

# VENICE VIEWS

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MARCH 2020

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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, AND RESEARCH

**GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020**

**AT 12:00 (11:30 FOR REFRESHMENTS)**

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 790 S. TAMIAMI TRAIL, VENICE

**PROGRAM:** Kim Cool from *The Venice Gondolier Sun* will give a presentation on women she has interviewed who have made a difference in Venice.

## REPORT FROM

Kathy Black, Public Policy Chairman

Lobby Days, Jan 2020

We had a great group of eight women attend Lobby Days from our Branch this past January. Arriving the evening of January 21 gave us time to attend the training before our visit. We were there to support the Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Act, along with bills supporting the ERA and opposing human trafficking. While we were there we spoke to several legislators and legislators' assistants regarding our issues. We had handouts for everyone we met. We started out our day a little hesitant about what was happening, but by the end of the day we were Dynamos!!! During this time we also sat in on some committee meetings and generally spent time learning how things worked (or didn't) in our state government.

Having the opportunity to serve on the Public Policy committee for our branch is such a special treat. I invite anyone who is interested in local, state and national issues to get involved with this group. Please consider joining us next year as we again take on Tallahassee. Thank you to everyone who participated!



L to R – Kathy Black, Leslie Curley,  
Bea Holt, Joan Armstrong, Joyce Kamm,  
Paula Dulski, Jane Farley,  
(not pictured – Cheryl Temple)



Florida AAUW members  
who attended Lobby Days

**MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT  
PAULA DULSKI**

**VENICE AAUW SURVEY RESULTS**



Last month we covered how well members understood our mission and goals. This month we cover suggestions for improvement.

Question: Where should enhancements be focused in the future? Basically all areas are deemed important: Social [25%], Evening meetings and event options [27%], Fundraising and Development [14%], Expand Current Programs [16%], Add New Programs [26%], Education [31%].

Question: What suggestions do you have to improve the branch? The member's suggestions are organized under Social, Programs, Education, and Fundraising.

**SOCIAL**

Our strategic plan outlines ways to recruit and maintain members. Our Membership Director Patti Warner has board members act as Big Sisters to new members. She organizes two new member breakfasts per year as well as chats over coffee.

The following are a few quotes from members.

*'Outreach to newer members early to involve them in leadership and program activities.'*

*'Meet in the evening to attract at home mothers and working women especially those working in education and STEM jobs.'*

*'Initiate joint activities with other women's clubs in the area.'*

**PROGRAMS**

Members desire programs that are more diversified. The program director(s) welcome suggestions from members and offers a variety of subjects to the board. Seven programs are selected. The board takes into consideration what would be interesting to most members.

Member comment: *'Add interesting speakers. Charge extra for those meetings if they are too expensive.'*

**EDUCATION AND FUNDRAISING**

A branch goal is to provide educational opportunities and training for women. We need to tap everyone, our experienced veteran members and new recruits, to come up with fresh ideas.

Member's comments:

*'I know many members only want to support local scholarships, but I'd rather see our efforts go toward Tech Trek which is a statewide program.'*

*'Establish panels of experts from the membership both as resources to young women, consistent with the mission statement, and to generate new ideas to actualize the mission.'*



**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S MESSAGE**  
**PATTI WARNER**



What a busy and fun month in February with our two successful fundraisers! It's always wonderful to see our members step up to sell tickets to their friends for our Home Tour and to help out at each of our targeted houses.

On March 6th new members can look forward to a breakfast where they can be part of an informational chat with Board members and ask all their questions about being part of this great organization. The New Member Breakfast will be at the home of Kathy Black, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to [veniceaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaaauw@gmail.com) by March 1st or

to Patti Warner, Membership Director, [pattigw@yahoo.com](mailto:pattigw@yahoo.com).

Two more new members in February brings our count to 250.

Patti Warner, Membership Director

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**  
**CAROL SCHWENK**



After growing up in Vermont, I earned an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.

I retired several years ago after a satisfying 40-year career as a critical care nurse, where I specialized in cardiac nursing. After corporate moves to Pittsburgh, PA and Ft. Wayne, Indiana, I returned home to Vermont in 2005 after my husband's passing to live closer to family. I have close friends from my time in Pittsburgh who moved to Venice, Florida several years ago and I fell in love with the area when I began visiting them. This resulted in my becoming a snowbird last year, purchasing a condo last

spring and am now busily furnishing it and settling in.

