

VENICE VIEWS

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American Association of University Women, Venice, Florida Branch

P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284

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VENICE AAUW AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO SIX WOMEN

Six Sarasota County women were awarded scholarships of \$3,000 each to further their post-high school education by the Venice branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). The women were honored at a luncheon held Saturday, April 27, at the Venetian Golf and River Club in Venice.

The awards, known as non-traditional scholarships, are directed at women who have had to delay or interrupt their education and are returning to pursue a degree. "Family and financial concerns are typically why women must put their college plans on hold. We are pleased we are able to offer support to these candidates," according to Susan Luterbach and Susanne Owen, who chaired the AAUW selection committee.

The scholarship winners are:

Rachel Ballard is attending State College of Florida to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing with plans to continue to a master's degree. She reached her initial goal, an R.N. degree, this past February. She and her husband live in North Port with her two children and her father. She came to the United States from Trinidad when she was five years old.

Reesa Bland has an L.P.N. degree, obtained in 2014, but she plans to graduate from Galen College of Nursing in 2020 with an R.N. degree after completing a Bridge program. Her long-term goal is to be a psychiatric A.R.N.P (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner). She is the mother of three girls and lives in Sarasota.

Elizabeth Im is a certified nurse assistant (C.N.A.) at an assisted living facility and is also enrolled full-time in a degree program at Charlotte Technical College to complete requirements for an R.N. degree. She and her husband and their 18-month old daughter live in North Port.

Ngoc Pham attends classes at State College of Florida to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is also working at two jobs to help support her mother and father. She emigrated with her family from Vietnam to the United States three years ago and lives in North Port. She is interested in care of the elderly, a key part of her Vietnamese culture.

Christine Pomerleau is attending Florida Atlantic University to complete a bachelor's degree with plans to become a guidance counselor. She is employed at Venice High School as an attendance clerk. Her two children, a son and a daughter, are active in sports, primarily baseball and softball.

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Laura Williamson is an L.P.N. and is enrolled at Galen School of Nursing to obtain her R.N. degree. She credits her mother for encouraging her to continue her education; her husband and three children are also very supportive. Long-term, she plans to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

The scholarships are funded through proceeds raised by an AAUW Home Tour held each February, and administered in a partnership with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Venice AAUW, with 250 members is the largest AAUW branch in Florida and one of the largest nationally. Its mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Monthly meetings are held from September through May on the second Thursday of the month at the Fellowship Hall of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice .

AAUW membership is open to women who have completed an associate, bachelor or advanced degree. For more information, visit venice-fl.aauw.net on the internet or on Facebook.



Six Sarasota County women were awarded an AAUW Non-Traditional Scholarship of \$3,000 each. All except one are pursuing a nursing education. They are, left to right: Christine Pomerleau, Reesa Bland, Laura Williamson, Rachel Ballard, Elizabeth Im and Ngoc Pham.

President's Summer Message

Kathleen Pickering



Last week I was flipping through my Costco magazine and in it was an interesting article about Melinda Gates and her new book THE MOMENT OF LIFT. It is not that I am interested in promoting her book, but rather her thoughts about girls and women world-wide. I was especially taken by a couple of her comments. She said it's not her legacy that is important but rather what's important is "because I walked this on this planet, somehow the world got better for women and girls. At the end of the day that is what I care about...but we need the right world on behalf of women and girls and people of color....I mean everybody has to have a seat at the table."

Those words so resonated with me because that is us. We in AAUW want the world a better place for girls and women. At our meeting on May 9th, we heard from one of our scholarship recipients, Neesha Levitt, who shared with us that our scholarship was the beginning that changed her life. She has now earned her doctorate. And she is making a difference for other women, she even brought a former student so she could see the possibilities by returning to school. Our scholarships help change the world for women and our Teck Treks certainly have a big impact on the eight graders we support. In the months and years ahead, I know we all want to continue to have impact on changing the world for women and girls.

Another thing Melinda talked about was how she learned so much about the women around the world was from their stories. People's stories are so powerful. I have heard some of yours and they too, are powerful and oh so interesting. Therefore, beginning in September, we are going to share stories from you. It is so exciting to me to begin these stories. Be thinking of what you would like to share with the members.

Also, I want you to know we are still going to do a member survey, but it is going to be a bit more strategic and a little later than anticipated. When we began our board work with Gulf Coast, they offered us other surveys. So stay tuned. You will be giving fair warning when it will happen.

Have a fabulous summer. My next wedding is not until late September so I will just take a vacation to Wisconsin this summer. See you September 12th.



Fran Potter

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Our branch treasurer says she comes from a long line of women achievers including a great aunt who, in her 80s, was the longest serving teacher in the country and was so honored by President Jimmy Carter.

