

VENICE VIEWS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2020

When significant milestones happen, sometimes they need comments and that is what I think about Ruth Bader Ginsberg or RBG as she was affectionately called. Seeing two movies on her life, I realize what a difference she crafted for women and men too. Can you imagine into today's world that she would not be able to get a job as an attorney because she was a woman? Her work on The Basis of Sex forged a new life for women. She made history many times working for equal rights for both sexes and all races.

AAUW has for many years continued its work by advocating for Fair Pay legislation, seeing that Title IX is fully funded, supporting the Voting Rights Advancement Act (a big one for RBG) and much more that she helped right opinions in the Supreme Court.

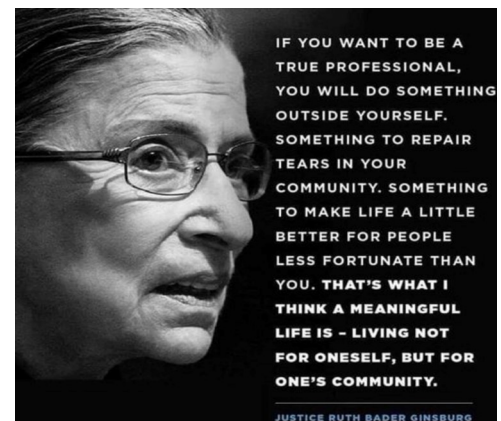
Many of you have been the recipient of pay discrimination, not being hired on the basis of sex and much more of what RBG wrote about. I can remember graduating with my BA in business and social work in 1965 and I had many rejection letters from businesses saying they did not hire women.

Having had the privilege to be the CEO of nonprofits, I discovered that the men in my profession always made more money than I did. We still need to fight for equal pay. Our work is not done, even though we have worked for years to try and cure the injustices.

Let us in AAUW Venice, keep the good fight going. Looking forward to seeing you virtually in November.

Stay safe.

Kathleen



**Note New Date for the Meeting: Thursday, November 12th
Zoom check-in starts at 10:30, Please be signed on by 10:50.**

WOMEN IN TRANSITION FEATURING ASHLEY BROWN

The Women's Resource Center (WRC) needs YOU! Learn why & how at the November 12th branch meeting via Zoom. Zoom check-in & social interaction will take place beginning at 10:30 am. Participants are encouraged to sign into Zoom no later than 10:50. An informative business meeting begins promptly at 11 am, followed by the program featuring Ashley Brown, President and CEO of the Women's Resource Center of Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

A visit to the 501©3 website: www.mywrc.org allows a rich and stimulating view of the scope of this organization, whose mission is to engage, educate, enrich, and empower women of all generations. Does that sound like a kinship with AAUW?!

A huge part of the WRC work involves connecting individuals with appropriate resources tailored to their needs, and the organization utilizes the strengths and talents of many, many volunteers. Could you be one?

Interestingly, the WRC maintains a "Career Closet" where clients can shop – for free – for apparel that is appropriate for interviews and the workplace. Does this sound like a great way to purge your closet?

We look forward to learning about taking action that leads to our mission "Breaking Barriers for Women and Girls"!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES

The Venice Branch Nominating Committee is in the process of its search to fill the upcoming openings on our Board for 2021-2022: president, membership chair and secretary. You or someone you know, may want to become a leader in our Venice AAUW branch as we face the changes ahead. Our mission remains – advocacy, education and research to advance equity for women and girls. **In these uncertain times, we cannot lose ground.** If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving our organization in an elected or appointed capacity, please email Susan Farstrup.



WE WANT YOU BACK!

Because of this challenging pandemic year, our membership is at 186 (momentarily, we hope). And in addition to that fact, the Board became concerned about having such low attendance at our first two Zoom general meetings. We started getting members' feedback that possibly the new meeting day and time was not working out as planned for a lot of us. So, we have decided to change back to our original meeting day on the second Thursday of the month. We hope this is more convenient for you to join us like always. WE WANT YOU BACK!

