

VENICE VIEWS

VOLUME XLVII, No. 7

MARCH 2021

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KATHLEEN PICKERING



There is great hope for 2021, unlike my thoughts last month. When I talk with many of you, you are getting the vaccine, and my husband and I have also gotten our first shot. This is great news and creates hope that once again we will be able to see one another in person. Speaking of in person, the board has currently scheduled our April annual meeting at Maxine Barret park. It is a lovely open setting with lots of space for social distancing. We might even try to have a box lunch. Stay tuned.

February is Black History month, and I learn something new all the time about the history. Just today I heard that some towns drained their swimming pools and closed them rather than allow non -whites to use the community pools. We know that the white population is getting the vaccine in a much greater proportion that the non-white population. Discrimination in America continues.

AAUW is a strong advocate of racial and gender equity. Be sure to listen to some of their webinars on racial and gender equity. They give good ideas and tools to support gender equity and to confront racism. Our own strategic plans call for us work on making sure that schools are in compliance with Title IX. We also want to become more engaged in diversity workshops to help us on our quest to become more understanding of other cultures and other races.

I am sure most of you were inspired by Amanda Gorman at the Inauguration and at the Super Bowl. She is an amazing young woman who wants to run for President of the United States when she turns 36. She writes "I'm writing about race, sexism, and social change-I better do my homework". Let us all do our homework as we try to make this a better world.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO BEA HOLT!

Kathleen Pickering is pleased and proud to announce that Bea Holt, longtime Venice branch member, has been nominated as **President-Elect** to the slate of officers presented to the AAUW-FL Board.

If elected, she will follow and carry on the tradition of many Venice branch members who have served as officers on the state board.



FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

PATTI WARNER



We welcomed another new member, Alice Haber, at the February meeting where thirty-two of us discussed the reading of *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Thank you, Lynda Weston and the Book Club members who facilitated the program. This was the perfect book for us to read about how two young sisters who became anti-slavery orators and who made us so aware of the women discrimination that existed in the early 1800's. They would have been great AAUW members believing in our mission

completely.

This Zoom format has become our way of life in AAUW this year. If you are a fairly new member, have hardly attended an in person meeting because you joined last year, please join us for the New Member Cocktail Chat on Zoom March 18th. The invitation is enclosed in this newsletter. In fact, anyone who never got to go to a New Member breakfast is welcome to attend. Just let us know you would like to come and you will be sent the Zoom information too.

Yes, we are zooming right through the year but we do have some big shoes to fill. With the death of Joyce Kamm, we are looking for some computer help. If you are gifted with computer skills, this is an easy way to get more involved in AAUW. No meetings to report to, just some occasional time you would spend at home on updating member's personal information changes. We would so appreciate some great member to step up to take this job. With 188 competent, skilled, and interested members, I know there is someone out there willing to take this on!

Finally, stay healthy and get those vaccines. And with each vaccine a member takes, the closer we are to seeing everyone in person again. That will be one happy day!

**You are invited to the New Member
ZOOM COCKTAIL CHAT**

March 18, 2021

5:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P.

veniceaauw@gmail.com

719-659-9288

Patti Warner

Membership Director



**Please join the Board for an informal
Cocktail Chat to acquaint you with the
mission, programs, and social activities
of the Venice branch of AAUW. Let us
know if you need help with the Zoom
format. We look forward to seeing you
with your favorite drink in hand.**

Scanned with CamScanner

**NEW MEMBER
ALICE HABER**



Hello to AAUW members. I am thrilled to join as I have heard about so many of AAUW's many accomplishments towards advancing equity for women and girls from my friend, Anita Tedrow.

I will attempt a short bio of my 73 years!!! I am a retired School District of Philadelphia teacher. I have taught all grades from pre-school through high school in public and private settings.

Mid-career I took a break from teaching, received my MBA at Temple University, and I was a Controller for 10 years in a small construction company.

WOW, what a switch! I then returned to my dream job as Head Teacher in Head Start and subsequently an Instruction Specialist in Philadelphia. I am certified in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Middle Years Math.

My passions include fiber arts, reading, walking, volunteering and, of course, island living.

I currently reside in Venice and Wildwood Crest, NJ.

During my summers, I volunteer at the East Lynne Theatre, and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May, NJ .

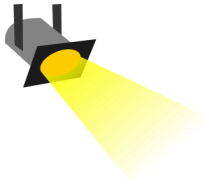
During my winters, I volunteer at AARP Tax Aide, Venice Museum and Archives, and I am a delegate to the Sarasota Citizens Advisory Council. I look forward to my involvement in AAUW's many activities.