I developed a passion for genealogy about 18 years ago and now belong to several lineage societies. I have served as the Governor of the Vermont Society of Mayflower Descendants, Vice President of the Daughters of 1812, and have held many offices in DAR, including two terms as State Regent and am now serving as a Vice President General.

I joined the Murrysville Area AAUW in 1979 where I served as secretary and newsletter editor and maintained my membership there until leaving the area in 1992 to move to Indiana.

I have two children: a son who is a retired Naval Aviator and is now living in Maryland and a daughter who has served two deployments with the Peace Corps and is now a graduate student in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**  
**ELIZABETH STANNARD-LETCHER**



I earned a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University (1991). For twenty-five years, I was a Kindergarten and First Grade teacher in a private school environment, retiring in 2015. While attending Western Michigan University, I belonged to the Golden Key National Honors Society. In addition, while teaching, I received the Excellence in Education award which allowed me the privilege to write a grant to further my professional career. I was born and raised in Michigan, and moved full time to Venice in September 2019. I am a recent widow,

and have two adult step children, and four grandchildren. My interests include biking ten miles a day, a love for the Arts, walking on the beach, swimming, cooking and reading.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER  
SHARON RUSBOSIN**



I grew up in western Pennsylvania and later attended the University of Pittsburgh where I received both a bachelor's and master's degrees in music. I majored in early music concentrating on the harpsichord. I studied for a short time in The Hague. My teaching career spanned 40 years and many different places—Honduras, Italy, Pennsylvania and finally Cincinnati, Ohio. I taught students from kindergarten to college seniors and many different subjects such as *Diverse Worlds of Music* at Miami of Ohio and Orff instruments to elementary students. Throughout those years I continued to perform with small orchestras and chamber groups. My husband and I moved to Venice four years ago from Ohio. I enjoy golf, reading, playing the Irish whistle with friends, playing my harpsichord. We have two children, a daughter who lives in Chicago and a son who lives in Orlando.



**MEMBER PROFILE SPOTLIGHT  
MEET SUSAN HOTZLER**



This “can do” member has already made some noteworthy contributions to our branch since becoming a member in 2019.

She signed on to become one of our three Venice Views editors when we had a vacancy to fill.

When development chair Bev Weltzien was called out of town for a family emergency, she stepped up to head the team coordinating our Eleanor Roosevelt production at the Venice Community Center.

This snowbird's home base is St. Paul Minnesota's historic district in a Victorian house built in 1882 which she opened for three different home tours. She holds a master's degree in Public Health and Human Administration with a bachelor's in Home Economics.

Before retiring, she spent 37 years with the federal government. A large part of that time was with the Veterans Administration in staff training and development with VA Medical Centers around the country. For a number of years, as the VA rolled out electronic medical records, “I was training doctors, nurses and other personnel how to use this system.” As a consequence, she logged thousands of air miles about which she says, “My most notable trip was the time I was seated next to Senator Amy Klobuchar.”

She met her husband while she was in college. She explains that his business is residential renovating and quips, “He was the Bob Villa of Minneapolis-St. Paul but without the television program.” Their historic home prompted the couple to do a lot of antique hunting and they were active in their neighborhood association.

She says “I've been involved in education my whole life” so the AAUW mission made sense to her. “Plus it's been a good way to meet people.”

If you haven't met Susan yet, be sure to look her up. She's been a valuable member of our branch already and we thank her for the time and abilities she's sharing with us!

**KINDRA MUNTZ RECOGNIZED FOR AN AWARD**



AAUW member Kindra Muntz has received the Thomas Paine Award from Florida Veterans for Common Sense.

The award celebrates the legacy of Thomas Paine, author of the classic book, *Common Sense*, which energized the American rebellion into a revolution and political independence from England.

She is being recognized for her work as president of the non-partisan Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections (SAFE) that promotes election reform, campaign finance reform and county redistricting reform. She founded the Alliance in 2006 that led a petition drive for paper ballots and spot-check audits of voting machine counts to ensure verified elections. The success of this effort led to the use of paper ballots in all Florida counties.