That relative would likely be pleased with her niece's achievements. Prior to retiring in 2008, she was vice president, of the Wealth Management Services Group of Nuveen Investments, a global corporation based in Chicago. Her career with Nuveen spanned more than two decades, beginning when she joined its New York office in a marketing role in 1984.

She credits her success to a lifelong interest in problem-solving. "All the positions I held included working with various groups to bring them together in consensus." She didn't consider herself a financial specialist initially but rather "a marketing person who worked in finance." Over time, she did come to "embrace the finance side of the business" which is why she studied to become a Certified Financial Planner, earning that designation in 1997.

Born in Michigan, she earned her college degree in Kentucky and went on to live in California and Rhode Island. Because of these and other moves, she says, "I had a driver's license in seven states".

She met and married her husband Bill in New York City and relocated to Charlotte, N.C., when he had a job transfer. He relocated for her when she went to Nuveen headquarters. She credits her husband as "being very supportive and encouraging and provided many useful insights from his own experiences."

She joined Venice AAUW in 2016 through the influence of AAUW member and tennis buddy Trena Kelly and was "swept up in becoming active in the 2018 Home Tour because of co-chairs Bev Weltzien and Jan Harris." Currently, she's serving her second year as our branch treasurer.

She also started a new Special Interest Group (SIG) last year called Financial Fitness, which meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, located on the Island. "It's an eclectic group with a wide spectrum of concerns and situations." Interested? Give her a call about it.

What you might not know about Fran....she grew up with family cats where "dogs were not on my radar." Her husband was a dog lover, English bulldogs in particular. Forty years later, they are on their fifth of this breed with new puppy Giselle.

Looking back on her career, she says, "I had the support of some really strong and accomplished women who helped me see my value. That's also the secret of AAUW...to support each other so we can accomplish our mission."

SHARING AND CARING

Healing wishes to Susan Luterback

Our sincere condolences to Rosario Morgan on the passing of her husband, Colin

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.

May 9, 2019 General Meeting of AAUW Venice Branch Minutes

The May 9, 2019 general meeting of the AAUW Venice Branch was held at the Emanuel Lutheran Church.

The program was a recap of some of the year's projects, including Tech Trek, STEM and the scholarships. Appreciation to all the volunteers who made these programs a success was extended. Past scholarship winner, Neesha Levitt, described her journey from single Mom wanting to return to school to her recently awarded PhD in Nursing.

The meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Pickering at 12:56.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as posted in Venice Views.

The treasurer's report: Savings - \$36,740.00; Checking - \$17,499.46; Gulf Coast Endowment - \$25,172.42. See the addendum for complete Financial Activity report.

Kathleen expressed appreciation to all who worked on the successful Scholarship Luncheon chaired by Joani Leeds and to Patti Warner and Fran Brinkman for their Trivia fund-raiser.

Patti Warner gave the Membership report: 60 members present for today's meeting, 250 current members including 3 new members today.

A gift donation was presented to the custodian who sets up and cleans up after our meetings.

Jane Farley thanked Lydia Russo for her hard work on Hospitality this past year, and also thanked Wendy Seeley, Maggie Surwilo and Jeri Jaminet for their contributions to make the Scholarship Luncheon such a success. Chairs for next year's Holiday Luncheon are needed.

Jane also presented the scheduled programs for the upcoming year: September - Pat Weber speaking on our educational projects; October will be a speaker on the Brady Project; November is motivational speaker MK Mueller; January will be a program on the Home Tour and Scholarships; February will be our own branch Play Readers; March's speaker will be Kim Cool; April will present a program on One Day of Hope.

Pat Weber requested volunteers to help with Tech Trek.

Judy Houston reported that Susan Hotzler will become the newest editor for Venice Views.

Paula Choyke reported on summer socials.

Cheryl Temple spoke on Public Policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 PM

Submitted by Suzanne Biviano

TRIVIA TIME

And bragging rights goes to The Fun Group team (Carol Cudia, Lynn Kroll, Barbara Stevens, Robbie Cardamone, Sue Semple, and Marie Ruvolo) who edged out second place team The Flamingos (Patti Warner, Kathy Black, Bea Holt, Stephanie Hallowell, and 2 non-members) by 12 points.

Thanks to the organizers Fran Brinkman, Chris Cairns, Carol Cudia, and Paula Choyke.

It was a fun afternoon challenging our memories and knowledge. Thanks to all who participated which contributed \$440 to Tech Trek.

The picture below is the I Q Tips team. They even wore Q Tips in their hair.