**NEW MEMBER
NANCY BREX**



I graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University and received my Master's Degree from New York University. I taught at the city school for the deaf for a year before moving back to Rhode Island where my husband and I were originally from. I stayed home to raise our three sons, but then went back to teaching.

I became a school librarian and taught English to middle schoolers for 24 years. I have four wonderful grandchildren. I am an avid reader, and have been in the same book group for 46 years. I like to garden, enjoy traveling, and swim for exercise.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON JOAN ARMSTRONG



This co-chair of the branch Public Policy group is an old hand at organizing after decades of involvement with New York State United Teachers.

She will be managing Lobby Days on March 17, a virtual event like so much of our activities in this era of Covid. Joan recommends we join them: “Our legislators get a feel for their grass roots. I like to think we are driving some actions with these representatives.”

Many of the issues this group addresses in Tallahassee are the same ones supported by State and national AAUW: pay equity, the \$15 minimum wage, and Title VII among them.

After a degree in elementary education from the College of St. Rose in Albany NY and graduate work at State University New York at Oneonta, she spent most of her 27-year teaching career near Utica at Mt. Markham Central School, many of them with third graders. “My favorite age group,” she says.

She was also active in a national program for teacher staff development from the National Federation of Teachers. For several years, she developed and taught a Beginning Teacher program at a regional teacher center. In addition, she conducted workshops on cooperative learning and instructional design.

While busy with her own family of husband and two sons (now with four grandchildren), she found time to be involved with a group called “Annie’s fund,” a program of the Women’s Fund of Oneida and Herkimer County, which supplied emergency payments to women in need. For three years, she served as a board member of the Women’s Fund.

Her initial route to Florida was prompted by family visits to her mother-in-law who had a home in Sarasota. Subsequent connections to a friend who moved to North Port brought her and her husband to Venice.

She was invited to join our branch by Jane Farley, one of our “star recruiters,” and has been a member for about ten years. Joan says, “A lot of the political action initiatives I did with United Teachers transfers to what we can do in AAUW.” Before taking on the public policy initiatives, she was also involved in our scholarship committee.

Since moving to Florida, she’s taken on volunteering at Loveland’s day care program for mentally handicapped adults. It’s now curtailed due to Covid. She says, “I hope to go back!”

She and her husband spend about five months a year at a lakeside home they own near Old Forge in New York’s Adirondack Mountains with kayaking taking up some of their outdoor time.

To which we say ‘Get rested!’ We have plenty for you to do for the other seven months you spend in the Sunshine State.

2021 HOME TOUR MORPHS INTO “UN-TOUR”

This year we are raising funds to support the 2021 scholarships by hosting an Un-Tour fund raising campaign. We have a three-prong effort for our Un-Tour event.

Articles will be sent to the local newspapers telling the public about our Un-Tour funds raising event and asking them to donate \$25.00 (the cost of a House Tour ticket) to our branch. Donations can be made either using a credit card or writing a check. Venice AAUW is partnering with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to collect the contributions for us.

An eblast message with the information about contributing to the Un-Tour will be sent to the names collected during last year’s house tour when people sign up for a drawing of two free tickets for the Eleanor Roosevelt play. Also, the eblast will be sent to people who purchased tickets to the Eleanor event via the ticket website.

Members will receive an email with the information about sending contributions to Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Members can share this email with friends and relatives who have purchased House Tour Tickets during previous years from them with the hope they will contribute to the Un-Tour fund raising.

The need is still there, and this would help raise funds this year for these non-traditional scholarships, directed at women who have had to delay or interrupt their education and are returning to pursue a degree.

[Susan Hotzler, Director of Development]





F l o r i d a

"Save the Date"

**Virtual Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting
April 16, 17, and 18**

"Women Together in the Sunshine State"

April 16th - Late Friday Afternoon

- Branches share their 2020 highlights
- Announcement of Named Gift Awards
- Hear keynote speaker, Janet Petro, Deputy Director, NASA, Kennedy Space Center - ***"Adapting to New Challenges"***

April 17th - Saturday Morning

•Session on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Review the DEI Tool Kit online at aauw.org
- Learn how to start difficult conversations
- Explore key terms and concepts

•Session on Economic Security

- Define financial literacy for women at all stages of their lives
- Investigate resources
- Discuss policy implication

April 18th - Sunday Morning

- View video of branch successes
- Annual Meeting - Election of officers; review of proposed bylaw changes; and pros and cons of membership initiative

There is NO FEE to participate in the Leadership Conference by Zoom.