In addition, for ten years she also headed up the state-wide organization, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, which promotes justice, equity and compassion in public policy. This group works with secular and interfaith organizations on such issues as climate change, environmental justice, healthcare, immigration reform and criminal justice reform.

The Thomas Paine Award was given at an annual dinner held on February 8 to celebrate Thomas Paine, recognized as the founder of Veterans for Common Sense.

Kindra holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Harvard University. Before moving to Florida in 1998, she was part of management at the Aircraft Engine Division of General Electric Company for 18 years. She was also a retail broker at Merrill Lynch for five years.

Congratulations on this recognition and these achievements.



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

3 Kathleen Pickering	14 Deborah Casey	28 Kim Biever
4 Pat Weber	15 Bea Holt	28 Carlyn Boudreaux
5 Cathy Edwards	15 Lois Minnich	28 Mary Greenberg
6 Kira Schneider	17 Patricia Bull	28 Carol Sharp
9 Jane Gulotte	18 Mimi Welch	30 Harriet Kent
9 Trena Kelly	24 Karol Olson	30 Carol Miske
10 Sharon Whiting	25 Mary Emerson	30 Melissa Stofko

[Apologies for any names inadvertently left off the birthday list this month]



## OUR 2020 HOME TOUR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our 16th Home Tour was a wonderful fundraiser for our scholarship fund. We had a lovely group of homeowners who showcased their charming homes this year. They worked closely with the committee to ensure our success. After expenses, our net income was \$29,720.

After an unfavorable weather forecast that had us preparing contingency plans for rain, the day turned out to be quite pleasant. There were appreciative smiles and favorable comments as our many guests parked once and walked from home to home. The artisans in the homes offered an interesting range of crafts and were popular with our guests.

Kudos to our many volunteers who served on the committee and worked in the homes. We will celebrate together at our Scholarship Luncheon on May 2nd.

### A WOMEN'S HISTORY INITIATIVE SARASOTA COUNTY: ROSE PHILLIPS WILSON

She called herself "a progressive." Rose Phillips Wilson was an advocate for informed voting and compulsory education.

Her husband Cornelius Van Santvoord Wilson, a newspaper man, entered the business in the Orlando area in the 1880s, then started the *Manatee County Advocate*. After he and Rose moved to Sarasota in 1899, the two published the first edition of the *Sarasota Times*.

At the time, what became Sarasota County was sparsely populated, an estimated 600. After his death in 1910 Rose continued to publish the paper, renamed the *Sarasota County Times*, (when it became a separate entity) until 1923 when she sold the paper due to financial pressures.

Ever a lady of these times, the editorials she published appeared under her married name, Mrs. C.V. S. Wilson. After the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed, she encouraged women to become informed voters "for the good of the nation" and published information about the candidates and the issues.

Rose and the Alice Guenther, president of the Women's Club, were the first two women to register to vote here in 1920. In the next two issues after the passage of the amendment, the paper used its front page to cover mass meetings conducted at the Women's Club to inform women about voter registration and the election process.

Another issue was in the air here in 1919, compulsory school attendance. For her, it was a women's issue. She lobbied for it in the paper and worked with the local women's club, of which she was the secretary, calling for a special election. Locally, the turnout was poor. In the paper, Wilson railed against the lack of interest, saying, "Is it any wonder women want to exercise the right of citizenship (to vote) when men are so indifferent?"

Compulsory school attendance became a statewide issue and the state legislature passed a law mandating school attendance for children ages seven to 16 unless they had already completed eighth grade. Wilson praised the legislation in an editorial, noting "it will be the first step forward to remove the ban of illiteracy which has been so high in Florida."

[Judith Houston]



## AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 6, 2020

The meeting was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on February 6, 2020. President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. Agenda approved by acclamation. The January minutes were approved as printed in the Venice Views.



### **Member Announcements**

Trena Kelly – Art in the Afternoon sign-ups available

**Treasurer** – Kathleen Pickering The endowment fund has had significant gains due to the growth in the stock market.

**President's Update** – Kathleen Pickering

Diane Larkin, a new member, has passed away.

Reminder per Marcia Seman that we are a branch, not a chapter.

Met with presidents of local women's groups.

Patriotic Bridge raised \$430 for Tech Trek.

