

VENICE VIEWS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: KATHLEEN PICKERING

BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net

STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net

NATIONAL: aauw.org

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

BAILA MILLER IS FEATURED SPEAKER FOR JANUARY MEETING



Popular lecturer in art and cultural history, Baila Miller will be our guest speaker at our January 14 meeting. Her many classes presented through local organizations have a wide audience. Her talk, “Art Brings Learning to Life” will focus on the 1913 Armory Show which introduced Modern Art in the United States. Women played a huge role in the show’s success. Over 80% of the funding for the Armory Show came from suffragettes and more than half of the European works on exhibit were already owned by them. This show led to the founding of the MOMA, the Whitney Museum, and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.



MEMBERS PRESENT HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AT DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING

While we couldn't meet together for our annual holiday luncheon, we gathered on Zoom for a festive meeting that featured members sharing their holiday traditions and experiences. We heard about the history of the creche in Italy by Samira Easton and Pam Swarts demonstrated the interactive Nativity that was part of her family's tradition. Ronnie Storch told us about Hanukkah and shared her collection of menorahs. Judy Houston presented a reading. Interspersed were piano selections by Betty Badawi.



This meeting was recorded and there is a link to the recording on our Facebook page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Pickering



When I was thinking about what to write this month, I was stymied for a while. Covid-19 did certainly dominate most of the year, but there were many highlights for Venice AAUW. We were fortunate to have had the home tour and our Eleanor Roosevelt event just before the state shut down. We were also blessed to have great chairs for these events. A big thank you again to Susan Farstrup and Samira Easton for the home tour and to Susan Hotzler for jumping in to lead the Eleanor event.

When Covid-19 shut us down, we did not give up; we learned how to use Zoom. Many thanks to Pam Swarts and Joyce Kamm for assisting with Zoom. Our programs continue as well with good variety.

Joyce Kamm and Joan Armstrong did a great job getting us prepared for the election and for the amendments to the constitution in Florida.

Some SIG groups continued, and Stephanie Hallowell arranged for us to go to the beach for a safe environment to greet and meet each other in person.

A small task force of Bobbi Amero, Susan Hotzler, Joy Mahler, myself and led by Susan Farstrup completed a new strategic plan ready for implementation in 2021.

Like most everyone I know, probably all of you are wishing for 2020 to be over. Yes, indeed, it has been a difficult year. But AAUW Venice carried on. Thank you all for your efforts to keep us going. Let's look forward to 2021 and know that the vaccine is coming and sometime next year there will be a return to some sense of normalcy.

