

VENICE VIEWS

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SUMMER 2020

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: KATHLEEN PICKERING

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NATIONAL: aauw.org

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT KATHLEEN PICKERING



I miss you all! It seems ages since we have been together, and I am not sure when we can be together again. Life has surely seen many different challenges in the few months since we have met. First, we have Covid-19 which is keeping us social distancing, wearing masks, and mostly staying at home. Then the economy is struggling with so many losing their jobs, and now we are again faced with how to make our world safe for all races.

With all this going on I want you to know that your AAUW board continues to meet via Zoom and we are trying to figure out how to keep us all connected. There were board meetings with the current board and proposed new board in both May and June. **Some of the ideas we are proposing is that you come up with summer socials that will allow social distancing. Please let Stephanie Hallowell know of your idea. If there are any summer socials, an email blast will keep you informed.**

We are looking at a different time for our member meetings. Thinking about attracting younger, working women, we are going to try meeting the **second Saturday of the month at 1:00**. This will be the new meeting time either by Zoom or in person.

In the near future you will see another Monkey survey too so we can assess how you want to stay connected during these challenging times.

There is a Strategic Planning task force seeing how we can engage with the larger community. So far, they have looked at what other branches around the country are doing and seeing how we might assist other organizations that support our mission. More on all this later.

I **highly recommend** you read on page 2 what our AAUW Chief Executive Officer has to say regarding AAUW's commitment toward moving forward in America's present state of affairs and current events.

You have already seen an email blast that the **Annual Meeting** will be held on **June 15th at 11:00** to elect the new board and nominating committee member. You will receive an email that morning with the link for the Zoom meeting. If you need assistance with Zoom, please check in with Pam Swarts or Joyce Kamm either early that day or the day before. They are both pros.

Until we meet again, stay safe and stay connected.

The membership of the Venice Branch of AAUW sincerely thanks the retiring board members who have served with enthusiasm and dedication. We salute outgoing Vice President Paula Dulski, Co-Program Directors Jane Farley and Barbara Martinage, SIG Director Pat Comeau, Director of Finance Fran Potter, Director of Development Bev Weltzien, Public Policy Chair Kathy Black, and Communications Chair Judith Houston.

A WORD FROM OUR AAUW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER KIM CHURCHES

During this troubling time in our nation's history, I hope you are being kind to yourself and others. It feels almost unbearable to witness the anger and anguish erupting in our cities as we also endure a relentless pandemic and economic downfall. The murder of George Floyd serves as a tragic reminder of centuries of racism, violence and lack of humanity for Black people. We join the country in mourning his loss as well as the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed. But while we are deeply sad, we mustn't feel helpless.

Now is the time to fight for justice. Here are some suggestions for how to move forward:

Listen: Understand that many Black and Brown people are struggling with enormous pain and despair. Open your hearts to them and listen when they speak — without expecting them to work for the benefit of your learning.

Learn: Read our [recent statement](#) highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and the Washington Post article by 2016–17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. AAUW will work to advance the systemic changes needed to create a fairer criminal justice system as a proud member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Speak Up: People of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box. This comes in the form of voting restrictions implemented under the guise of preventing “voter fraud,” which is extremely rare. With a pivotal election ahead, persuading policymakers to [expand voting rights](#) is a powerful way to support marginalized communities.

Other issues that disproportionately affect Black women and their families are student-loan debt, pay inequity and the lack of a livable minimum wage — all parts of AAUW's [2020 Gender Agenda](#) you can take action on.

I'd also like to acknowledge that, as an organization, AAUW has its own work to do — and I'm committed to doing it. So I'll be listening, learning and speaking up right alongside you.

In solidarity and strength,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Churches", followed by a long horizontal line.

Kim Churches
AAUW Chief Executive Officer

***** TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP
AND PAY YOUR DUES *****

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER, FRAN POTTER

Thanks to the many members who have recently renewed their AAUW membership for the 2020-2021 year. There are two convenient ways to pay your dues: 1) all members have been sent an email notice through AAUW's Membership Payment Program which offers you the option of paying your dues by credit card using a secure link. Members who have used this option report they found it easy to do. (IF you missed this notice, please write to veniceaauw@gmail.com and we'll send it out again). **OR** 2) mailing a check (payable to **AAUW Venice**) to PO Box 15, Venice, FL 34284.

