny
1	Johnson	Carol
8	Thetford	Mary Lou
10	Gagnon	MaryAlice
10	Leeds	Joani
11	Christian	Erin
12	Morey	Katie
13	Gamel	Beth
13	Mullen	Karen
14	Dillahunty	Mary Ann
15	McGurk	Eileen
16	Middendorf	Jan
17	Deming	Ilda
21	Jaminet	Jeri
22	Cohill	Adele
23	Madrazo	Lidia
24	Grant	Gayle
27	Choyke	Paula



Evening Out group at Kumo Japanese restaurant

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!



Save the Date

April 27th—Scholarship Luncheon
Venetian Golf and Country Club

SHARING AND CARING

Marcia Seman - Sympathy Card on the death of her Husband

Please notify Sunshine Contact Marge Collin if you are aware of someone who needs get-well wishes, if there is a serious illness or passing of an AAAUW member or family member so that we can acknowledge this on behalf of the Branch



Art in the Afternoon

February 20th AAUW and Islandwalk in the West Villages present another popular arts program where you see wonderful paintings and photos, listen to creative storytellers and hear great musicians.

To register, email iwartintheafternoon@gmail.com and put AITA registration February 20 in the subject line. AAUW member Kathleen Schwartz will be a storyteller and artist Val Dwek has a painting featured. Part of the proceeds from donation bucket come back to AAUW.

NOTES

BOOK GROUP

Next up at the SIG Book group gathering scheduled for Monday, February 11 is discussion of "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann - The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" as lead by Penny Nuttleman. This should be a particularly interesting discussion since many of us will have attended the authors talk sponsored by the Saratoga Library System as part of its One Community Read on Thursday, January 24th. Come join us - newbie or just a reader who particularly enjoyed this book and wants to share their thought with other readers.

Looking ahead to March 11th our read will be "A Gentleman From Moscow" by Amor Towles". A best seller which is a wonderful read. Want a quick preview of the book check Amazon.com

Play Readers Perform for PEO Group

On January 14, the AAUW playreaders performed their President's Wives to the 42 ladies of the GU chapter at the Sawgrass community room. We were presented with a \$50 check made out to Tech Trek. It was an enjoyable time for all!

Fran Brinkman

FINANCIAL FITNESS

Financial Fitness Interest Group is a forum to discuss and learn more about investing and other financial topics of interest and importance to women. The group brings together members with varying levels of knowledge and experience in an environment in which we can all learn from each other. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.—our February meeting is Tuesday, February 12th in Classroom 103 of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Our member suggested topic for this meeting is a discussion of using wills, trusts and other estate planning vehicles to accomplish estate planning goals. We won't get into a complex legal discussion but rather will focus on intent and how that might be accomplished with various vehicles. For more information, contact Fran Potter.



Feb Venice Views Editor: Jane Metcalf
E- Copies Circulation: Kathy Black
Printed Copies Circulation: Anne Russell

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Mail this form with 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
Write Legal Advocacy Fund on the memo line.
- _____ **RE-ENTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Checks payable to AAUW, Venice Branch
Write Re-entry Scholarship Fund on the memo line.
- _____ **FOR TECH TREK ONLY:** Checks payable to Tech Trek Florida should be mailed to P.O. Box 2938, Jupiter, FL 33468.

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

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