Registration will open March 15.

Pre-Registration is required. You will be sent a Zoom invitation.

Members and guests are welcome!

Watch for Updates

For more information about AAUW Florida, contact:
Patricia Dewitt, AAUW Florida President, aauwfldewitt@gmail.com
Bea Holt, AAUW Florida Director for Programs, beaholt45@gmail.com

**FROM PROGRAM CO-DIRECTORS
WENDY SEELEY AND PAM SWARTS**

Until further notice when it is safe to meet face-to-face, all general monthly meetings take place VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH. Members sign-in and social time starts at 10:30 am, meetings start at 11:00 am Eastern Time.

******WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FROM VENICE AAUW WITHIN 12 – 48 HOURS OF ANY EVENT WITH THE ZOOM “INVITATION” AND THE LINK WHICH YOU WILL USE TO CONNECT.******

If you are still "new" to Zoom and have any technical questions, do contact Pam Swarts. Pam is here to help YOU!

Attending a virtual general meeting via Zoom is most rewarding. It's great to be able to once again "see" our fellow members and friends and it's an easy way to keep up with our AAUW activities.

YOU TOO CAN DO ZOOM!

**ACTION TOWARD EQUITY
LOOKING AHEAD TO MONTHLY PROGRAMMING**

Program co-chairs Pam Swarts and Wendy Seeley chose the theme “Action Toward Equity” in spite of Branch members not being able to be physically together. The programs planned for 2020-2021 are member-focused and highly interactive. The action-orientation are in the form of questions: What can I learn? What can I speak out about? How can I do the best I can?

March 11 **Empowering Youth** - Insights into the Laurel Civic Association Inc., a non-profit organization that addresses the needs of disenfranchised families and children in all parts of Sarasota County.

April 8 **Annual Meeting**

May 13 **The Rewards of Serving** - A panel of members share their volunteer involvement.

MARCH 11 PROGRAM “EMPOWERING YOUTH”



Enlightening!! Motivating!! Empowering!! These words describe the Thursday, March 11 program, “Empowering Youth.” The virtual branch meeting will welcome guest speakers John Jefferson, staff member and youth program coordinator at the Laurel Civic Association Inc., and Kim Jansen, program assistant.

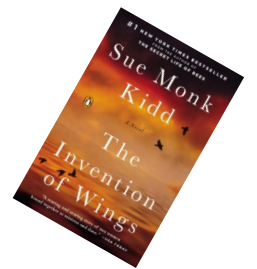
We will gain an overview of a non-profit organization that has made steady progress over the past 32 years in addressing the needs of disenfranchised families and children in all parts of Sarasota County. More specifically, we will learn about a homework assistance program that instills an appreciation and commitment to school, teaches volunteerism, social skills, and soft skills which are so much needed in the workplace along with enhances self-worth.

Jefferson states, “The heart of the program is our volunteers! The impact we’ve seen over the 29 years we have been working with Sarasota County schools is a 96% high school graduation rate for children in our program since 2001.”

Plan now to attend and listen carefully for ways the homework assistance program might fit into Venice AAUW’s strategic plan: Let’s seek to learn (1) In what specific ways do volunteers contribute? (2) How does this work during a pandemic? (3) What qualifications are needed? (4) How is support provided? (5) What are the intrinsic rewards?

On August 10, 2020, Laurel Civic Association Inc. received the 2020 Non-Profit Business of the Year award by the Venice Chamber of Commerce.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



A branch-wide book club event was held during the February 11, 2021 member meeting (via ZOOM) featuring the popular and thought-provoking historical fiction, “The Invention of Wings,” by Sue Monk Kidd. Huge thanks go to 6 members of the our AAUW book club (special interest group) for facilitating an insightful, interactive discussion: Lynda Weston, moderator, with Dee Glatz, Joyce Mikulski, Marge Ostrom, Mary Lou Thetford, and Barbara Zittel. As one member commented, “This is a perfect book for AAUW women!”