Peggy Wespiser, Colette Sears, Mimi Welch, Kitty Rodriquez, Pat Blair and Shirley Reid

From Patti Warner



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

2	Francis	Helen
3	Fritz	Mary
3	Wespiser	Peggy
7	Shrauger	Carolyn
9	Houston	Judith
9	Ingrassia	Roberta
10	Econmides	Kathleen
11	Comeau	Patricia
11	Mercer	Andie
11	Weltzien	Beverly
13	Singer	Marilyn
14	Odom	Lois
14	Russell	Anne
16	Friedman	Lynda
16	Metcalf	Jane
16	Reninger	June Lee

18	Kalunian	Betty
19	Fiedler	Mitzi
20	Zittel	Barbara
21	Ostrom	Marge
21	Wilson	Donna
22	Novotny	Kay
22	Reid	Shirley
22	Vogel	Phyllis
23	Pike	Nancy
23	Rao	Barbara
24	Hanley	Claudia
24	Turczyn	Charlene
25	Zamoff	Maida

JULY



1	Lombard	Terry
2	Christman	Deirdre
9	Armstrong	Joan
11	Tompkins	Barbara
15	Talbott	Suzanne
16	Muntz	Kindra
20	Shaweker	Ruth
21	Henskens	Mora
24	Izzi	Elaine
25	Walsh	Irene
26	Sweetser	Ruth
27	Brinkman	Fran
27	Laatsch	Jaclyn
27	Temple	Cheryl
30	Ruvolo	Marie

MEMBERSHIP



"Coming together is a beginning

Keeping together is progress

Working together is success"

- Henry Ford

Joining AAUW is the beginning for us. We go to meetings, hear great programs, enjoy SIG groups, and then sometimes we join a working committee or become part of the Board.

Start the new year by renewing and paying your dues by July 1st. Then over the summer think about how you might become more involved. Join the Home Tour committee, start a new SIG group or chair one, or plan a small fundraiser. Right now we need someone to chair Armchair Travelers or to be a Co-chair for the Photography group. Or you could volunteer for the Home Tour Committee or ask a Board member how you could help them with their particular job. There are so many opportunities for you to be a REALLY contributing member. Be thinking about what you can do.

Patti Warner

NEW EDITOR JOINS VENICE VIEWS TEAM

After serving for six years, Jane Metcalf is retiring from her position as one of the Venice Views editors. Stepping into her place will be a new member, Susan Hotzler. Susan comes with great skills. Her experience includes two decades at the Veterans Administration doing events, presentations, and training videos. She will be joining Susan Farstrup and Jeri Jaminet as Venice Views editors. Welcome, Susan! Thank you, Jane!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Knasiak	Pat
2	Orr	Patricia
3	Franck	Ellen
3	Rodriguez	Catherine
7	Ammerman	Judith
9	Cullinan	Sharon
8	Potter	Frances
11	Sweet	Donna
12	Fiedler	Julie
13	Lynch	Mary

14	Bennett	Florence
14	Schotz	Janet
15	Allen	Rebecca
15	Dugan	Janet R.
17	Mahoney	Marion
17	Schaefer	Shirley
22	Balko	Meryl

23	Kamm	Joyce
23	Talmage	Marie
24	Patterson	Jacqueline
28	Andy	Judy
28	Surwilo	Maggie
30	Farstrup	Susan

DUES

Due by July 1

AAUW Venice Invoice for Dues July 1, 2019 –June 30, 2020

Regular Membership \$90

Includes: Branch dues of \$19; Florida state dues of \$12; AAUW National dues of \$59* Dual Membership (branch/state dues) \$31 Paid Life Membership \$31 Printing and Postage for Venice Views \$15**

Pay your dues at an AAUW meeting or mail check to: AAUW – Venice
Branch Attn: Fran Potter P.O. Box 515 Venice, FL 34284

Make checks payable to: AAUW – Venice Branch

* \$56 of the National Dues is deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

**If you choose to have Venice Views mailed to you (and you have internet access), the cost is an additional \$15 for the year. There is no charge for those without internet access.

Please note that dues are not pro-rated and members must pay the entire amount regardless of the time of year they are paid.

If you have questions about the dues please contact Patti Warner, Membership Director or Fran Potter, Director of Finance.