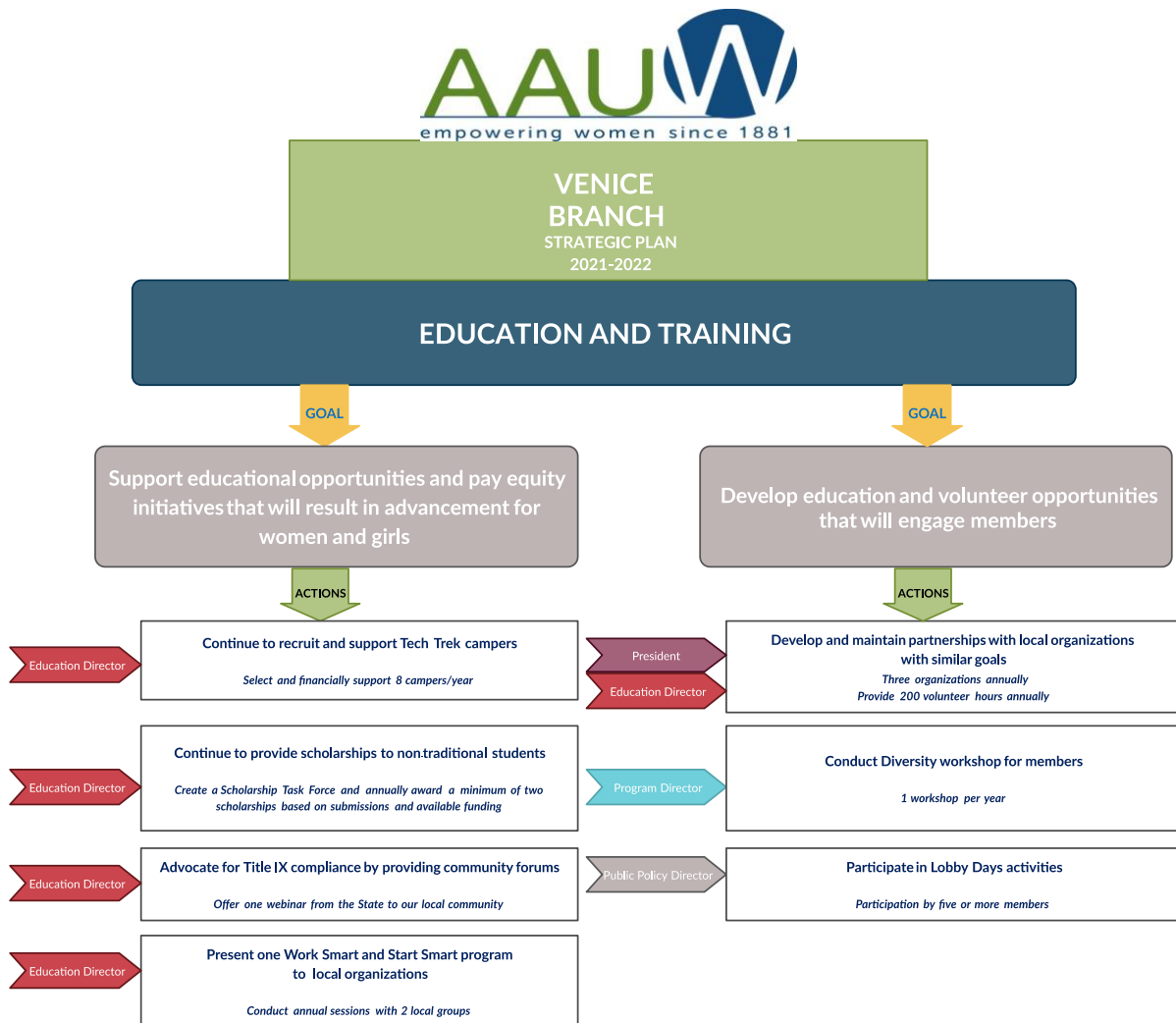
Wishing you a Happy New Year and I cannot wait until we can meet in person again.

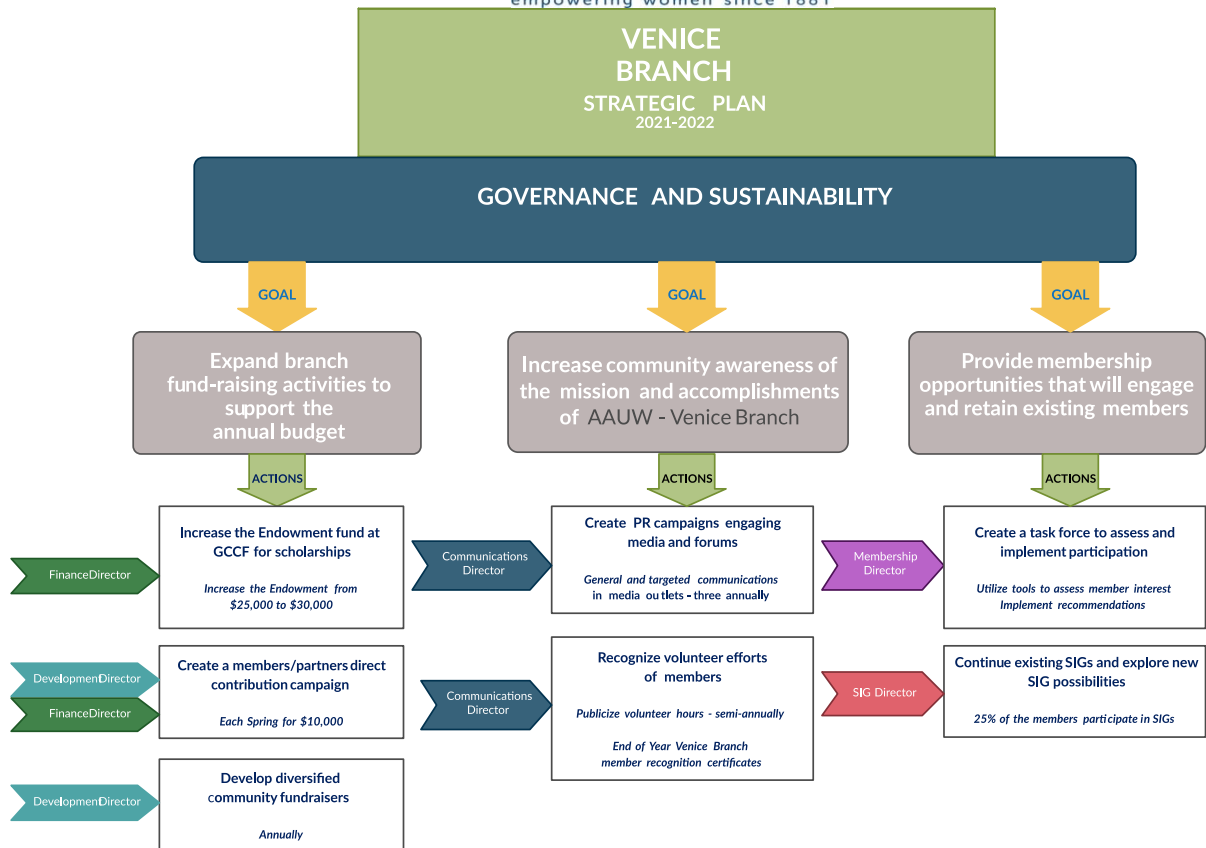
TASK FORCE INTRODUCES THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