The deadline to pay dues to be included in the 2020-2021 Directory is June 30.

**AAUW VENICE BRANCH DUES
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

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 (branch/state dues) \$31

Printing and Postage for Venice Views \$15**

Honorary Life Members pay no dues except dual members who pay Florida State dues of \$12

* \$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 prorated and members must pay the entire amount regardless of the time of year they are paid.

***** TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP
AND PAY YOUR DUES *****

MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR PATTI WARNER



Covid-19 will not change our mission or our goals for the coming year but it may change the way in which we meet. We are especially concerned about our fundraisers and are brainstorming new ideas every day. We still wish to fund some scholarships and Tech Trek campers and are therefore depending on your membership renewal more than ever this next year. Please pay your dues by June 30th!

One idea for our meetings might be to have at least one smaller coffee-like neighborhood meeting with an attendance of less than 15-20. It has been brought to my attention that this type meeting has been done in the past and as the saying goes "what goes around comes around again". For this reason, you will be receiving an email requesting more detail about where you live. At that time, please let us know your zip code, location, and the neighborhood name of where you live.

Out of all the quotes I have heard concerning coronavirus, my favorite is this one by author Vivian Green--"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain". We are all learning and will be learning this summer how to live with this virus and AAUW will adapt successfully too with your help! Have a healthy and enjoyable summer!

AAUW 2020-2021 VENICE BRANCH DIRECTORY STATUS PAULA DULSKI, JOYCE KAMM, FRAN POTTER, PATTI WARNER,

Hi Everyone! Hope you are enjoying your spring and summer hiatus, thanks to COVID-19.

The Coronavirus is presenting many challenges for organizations like ours who provide opportunities to gather. Your board is working on ways to address these challenges to make possible our Fund-Raising events and monthly Program activities. In the interim, we have put the publication of the "AAUW 2020-2021 Venice Branch Directory" on hold until September 2020 or possibly October 2020.

We will however provide a digital version of the directory in August 2020 with what we have at that time. The digital version will be in PDF format. If you have problems downloading or using PDF, please let Joyce Kamm know.

If you have any changes to your contact information (Name, address, telephone number(s) and/or email please provide them to us by **June 30 for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Directory**.

DUES ARE DUE BY JUNE 30, 2020!

MESSAGE FROM KATHY BLACK ON PUBLIC POLICY

As an important reminder to our members, the Sarasota County League of Women Voters is recommending that all registered voters request a vote-by-mail ballot as soon as possible to keep your options open for our upcoming elections.

Any Floridian registered to vote is eligible to vote early by mail. You may choose to use this option or vote in person on election day. You can request your vote-by-mail ballot at the local Supervisor of Elections website, [SarasotaVotes.com](https://www.SarasotaVotes.com), or by phone, email or in person. Upcoming elections are the August 18th Primary and the November 3rd General Election.

It is important that our voice is heard, and we all vote!



VENICE AAUW AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

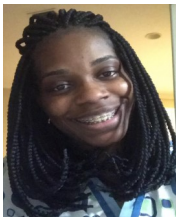
Four Sarasota County women were awarded scholarships of \$5,000 each to further their post-high school education by the Venice branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW).

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. Kathleen Pickering, branch president, made the announcement. "The tremendous support of the community at large for our annual Home Tour last February made this possible as well as the generosity of the homeowners who opened their doors for this event. In addition, we thank Gulf Coast Community Foundation, which administers applications and funds for us."

The scholarship winners are:



Marjorie Batista, who is attending State College of Florida to obtain her degree as a registered nurse (R.N.). This mother of two is also working full time as a certified nursing assistant (C.N.A.)