[Pam Swarts, program coordinator]

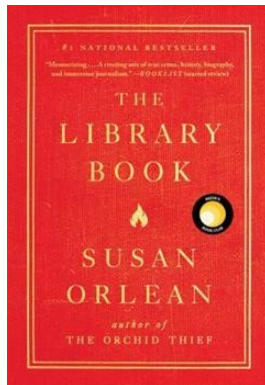
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

COASTAL CRUISING

This month we will cruise on Tuesday, March 23. We meet at 2 pm at the Venice Marine Max and eat at the Olde Salty Dog after the cruise. Contact Paula Dulski.

BOOK CLUB

Many of us were able to attend the Sarasota Library Foundation's virtual interview with **Susan Orlean**, author of **The Library Book**. Coincidentally that is the AAUW book club's selection for March. Susan Farstrup will be facilitating the discussion via Zoom on **March 8**. Whether you are familiar with the book or not, it is sure to be an interesting discussion. The meeting will begin at **1:00 p.m.** for socializing and sharing what you have been reading; the book discussion will follow at **1:30**. To receive your Zoom invitation, email Lynda Weston (email address in AAUW Directory).



SIG BOOK GROUP SELECTED READS -- 2020-2021

Month	TITLE	AUTHOR	FACILITATOR
MARCH 8	THE LIBRARY BOOK	SUSAN ORLEAN	SUSAN FARSTRUP
APRIL 12	THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS IS	LAURIE FRANKEL	JOYCE MIKULSKI
MAY 10	THE IMMORTALISTS	CHLOE BENJAMIN	HILDA DILMAN



MARCH BIRTHDAYS			
3	Kathleen Pickering	17	Pat Bull
4	Pat Weber	18	Mimi Welch
5	Cathy Edwards	24	Karol Olson
9	Trena Kelly	25	Mary Emerson
10	Sharon Whiting	28	Mary Greenberg
15	Bea Holt	30	Evelyn Kent
15	Lois Minnich	30	Melissa Stofko

IN MEMORIAM

Joyce Kamm was an example of the best kind of member AAUW could ever recruit. She has been an active member since 2014 and in this present year alone she volunteered for triple placement: Membership Assistant, Co-Chair of Public Policy, and Board Member. She also volunteered for AARP to help people prepare their tax returns.

There will not be a Memorial Service. Cards may be sent to her husband Jay Kamm (address can be found in AAUW Directory).

AAUW friends may remember her by making a contribution in her name to our Scholarship Fund.

She will be missed! RIP dear Joyce!



SHARING AND CARING

Our sincerest condolences sent to Jay Kamm on the passing of his wife Joyce.

Please notify Marge Collin if you are aware of someone who needs get-well wishes, or 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.

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 GENERAL MEETING REVIEW

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 AAUW VENICE BRANCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held via ZOOM on February 11, 2021.

President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Minutes of January 14, 2021 were approved as published in Venice Views.



Treasurer's Report – Bobbi Amero. Donations for both Tech Trek and Scholarship continue to come in.

President's Update – Kathleen Pickering.

National is proposing changes to eligibility for membership for non-degreed women. Bea Holt will address the pros and cons at the March meeting. Further discussion will occur after the program for those interested.

Changes to the American Fund will be addressed at the March meeting.

The April Annual meeting is tentatively planned to be held at Maxine Barrett Park.

Public Policy – Joan Armstrong. Lobby Days will be held virtually, March 17th.

Membership – Patti Warner – New members were introduced. Branch membership is 188. New member cocktail hour is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 5 PM via ZOOM.

Development – Susan Hotzler. Because of the cancellation of the Home Tour this year, an Un-Tour fund-raiser is under development.

Special Interest Groups – Stephanie Hallowell. Sunsetter event is tentatively scheduled for February 25 – more details to come. Coastal Cruisers is active.

Education – Wendy Seeley. Scholarship Committee has formed. Names have been sent to Gulf Coast Foundation. Awaiting nominations for Tech Trek.

Programs – Pam Swarts. The topic for the May program is giving back to the community. Those who volunteer in outside organizations are encouraged to contact Pam Swarts.

Communications – Judy Houston. A news release is being prepared to announce cancellation of the Home Tour and adding the Un-Tour fundraiser.

Old Business – Motion was made to add electronic meetings to Article 19 by Leslie Curley and seconded by Pam Swarts. Motion was passed unanimously via hand raise.

New Business – N/A

Bobbi Amero motioned that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Jane Farley. The meeting adjourned at 11:28AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

Venice Views Editor for March Issue: Jeri Jaminet

E-copies Circulation: Patti Warner

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

Text in Word Format, Please

Deadline for the April issue of Venice Views is 3/15/2021