**Bea Holt** – The State Convention is scheduled for April 18-19, 2020 at Daytona Beach. Conference fee of \$155 includes meals (\$135 for first time attendees). Hotel is discounted to \$116 per night.

**Title IX**– No report.

**Public Policy** - Jane Farley and several of the attendees reported on their experiences.

**Membership** – Patti Warner reported we currently have 250 members including two new members. New members were introduced.

**Development** – Kathleen Pickering

Home Tour – Samira Easton and Susan Farstrup reported that the Home Tour has generated over \$18,000 so far.

Susan Hotzler reported that over 100 tickets have been sold for the Eleanor program.

Suzanne Biviano reported on the details for the Giving Challenge which runs from noon on April 28th until noon on April 29. The Patterson Foundation is matching all unique donations from \$25 to \$100.

**Work Smart Start Smart** – Paula Dulski announced that Coca Cola is offering another \$500,000 grant for AAUW National and expanded participation to include peers, faculty, and alumni as well as college students with outreach to minorities.

**Communications** – Judy Houston announced that the Gondolier dedicated a full page to the Home Tour with photos by Paula Dulski. Press releases regarding the Eleanor program have been sent out. Judy is developing an email list for future direct marketing of fundraising programs.

**Programs** – Jane Farley thanked the hospitality group for providing the luncheon, and the our Branch Playreaders for their educational and entertaining program on the First National Women's Convention.

Kim Cool will be the speaker for the March meeting.

**Old Business** - Kathleen Pickering - reviewed progress in meeting the Five Star program goals, several of which have been met.

Paula Dulski provided an overview of the results of the member survey which are also available in the February Venice Views.

**New Business** – None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

**SAVE THIS DATE!**  
**ART IN THE AFTERNOON**

Our final Art in the Afternoon for 2020 will be March 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the IslandWalk Event Center. Please sign up at the monthly AAUW meeting or contact Trena Kelly for gate entry. We have more exciting art and storytellers lined up. Pictured below is our own Kathleen Schwartz who will charm us all with another of her delightful stories.



**BOOK CLUB OUTING**

On January 31, Ladies in the AAUW SIG book group enjoyed a very dynamic and heart rending Meet the Author presentation on the New York Times Bestseller, *The Radium Girls* by author Kate Moore at the Sarasota County Library-Northport, followed by a wonderful lunch at the Olde World Restaurant in North Port. Her passionate description of the plight of these girls enriched our understanding of how the long arms of corporate greed effectively silenced victims and those attempting to redress the health concerns of those victims before government stepped in.



L to R: Kathy Black, Hilda Dillman, Anne Finger, Susan Farstrup and Colette Sears



Book Club group members having a delicious lunch afterwards at the Olde World Restaurant in North Port

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

→ **PATRIOTIC BRIDGE:** A great afternoon of Patriotic Bridge was enjoyed by 36 players on January 30. The event was held at Plantation's Clubside Clubhouse. Thanks to all the ladies who made the yummy cookies! The winning team was Ronny Storch, Suzanne Biviano, Marie Ruvolo, and Jean Cassidy. Sue Shea won the 50-50, and gave the money back for Tech Trek, who was the Big Winner as a total of \$430 was donated from this event.

→ **PLAY READERS:** This SIG performed at our Venice Branch's general meeting on February 6. Members rewarded the group's performance of "The First National Women's Rights Convention" with donations of \$58, to be donated to Tech Trek.

Then they went "on the road" to raise money for Tech Trek by presenting their "Women Inventors" program to PEO Group EY for which they received a \$50 donation.

They are also doing their "Presidents Wives" program for another PEO chapter on April 20.

→ **FINANCIAL FITNESS** will start up again in the fall under the leadership of Charlene Turczyn. Sincere thanks goes to Fran Potter for having led this special SIG!

You may sign up for any of our recreational Special Interest Groups by calling/ emailing the individual Chair (SIG list and contact info in Directory) or sign up on the informational pages provided at the SIG side table at General Meetings.

## BOOK GROUP

Thanks to the "great" facilitation of Kathy Black, 26 SIG book group members enjoyed a TV clip of an interview of author D. Owens followed by a most interesting eclectic discussion of *Where the Crawdads Sing*. If you haven't read this book - it is a MUST-READ!