by Susan Farstrup, Task Force Chair

Faced with the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic, the Strategic Plan Task Force strove to keep the plan realistic and focused. We limited ourselves to two pillars: **Education and Training** and **Governance and Sustainability**. In stating our goals, we considered our mission within the scope of the times we are in. We hope you will consider where you fit in as we work towards the implementation of this plan. We will be discussing it with you and seeking your participation in the coming year.

My sincere thanks to the thoughtful work of this committee: Bobbie Amero, Susan Hotzler, Joy Mahler, and Kathleen Pickering.





Update on Scholarship Challenges

by Susan Hotzler, Director of Development

Thank you to the two individuals that each donated \$500.00 to support the scholarship challenges that occurred during November and December.

Our membership stepped up and matched the donations; in fact, the actual amount raised was \$2,171. Thank You to all the members who helped us raise this funding for the 2021 Scholarship Fund.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Patti Warner, Membership Director

CHEERS for 2021!



There is no change in our membership numbers. We remain at 186. We had 37 members attend our festive Christmas Zoom meeting.

The year of "It is what it is" needs closure and should be replaced with "It is no more!" We are looking forward to a new year where the vaccine will help us approach some normalcy in our lives and in our organization. I, for one, cannot wait to play Euchre with AAUW friends again. We have missed meeting in person so much too!

Hang in there! We have almost made it through this difficult year, and we have so much to look forward to in renewing our mission commitment in this new year. Finally, we welcome 2021 and hopefully we will even be able to plan for a Home Tour next Fall too. Wouldn't that be wonderful?!

Happy, happy New Year and continue to be healthy!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Patsy Campbell	13	Joy Mahler
1	Ellen Elie	15	Carol Carlson
1	Barbara Stevens	18	Gail Densler
1	Barbie Swenson	19	Joan Kieran
2	Joan Cash	20	Judith Rovins
2	Joyce Mikulski	24	Lydia Russo
7	Elaine Winquist	26	Mary Lloyd Burroughs
8	Jill Majors	30	Kathryn Nelson



Member Profile: Meet Pam Swarts

by Judith Houston, Communications Chair



She's been an educator, administrator, and entrepreneur who describes herself as "a small-town Iowa girl."

She had a desire, while still in high school, to become an architect but no one told her she needed advanced secondary math classes to pursue that goal. When she arrived at Iowa State University, she channeled her interest into a degree in interior design, a program based in the school's college of home economics. Retail jobs in home interiors felt "less than professional," so she returned to ISU to complete a second bachelor's degree in home economics education... "just about the time home ec was being phased out of high schools and when I could have pursued a master's degree instead."

She stepped up to the community college level where she taught interior design, then joined administration to head up the state's community college audio-telecommunications system. "It was a new way to implement distance learning," she explains, and managed this function at 24 campuses throughout the state, with this system giving way to newer technology after 16 years.

At the same time, she supported her husband in his dental practice and raised two children. She was also active in the Marshalltown branch of AAUW, where she is past president and served on the state board. She also ran and was elected to four terms on the local school board.

In 2001, with her AAUW co-chair for diversity, she helped develop "Latinas al Exito," which means Success for Hispanic Girls." She explains, "We helped link high school Latina girls with college-educated Latinas with the goal of changing the family vision for their girls." Initially funded with a grant from AAUW National, it secured additional funding from several foundations. Nearly 20 years later, it is an established, school-sponsored program in many school districts across Iowa, has a paid executive director and includes boys (newly named Al Exito! to reflect its expanded mission).