In the meantime, your 2020-2021 Directory was mailed on October 15th, so I assume it has arrived at your home. If for some reason you have not received your copy let me know.

I hope to see you at our Halloween Sunsetter on the 27th (if you feel safe enough outdoors at the beach) and especially at our next meeting on Zoom Thursday, November 12th! A small group of us had a delightful day at Selby Botanical Gardens for the Suffrage Orchid Show on October 16th. I wish more of you had come to see those orchids displayed and arranged so beautifully and to learn more about and to celebrate women who became trailblazers in the scientific field of botany.

November is the month to count your blessings at Thanksgiving especially if you and your family have escaped this virus so far. May our lives return to normal soon so more members will join again, and we can participate in our SIG activities that we all enjoy and miss so much. Please stay safe and healthy!

And remember, we want you back.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Patti Warner

Membership



EDUCATION UPDATE

Despite the epidemic, the AAUW Education co-chairs are hard at work. Our focus is on Tech Trek, the Work Smart and Start Smart programs, Scholarships, Title IX and other areas that advocate for women and young girls. The girls chosen for Tech Trek this past year will attend the camp next summer along with the recipients who will be chosen this year. Pat Weber and Joanie Leeds will be contacting local middle schools for their recommendations. Paula Dulski will continue to share information about the Work Smart/Start Programs, sponsored by AAUW. Both of these programs provide online courses which help women learn how to research their target salary, highlight their accomplishments, negotiate for better benefits and pay and become more confident in their career options. Research shows that one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men and this gap grows greater over time. Women working full time earn about 82 cents for every dollar that a full time male worker receives.

Our Scholarships this past spring were awarded to four nursing students. They shared their stories and the impact these monies have had on their lives at our October 10th AAUW meeting via Zoom. AAUW strongly supports Title IX and we hope to teach our membership about this vitally important law and continue to advocate equity for women and girls. AAUW encourages diversity and inclusion, and to this end, we hope to begin a tutoring/mentoring program with the Laurel Civic Association located in Nokomis. Over 500 students throughout the year are involved in the programs offered at the Laurel Center. Mr. John Jefferson, who heads the program, welcomes AAUW volunteers via Zoom or in person. He wants “his kids” to foster respectful relationships, have good adult role models and learn vital lifelong skills. A tour of the facilities is being planned and more information will be given at our November meeting.

Pat Weber and Wendy Seeley, Education Co-Chairs



ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS

Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to a charity that you select. AAUW Venice Branch is included in this program. To participate in this program, sign into your Amazon account and select Amazon Smile from the dropdown list under Account & Lists. If you type AAUW Venice Branch in the search box, you can select it as your designated charity. On this same page, there is a link that explains the program in detail. The important thing to remember is when you shop on Amazon, you must always shop at smile.amazon.com. This is quite simple to do following the instructions how to install a bookmark or Amazon assistant, also on this page.

This is a great way to help support our fund raising efforts for Tech Trek and the scholarship program, Amazon sends the funds directly to our branch treasurer.

OCTOBER 10, 2020 -- AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held via ZOOM on October 10, 2020.

Vice-President Susan Farstrup called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Director of Finance's Report – Bobbi Amero

The treasury has more than \$15K for Tech Trek and more than \$13K for the scholarship program.

One member asked for the cost of ZOOM which is \$20 per month.

Vice-President's Update – Susan Farstrup

Strategic Plan is planned to be completed by the end of the year and will reflect the reality of the current environment.

Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next branch election.

Title IX – No report.

Public Policy – Joan Armstrong

Eblast of voting information sent out. Next week is a state-level Public Policy meeting.

Membership – Patti Warner reported we currently have 186 members. The Directory has been printed and will be mailed to the members.

Development – Susan Hotzler continues to research possible fundraisers.

SIGs – Stephanie Hollowell--All are invited to join the Exploring with Camera group to visit the Orchid Show at Marie Selby on October 16th.

On Tuesday, October 27 The Sunsetter event will be held at Brohard Park.

The Book Club is restarting as well as Coastal Cruisers.

Education – Pat Weber

Tech Trek camps were postponed until next summer.