SUMMER SIG GROUPS AND SOCIALS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	ORGANIZER/CONTACT	NOTES
6/2 @ 2:00 pm	Loveland Follies	Melanie Odom	Loveland Follies at Venice Theatre followed by dinner at Sharkeys, Contact Melanie Odom
6/6 @ 11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley CC. Players must be familiar with bidding boxes and conventions
6/7 @ 11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Pelican Pointe CC
6/7 @ 11:00	Mah Jongg	Nancy Donelson & Wendy Orlando	IHOP on 41
6/10 @ 1:30 pm	Book Club	Lynda Weston	At Jacaranda Library Youth Activity Room. Book Titles to be determined
6/10 5-8 pm	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Destinations TBD
6/12 @ 5:30	Summer Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Pelican Pointe CC
6/13 @ 12:00	Lunch and Mexican Train	Maggie Surwillo & Pat Ritner	Maggie Surwillo's Home
6/14 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
6/14 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC
6/17 @ 10:30	Asolo Backstage Tour	Suzanne Biviano & Judy Houston	Tour followed by lunch at the Muse Restaurant. Limit 20. Free day at Ringling for anyone.
6/18 2 10:15	Explore with your camera	Stephanie Hallowell	Locations TBS
6/19 @ 5:00 pm	Happy Hour at Lido Beach Resort	Paula Choyke	On the 8th floor of Lido Beach Grill Beautiful Gulf and Mainland views
6/20 @ 11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley CC. Players must be familiar with bidding boxes and conventions
6/21 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
6/21 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC
6/24 5-8 pm	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Destinations TBS
6/25 4-6 pm	Cocktail Party	Kathy Black	Kathy Black's home. Please bring an appetizer to share. Contact Kathy Black
6/26 4-6 pm	Happy Hour at Rosebuds	Paula Choyke & Mary Greenburg	Rosebud's in Osprey
6/26 5:30 pm	Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Trivia and dinner at Pelican Pointe CC
6/26 @ 8:15 am	Passage to Punta Gorda	Jeri Jaminet	Visit Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens, lunch, walk along the river and a visit to Funky Junkies

SUMMER SIG GROUPS AND SOCIALS

Date/Time	Event	Organizer/Contact	Notes
7/5 @ 11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Euchre at Pelican Pointe CC
7/5 @ 11:00	Mah Jongg	Nancy Donelson & Wendy Orlando	IHOP Restaurant on 41
7/8 @ 1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library Youth Activity Room. Book Titles to be determined
7/8 5-8 pm	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Destinations TBS
7/10 @ 5:30	Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Trivia and Dinner at Pelican Pointe CC
7/12 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
7/12 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC
7/16 @11:30	Lunch @ Millies Restaurant followed by a movie	Charlene Turczyn	Lunch followed by a movie at AMC Westfield Mall
7/16 @ 1:15	Explore with your camera	Stephanie Hallowell	Locations TBD
7/18 @ 11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley CC. Players must be familiar with bidding boxes and conventions
7/19 @ 11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Pelican Pointe CC
7/22 5-8pm	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Destinations TBD
7/24 @ 5:30	Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Trivia and Dinner at Pelican Pointe CC
7/24 @ 11:30	Lunch	Paula Choyke	Lunch at the new Libby's in Sarasota
7/26 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
7/26 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC
7/31 @11:00	Lunch & Bunco	Lidia Madrazo & Barbara Wyshner	Pelican Pointe CC. Super easy and fun game that takes 1 minute to learn \$3 to cover prizes
8/1 @ 11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley CC. Players must be familiar with bidding boxes and conventions
8/2 @ 11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Pelican Pointe CC
8/7 @ 5:30	Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Trivia and Dinner at Pelican Pointe CC
8/8 @ 6 pm	Jazz and Dinner	Flo Bennett	Enjoy Jazz and Dinner at Allegro Bistro
8/9 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
8/9 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC

SUMMER SIG GROUPS AND SOCIALS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	NOTES
8/5 5-8 pm	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Destinations TBD
8/12 @ 1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library Youth Activity Room Book Titles TBD
8/12 5-7 pm	Cocktail Party	Kathleen Pickering	Just bring a contribution to Tech Trek for 2020
8/15 @ 11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley CC . Players must be familiar with bidding boxes and conventions
8/16 @ 11:30	Euchre	Mary Al Gagnon	Pelican Pointe CC
8/20 @ 10:15	Explore with your camera	Stephanie Hallowell	Locations TBD
8/21 @ 5:39	Trivia	Barbara Stevens	Trivia and Dinner at Pelican Pointe CC
8/23 @ 10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Pelican Pointe CC
8/23 @ 11:30	Bridge for Fun	Anne Russell	Pelican Pointe CC
8/28	Lunch	Paula Choyke	TBD
8/29 @ 1 pm	Patriotic Bridge	Fran Brinkman	Clubsides Clubhouse in Plantation, always a great day, \$2 to cover rent and prizes

Note: Cooks Corner, Financial Fitness and Bridge Discussion will resume in October as will Evening Out after the Follies



Venice Views Editor for Summer: Jane Metcalf
Printed Copy 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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