Sahski Celestin, who plans to become a registered nurse anesthetist (C.R.N.A.). She became a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) in 2012 and earned an associate's degree six years later. She is currently enrolled at Galen School of Nursing where she will graduate with her R.N. degree later this year. Celestin is the mother of seven, including three daughters and a son who is a senior at Sarasota High School and another son, a freshman who has earned a scholarship at Aurora College in Ohio.



Mariah Guinart, who graduated from Sarasota Military Academy in 2011, is currently a first-year nursing student at State College of Florida. She is credentialed as a C.N.A. and employed at Sarasota Memorial Hospital as a multi-skilled technician in critical care. Her ongoing plans include a desire to become a trauma nurse in intensive care and a flight nurse for BayFlite, a hospital-based trauma flight program. She also volunteers at Sarasota Humane Society.



Heidi Tinney, currently enrolled at Keiser University, expects to receive her bachelor of science in nursing this fall, then continue on to become a psychiatric mental health nurse. Newly widowed after her husband, a U.S. Army combat veteran died this January, she is also raising a son, now three years old. She is also involved in community outreach programs related to mental health and opiate addictions.

After receiving applications submitted to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, a committee of AAUW members reviewed them, conducted interviews and made final decision on the awardees. That committee is headed by Pat Comeau and includes Dottie Bingman, Joyce Kamm, Joannie Leeds, Flo Raber and Wendy Seeley.

The scholarship winners are usually honored at a spring luncheon along with the homeowners who made the awards possible. This event had to be canceled due to quarantine measures imposed by the Corona virus pandemic.

SHARING AND CARING

Mimi Welch -- Get Well Wishes from injuries from a fall

Paula Dulski -- Our Sympathy on the passing of her mother

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

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3	Mary Fritz	14	Anne Russell	21	Marge Ostrom
3	Peggy Wespiser	16	Lynda Friedman	21	Donna Wilson
7	Carolyn Shrauger	16	Jane Metcalf	22	Connie Nelson
9	Judith Houston	16	June Lee Reninger	22	Kay Novotny
9	Roberta Ingrassia	17	Pam Swarts	22	Shirley Reid
10	Kathleen Economides	18	Betty Kalunian	22	Phyllis Vogel
11	Patricia Comeau	18	Sharon Rusbosin	23	Nancy Pike
11	Andie Mercer	19	Phyllis Currier	23	Barbara Claudia Rao
11	Beverly Weltzien	19	Mitzi Fiedler	24	Withey Hanley
14	Lois Odom	20	Barbara Zittel	24	Charlene Turczyn

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Deirdre Christman	16	Gail Hefferon	26	Ruth Sweetser
5	Bobbi Amero	16	Kindra Muntz	27	Fran Brinkman
9	Joan Armstrong	20	Ruth Shaweker	27	Jaclyn Laatsch
10	Susan Wood	21	Mora Henskens	27	Cheryl Temple
11	Barbara Tompkins	24	Elaine Izzi	30	Marie Ruvolo
15	Suzanne Talbott	25	Irene Walsh		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Jane Farley	11	Jane Ann Carreiro	17	Shirley Schaefer
1	Pat Knasiak	11	Jo-Ann Heilemann	22	Meryl Balko
2	Patricia Orr	12	Julie Fiedler	23	Carol Depp
3	Ellen Franck	14	Florence Bennett	23	Joyce Kamm
3	Catherine Rodriguez	14	Janet Schotz	23	Marie Talmage
7	Judith Ammerman	15	Rebecca Allen	27	Pamela Cox
9	Sharon Cullinan	16	Carol McGill	28	Maggie Surwilo
9	Frances Potter	17	Marion Mahoney	30	Susan Farstrup

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

→ COASTAL CRUISING:

Paula Dulski is setting up a pontoon cruise in June out of Englewood. The cruise will be on a Tuesday and she needs to hear from those members who are interested. We can go in the morning or the afternoon. We will beach the boat at the Stump Pass area and chat on the boat, float with noodles, walk on the beach and have some munchies. We will stay far away from other boaters. Contact Paula for more information.