Paula Dulski is designing an online interface for Work Smart.

Wendy Seeley is coordinating with the Laurel Civic Association for those interested in tutoring students online. The next Scholarship luncheon will be held at the Venetian River Club.

Programs – Pam Swarts

The December program is Keeping the Spirit Bright – looking for stories of family traditions within our members. The January meeting will be a branch wide book discussion.

Old Business – N/A

New Business – N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 P.M.

by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

Bewitching,
Beguiling,
Breathtaking...



WHOOO...
will join us???

At BOO - TIFUL
[Brohard Beach](#)
(Next to Venice Pier)



Tuesday Oct. 27th at 5:45 pm
(Sunset @ 6:42)

Be sure to wear your favorite [Halloween Mask](#)



Bring your beach towel/chair & your favorite
[BREW!](#)
(Social Distancing implemented)

RSVP: veniceaauw@gmail.com



Rain Date: Oct. 29th

Wanted: Presenters for “Keep the Spirit Bright” on December 12th

December is rich with multi-cultural celebrations, and our December 12th program will be a member-focused opportunity to share and learn some seasonal holiday traditions.

In addition to Christmas (both secular and religious) we invite a diverse focus such as Hanukkah celebrations, Kwanzaa traditions, New Year observances and more!

How do you decorate? Does your family have a unique gift-giving tradition? Is story telling or special readings part of your family holiday practice? Maybe you are a musician and can share something special with your AAUW family. Do special family recipes play a role in marking a holiday?

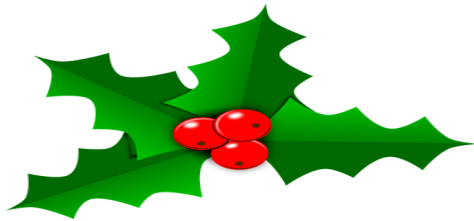
Hurry!! **October 31** is the deadline to jump in and submit an idea for the December program!

If you would like to share a seasonal tradition, send a brief paragraph to

aauwoutreach@gmail.com (program chair’s email) the subject line “Keeping the Spirit Bright .”

Approximately six diverse presentations will be selected.

The program will take place via Zoom, and, as your Zoom coordinator, I will help presenters prep for the event!



Pam Swarts, Program Chair

Plan Ahead For Upcoming Club Activities

The book club was able to get back together in October via Zoom thanks to Pam Swarts. There was a lively discussion of Sonia Sotomayer’s memoir *My Beloved World*.

November brings two books on the same subject, but with different stories. We suggest if your last name begins N-Z that you read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim M. Richardson. For last names beginning A-M, the book is *The Giver of Stars*. If you really want to be part of the discussion, read both. The book club meets the second Monday of each month, so that will be November 9, with social time from 1:00pm and discussion beginning at 1:30pm.

To receive an invitation with the Zoom information, please send an email to Lynda Weston.



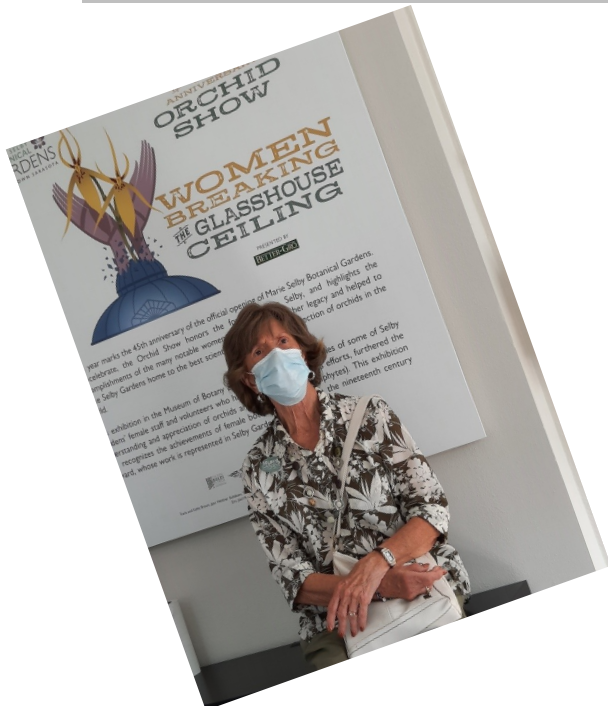
Coastal Cruisers

A pontoon is reserved for Monday, Nov. 23 from 2 to 4 pm out of Marine Max in Venice. For more details contact Paula Dulski.