When she retired from her community college career, she started a business in 2006, "Art & Frame on Main." It was a consignment art gallery and framing service which thrived for more than a decade. One year after opening, she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and underwent three years of chemotherapy. "The experience gave me empathy and the business kept me going."

After repeated urgings, she came to Venice for a five-day visit with a lifelong friend. She says, "I was immediately drawn to Venice by its small town feel and big city art and cultural venues." One of her two children lives in nearby Bradenton; her daughter is in Minneapolis. She is also continuing her passion for art and by working part-time at Gulf Breeze Art and Framing.

Even before moving here, she put "join AAUW high on my list." She dove in and took on a house manager role for the 2019 Home Tour. Her multi-faceted skills are in high demand for us while we have to meet virtually during this pandemic. She's become our "go to" Zoom manager. She's also co-director for programs, all of which have called on her technical knowledge to link speakers and members.

She's proven herself to be very resourceful and we have a real resource in her.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2020

The meeting was held via ZOOM on December 10, 2020.
President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Minutes of November 12, 2020 were approved as published in Venice Views.
Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Amero
Donations have been received for two Scholarship match programs.

President's Update – Kathleen Pickering
Branch is considering holding the March meeting at Maxine Barrett Park with social distancing.

Public Policy – Joan Armstrong
Lobby Days are scheduled for March 17, 2021 and will be virtual. Please notify either Joan Armstrong or Joyce Kamm if you wish to participate.

Meeting in Sarasota on December 18, 2020.

Membership – Patti Warner – No change

Development – Susan Hotzler - two matching challenges have netted \$2,171 for scholarships.

SIGs – Kathleen Pickering

Reminder. SIG attendance by non-members. AAUW Venice Branch Bylaws Section VII -F limits participation by non-members to two sessions.

Education – Wendy Seeley

Scholarship Committee will meet in January.

Programs – Pam Swarts

The January meeting will be a presentation by Baila Miller.

The February meeting will be a book discussion – "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd.

Communications – Judy Houston – today's program is being recorded and will be available for viewing.

Old Business –

By-laws – Leslie Curley has received approval from Florida AAUW to hold meetings via Zoom.
Susan Farstrup -The Strategic Plan is being finalized.

New Business – N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

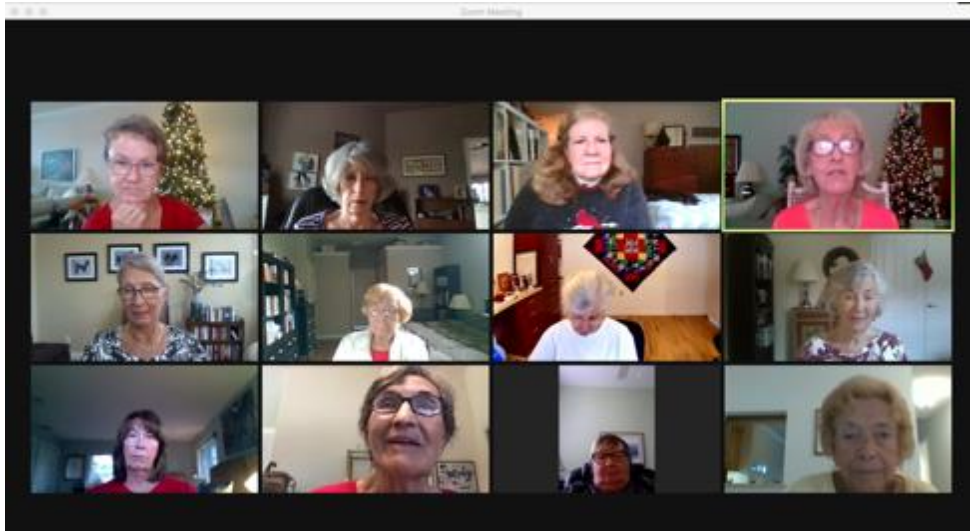
submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

SIG NEWS

COASTAL CRUISERS

The coastal cruisers will meet on January 25 out of Marine Max in Venice at 2 o'clock. Call Paula Dulski to reserve your spot and get more information.

BOOK CLUB



Book club members discussed *The Map Thief*.





Venice Views Editor for January: Susan Farstrup
E-copies circulation: Patti Warner