BOOK GROUP SIG SELECTED READS -- 2020-2021

Date	Title	Author	Facilitator
June 8	Nickel Boys	Colin Whitehead	TBA
July 13	American Story	David Rubenstein	TBA
August 10	Chronicles of a Radical Hag	Lorna Landvik	TBA
Sept. 14	The Dutch House	Ann Patchett	TBA
October 12	My Beloved World	Sonia Sotomayer	Marge Ostrom
Nov. 9	The Giver of Stars* The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*	Jojo Moyes Kim M. Richardson	Joyce Mikulski (A-M) Barb Tompkins (N-Z)
Dec. 14	The Map Thief	Michael Blanding	Dottie Bingman
Jan. 11	American Dirt or Sarasota Reads	Jeanine Cummins	Lynda Weston
Feb. 8	The Island of Sea Women	Lisa See	Gail Densler
March 8	The Library Book	Susan Orlean	Barb Martinage
April 12	This Is How It Always Is	Laurie Frankel	Joyce Mikulski
May 10	The Immortalists	Chloe Benjamin	Hilda Dilman

*Both books deal with the same topic and both will be discussed. If possible, choose according to initial of your last name as indicated by the facilitators above.

Editor's Note: For this summer issue, you received an email requesting quotes, inspirational stories, or humorous posts which have been uplifting or have put a smile on your face while living through this historical pandemic. **THANK YOU** to all those members who contributed! Due to the overwhelming number of contributions, I was unable to print them all.

WHEN STRENGTH APPEARS

[By **Meryl Balko** 5/10/20]

Strength is an elusive presence,
revealing itself as an amorphous essence.
We find it in unexpected ways,
when we experience births or visit graves.

We work hard to build strength,
in body, in mind and in our land.
Only to be torn down at a sleight of hand.
But no, strength is more resilient than that.

Strength can be shown in helping others,
in time of most need, we can behave as mothers.
Showing how things can be made right,
even amidst the most terrible plight.

We build our strength day by day,
by choices we make and debts we pay.
But alas, strength does not always appear,
feeling instead like abject fear.

Have faith that the steps we take,
to make ourselves and others stronger,
Will help when we feel we can bear it no longer,
Be grateful, be kind, be patient,
and strength will appear.



Working from home but
missing the daily train trips?

[**Marge Ostrom**] Zooming through the Pandemic:

Zooming has been a godsend to connect with family and friends through the Pandemic. In normal times we would share a Sunday dinner with my sister, Dottie, and brother in law, Fred, taking turns at each of our houses. That ended when we took sheltering in place seriously.

Instead we shared Thursday Happy Hour sessions on Zoom and livened them up with themes. We wore swim suits for the Beach theme, Hawaiian shirts and drank Mai Tai's for the Hawaiian theme, pajamas for a Pajama Party, formal wear for dress up, 50s and 60s get ups for Bygone Era's theme, and since all of our hair kept getting longer, Wild Hair theme.

Not all zooming has been so light hearted. We will tune into our grandson's dissertation seminar Tuesday as part of his PhD defense from the University of Arizona. His thesis "The Detection and Characterization of Transiting Exoplanets" will be a challenge for us to understand, I'm sure, but we are proud of his accomplishments as he gets his advanced degree in astrophysics and begins a job with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA in California next week.

Ontario has banned groups larger than 5.....
If you're a family of 6, you're all about to find out who's the least favorite!

30 Days Hath September, April, June and November
All the rest have 31, except March which had **8,000!**

[**Jeri Jaminet**] Questions which have motivated me daily. . . .

1. What am I **GRATEFUL** for today?
2. Who am I **CHECKING IN ON** or **CONNECTING WITH** today?
3. What expectations of "normal" am I **LETTING GO OF** today?
4. How am I **GETTING OUTSIDE** today?
5. How am I **MOVING MY BODY** today?
6. What **BEAUTY** am I either creating, cultivating or inviting in today?



[Betty Badawi] What has gotten me through the COVID-19 pandemic so far?

Traveling in the world plus living abroad for over 35 years in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Italy gives me a deep appreciation of what we DO have.