A reminder, another wonderful read - *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah is the selection of the SIG book group for Monday, March 9. Come join the group at 1:30 at the Jacaranda Public Library as Joyce Mikulski facilitates our discussion. Bring your thoughts or just listen to those of others.



### Book Group SIG Selected Reads -- 2020

Date	Title	Author	Facilitator
March 9	The Great Alone	K. Hannah	Joyce Mikulski
April 13	Educated	T. Westover	Anne MacIntyre
May 11	The Only Story	J. Barnes	Lynda Weston

MARCH 2020 CALENDAR -- AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES					
DAY	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location/Notes
Weds	4	9:30	Board Meeting	Kathleen Pickering	Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Weds	4	10:00	Bridge Discussion	Barbara Stevens	Meet at Barbara's home
Thurs	5	11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege Karen Mullen	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes.
Fri	6	11:30	Euchre	MaryAl Gagnon	Lunch and Euchre at Jacaranda West Country Club
Fri	6	11:00	Mahjongg for Fun	Nancy Donelson Wendy Orlando	Calusa Lakes Clubhouse, 1995 Calusa Lakes Blvd, Nokomis
Fri	6	9:30	New Member Breakfast	Patti Warner	Home of Kathy Black
Mon	9	1:30	Book Club	Barbara Martinage	Jacaranda Library. Book: <i>The Great Alone</i> by K. Hannah
Thurs	12	11:30/ Noon	Refreshments/ General Meeting	Kathleen Pickering	Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Refreshments - 11:30; mtg - Noon
Fri	13	9:00	Exploring with your Camera	Judy Bosch	BaySide Park, One Marine Plaza, Sarasota
Fri	13	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Hotel Venezia
Fri	13	11:15	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia Jan Hollister	Hotel Venezia. Bridge/lunch - You must sign up in advance.
Sun	15	<b>DEADLINE APRIL VENICE VIEWS SEND ALL ARTICLES/PHOTOS TO <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a></b>			
Weds	18	Noon	Cooks Corner	Janet Schotz	Home of Pat Boruff. Theme: Homegoing: Your Favorite Salad
Wed	18	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom Lois Odom	British Open Pub at 367 Jacaranda Blvd (by the roundabout) Call/email Melanie Odom by <b>Sunday, March 15</b> .
Thurs	19	11:15	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	Mission Valley Country Club. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy and bidding boxes.
Fri	20	11:30	Euchre	MaryAl Gagnon	Lunch and Euchre at Jacaranda West Country Club
Mon	23	3:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Marine Max in Venice. Contact Paula Dulski to sign up.
Wed	25	11:00	Lunch Bunch	Mary Greenberg Paula Choyke	Skillets, 4115 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice. Contact Paula for reservations.
Fri	27	10:30	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Hotel Venezia
Fri	27	11:15	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia Jan Hollister	Hotel Venezia. Bridge/lunch - You must sign up in advance.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### CLARIFICATION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Every email sent to [veniceaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaauw@gmail.com) goes to a number of board members – BUT - **Patti Warner's** name appears at the top of every Eblast and she receives all emails sent to this address. **She** then either answers it or decides who to forward it to for an answer.

It would be helpful if you have a question about a particular SIG group or one that goes to a Board member that you email them **directly**. Also, as usual, if you are writing something for the Venice Views, your article should be sent to [aauwveniceviews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com).

### SHARING AND CARING - ONE BIG FAMILY!!

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

We are a large AAUW Family and we'd like to let everyone know of our support to our members! We need EVERYONE'S input!

**BRANCH DIRECTORY CHANGES:** Changes in name, address, email, or telephone **need to be sent to [veniceaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaauw@gmail.com)** or contact Joyce Kamm, Membership Committee.

**AAUW NATIONAL DATABASE CHANGES:** National database information is changed **by the member** through the National site. Changes in name, address, email, or telephone **need to be sent by the member to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)**.

**VENICE VIEWS:** All submissions to our monthly Venice Views need to be sent by the **15th of the previous month to [aauwveniceviews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com)**.

**PRIVACY:** Since Venice Views is available to the general public, for the privacy of our members, we do **not** publish personal contact information. Member contact info can be obtained in the Membership Roster section of our 2019-2020 Directory or website.





Venue Views Editor for March: Jeri Jaminet  
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