November Birthdays

11/4	Patty Otto	11/13	Eleanor Locke
11/5	Pat Perry	11/15	Wendy Orlando
11/6	Sharon Carter	11/16	Phyllis Barth
11/6	Phyllis Shonk	11/17	Nancy Bradtmiller
11/7	Boneeta Hagen	11/21	Cheryl Tortora
11/8	Hilda Dillman	11/25	Anita Tedrow
11/8	Susan Luterbach	11/26	Ann Herre
11/10	Irene Falcetti	11/29	Barbara Wyshner
11/13	Janet Hemond	11/30	Rosemary Smith



Stephanie Hallowell, Jane Farley, Joan Armstrong, Pat Knasiak enjoying the orchid show at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.

Member Profile

Stephanie Hallowell



“I might be small but I’m feisty,” is how this special education teacher described herself when a school principal interviewed her for her first position at a Maryland inner-city school. She was 23 years old at the time and hired for a seventh to ninth grade Exceptional Student Education Resource Room program, a job she held for the next four and a half years.

That was a world away from Sapporo, Japan, where she had been born into a military family. They moved every few years – to Hawaii, Alabama, Germany, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Maryland.

A childhood friend with developmental disabilities made her aware of specialized education needs. After high school, she began at a community college near her parents with the initial idea of becoming a teacher assistant. With her interest growing, she completed a double major (Elementary Education and pre-K – 9th grade Special Education) at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

When her parents moved to Inverness, Fla., in 1981, she and her husband transplanted themselves as well. While teaching, and raising a family, she completed her master’s degree, and ultimately became a National Board-Certified instructor in her field. After devoting 34 years to varying exceptionalities, Stephanie focused her attention on the growing reading initiative “Just Read, Florida.” She became a certified presenter and traveled the state training teachers seeking their reading endorsement requirement. Spending the last five years as a Title I Reading teacher, Stephanie retired in 2015, after forty years in public school education.

The move to Venice was prompted by an empty nest and Citrus County’s rural character. Her two sons are actively serving in the Army, both following their grandfather’s military path. One is stationed in Hawaii and the other in Maryland. Here in Florida, she says, “I have my husband and my fur babies --- two dogs and a cat, all rescues!” Searching for more entertainment and cultural experiences, they traveled south and discovered Venice. “Everything about it, just felt right!”

Like many members, she was introduced to AAUW by a friend. She says, “It appealed to me because of its mission statement. I believe, as educated women, we are meant to use our accomplishments to set an example for others with guidance, support and fortitude, their goals can be achieved.”

Since joining our branch, she co-chaired the Home Tour 2019 ticket committee, headed up the SIG “Exploring with Your Camera” group, and now is organizing all the SIG groups. This last function has been especially challenging with meeting limitations imposed during this pandemic.

Stephanie also volunteers at the Venice Performing Arts Center (currently on hiatus), and weekly at St. Francis Animal Rescue.

Since she cannot staff the SIG clipboards while we meet virtually, she urges you to connect with her to see what’s happening with any and all SIG activities that interest you.

Sharing and Caring

Diane Kreutzer has passed away. Diane is a past President of our Venice AAUW.

A sympathy card was sent to Maggie Surwilo for her husband’s death .

Our second successful **AAUW Sunset Social Event** was held on 9/24 at Nokomis Beach. Our illustrious President, Kathleen, joined us for laughter and libations. The sunset clouds were a bit subdued. But, soon, our true reward appeared with the incredible sighting of the elusive "green flash" phenomena, as the last edge of sunlight dipped into the gulf. *Extraordinary!*





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