So many things that we take for granted are denied to so many disadvantaged in this world of ours, even in some areas of the US. We have water, so scarce in desert climates. We have electricity, a tenuous commodity in the Third World. We have food (ours is even delivered to our home). Abroad sometimes we lived with very strange menus, based on whatever could be scrounged up. (Have you ever given your children cucumbers sprinkled with precious sugar for dessert because there was no fruit or no flour to bake a cake? I could go on for hours entertaining you with this subject!) We have books, the TV, the computer, the telephone, the cell phone, and wonderful FaceTime...some of which we lived without at a time or other in other countries (OK, some hadn't been invented yet!), where even mail delivery could be sporadic if at all.

And while we enjoy our creature comforts here, we do not wake to the smell of burning tires signaling severe social unrest and possible road blocks with armed trigger-happy men deciding whether one lived or died that day; we are not listening to bombs and gunfire outside and the ominous noise of planes circling low overhead; we are not having to sleep on mattresses on the hall floors to be safe from the threat of ricocheting bullets.

Yes, I miss seeing and being with our friends and family, but we are in touch...and that is good. I am grateful, thankful, and relieved to be here in Venice, Florida. After nearly losing my husband Samir because of the lack of medical facilities in 1974 in Saudi Arabia, when he had to be evacuated to Beirut to save his life, I am sure that here, should we fall ill, we will have the best care in the world. My friends, take the time to contemplate your blessings, take necessary precautions, and stay well...everyone. Ciao!

[Connie Nelson] One article in TIME magazine's May 25 issue says it's more apt to compare our COVID pandemic to the polio outbreak than the 1918 flu.

I remember not being allowed to swim in our MA town lake. My best friend from college got polio as a child. She says her mom never stopped exercising her legs and body although the doctor said her child would be quite disabled. We were roommates for 3 years after college. When we frequently visited Tillman's Ravine in the northwest corner of NJ, I ran like an Indian and my friends called me Fleet Foot. Now, I use a walker or cane and my friend is jumping to music in her exercise class. My husband still calls me Fleet Foot.



[Dottie Bingman] An inspirational story that our family has experienced during this pandemic: The Bingmans have a lot to celebrate these days as we continue to hunker down in our home. We celebrate our 17-year old granddaughter, Haley, who fought a battle through her diagnosis of Pediatric Multi System Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) on May 9th at Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut through her discharge on May 18th. We celebrate her doctors and nurses who took care of her and brought her through this terrible time, and we celebrate her dad, our son, Chris, who stayed with her in the hospital the entire time and let all the rest of the family know her condition with his daily updates. We celebrate her mom (who was unable to stay with her because she had just recovered from a surgical procedure) and her sister who held down the fort at home even though they all wanted so much to be there for Haley.

As you can see, Haley came through her ordeal well and is on the mend. She is home resting and waiting to hear how her high school will hold some sort of graduation ceremony and to hear how Roger Williams University Providence, Rhode Island, will welcome her and all the other Freshman this fall.



Haley in Pediatric ICU



Haley with her dad and reunited with Roxi

[Mitzi Fiedler] During the COVID-19 isolation, I have enjoyed reading NEXT DOOR where neighbors have reached out to each other asking or giving help to one another.

Last week a Mom reached out to her neighbors requesting help for her son. He works outside and used his small camper for relief from the heat and rain. His air conditioner broke and he was using his mom's fans. She was hoping a neighbor might have a small air conditioner for sale or rent. My neighbor, Linda, responded immediately contacting mom offering to fix or purchase a new air conditioner for her son. Linda said she felt fortunate to be able to help a hard-working young man who wanted to continue working in what was considered an essential job. His mom called Linda her special angel!

During these stressful times, I remain in awe of my neighbors who freely give their resources and time to help others in need.

**It's been such a joy
being home with my
wife the past 3 weeks.
We've caught up on all
the things I've done
wrong the past 30
years.**



VENICE VIEWS: All submissions to our monthly Venice Views need to be sent by the 15th of the previous month to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com. The next issue of Venice Views will be for September (deadline 8/15).

Venice Views Editor for Summer Issue: Jeri Jaminet

E-copies Circulation: Patti Warner

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