

# VENICE VIEWS

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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

## THE MAY MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON AND OUTDOORS AGAIN!

JOIN US AT THE PAVILLION AT MAXINE BARRITT PARK ON MAY 13 AT 11:30.

MASKING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED.

Maxine Barritt Park is located at 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice. Park entrance is the next driveway past Sharkey's. Members may bring their own bag lunch and beverage if they so choose.

**The Rewards of Serving** is the theme of the May 13<sup>th</sup> program.

We read and hear about the personal health benefits of staying intellectually involved in stimulating organizations and volunteer work. What could be better than time with our AAUW connections and learning about opportunities to serve!

Three Venice area women will address the opportunities that await volunteers in their organizations: *Venice Main Street*, *Venice Art Center*, and *Venice Community Theater*. Time will be reserved for members to come forward and "tout" other organizations in which they have found rewarding volunteer activities.



VENICE  
THEATER

VENICE  
ART  
CENTER



## President's Message May 2021

Thinking about my final letter to you as president reminds me of the 1<sup>st</sup> verse in Ecclesiastes 3.

***FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN.***

My season as president is drawing to an end. It has truly been my privilege to be your president for four years. We have made some changes that hopefully allow the future leaders to carry out their responsibilities with greater ease. I always say we because it has been the work of great boards that have enabled the work to be accomplished. Just some of things that were done during my tenure with the support and assistance of others.

Changed the structure of the board and chairpersons

Secured the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to be our partner for scholarships.

Invested in the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to begin perpetuating scholarships for the future.

Changed the nominating committee to a year-round committee with elected and appointed members.

Secured a storage unit for materials from home tours, historical files and other items people did not want in their homes.

Created several strategic plans for direction for the Branch

Program chairs sponsored interesting programs

Scholarships for non-traditional students were given out, even during the pandemic.

Tech Trek was a great experience for the girls in 2018 2019

Held three successful home tours with great Chairs

Roosevelt fundraiser was very successful

Sigs enabled members to get to know one another and have fun

Board and member meetings continued all through the pandemic via Zoom

Many thanks to all the members who contributed to keeping the Venice Branch of AAUW vibrant even during difficult times. We are all looking forward to being together again and I will enjoy just sitting at a table with no responsibilities.

Kathleen Pickering

President, AAUW Venice Branch

### Sharing and Caring

Cards were sent to Jeri Jaminet and Wendy Orlando wishing them continued recovery from their accidents

## Annual Meeting – April 8, 2021



On a beautiful spring day, nearly 80 members gathered for the Venice branch Annual Meeting held at Maxine Barritt Park. This was the first time the branch was able to meet in-person since the beginning of the pandemic. In a lovely picnic setting, members were able to maintain social distancing while enjoying a catered bag lunch.

The meeting began with a poetry reading by members of the playreaders SIG, followed by a recognition of members who were lost this year.

Kathleen Pickering presented a review of the year. The current officers who have been working all year via Zoom were introduced to the audience. The newly nominated officers were elected and installed.

The meeting concluded with a tribute to Kathleen Pickering for her four years as branch president. Past and current board members cited her many accomplishments. She was presented with a plaque, flowers and a past-president's pin. A recording of the tribute may be viewed on our Facebook page.



## Member Profile

### Betty Badawi

When she sits down at the piano at one of our gatherings, she's ready to help us get right into a celebratory mood. Get to know her and she embodies the sentiment of these oft-quoted words: *Life is like a piano. What you get out it depends on how you play it.* And her life is an energetic composition of people, places and experiences.

This Iowa-born, Illinois-raised woman earned a degree at Northwestern University in music education with a double major in piano and voice. After two years teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade and junior high music in Illinois, she moved to Washington state and another teaching post.

It's also where she met her husband, Samir, from Beirut, Lebanon, who was in the States earning a Ph.D. The marriage took her to Beirut where she continued to teach, 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the American Community School and music education students at the Beirut College for Women.

Over the years, her husband's profession took them to Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Rome. His U.N. posting's diplomatic status meant she wasn't allowed to take a paid job. So she involved herself in the expat community through the U.N. Women's Guild, the American Women's Club of Rome and Welcome Neighbor. Along the way, she also learned French, Italian and "some Arabic."

She has two daughters, both born in Beirut. One of them is Samira Easton, who lives here in Venice and is also an AAUW member. Muna Strasser is a D.D.S. who lives in Moline, Ill.

In 1995, the Badawis retired to Falls Church, Va. where she immersed herself in volunteer activities and an arts group. They came to Venice as snowbirds, buying a home here in 2004. She then connected with Suncoast Duo Pianists, a performing group of retired professional pianists and Venice Musicale, which raises money for local area children studying music.

She's been a member of our branch for more than a decade, with our scholarship projects her main interest. She says, "I was helped in my educational life and this is something I can do to support scholarships for other women."



## Membership Update

### A Celebration

Our Annual Meeting on April 8 was definitely a celebration because not only did we make it through the Pandemic year but we finally (over 80 of us) felt safe enough to meet in person outdoors at the seaside park on a beautiful day. Also the end of this year is a celebration because we still have 188 members and we still are the largest branch in Florida. We were able to have a successful Zoom chat with 5 new members. And now some members are starting to return by renewing again. It is our hope that they do return. If you have a friend who has been missing this year, encourage her to come back. I am looking forward to our membership climbing back up to where it was before Covid hit us hard.

Looking forward to our May general meeting!

Hope to see you there again!

Patti Warner  
Membership Director



### May Birthdays



May 3	Chris Cairns	May 9	Lynda Weston
May 4	Mary Castell	May 11	Colette Sears
May 5	Wendy Seeley	May 19	Sherry Lynaugh
May 6	Betty Badawi	May 20	Sue Shea
May 7	Susette Bryan	May 29	Bobbie Huibregtse
May 7	Samira Easton	May 30	Carol Newnam



## APRIL 8, 2021 AAUW VENICE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at Maxine Barrett Park on April 8, 2021.

President Kathleen Pickering called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

President's Update –

Playreaders SIG presented “The Miracle of Morning” by Amanda Gorman.

A moment of silence for those we have lost this past year.

Presented a review of the year.

President, Kathleen Pickering asked for nominations from the floor for each board candidate. Hearing none, she declared nominations closed and the following board members, President Paula Dulski, Membership Patti Warner and Secretary Bev Weltzein were declared elected by acclamation.

The nominating committee members, Trena Kelly and Lynda Weston were presented. The President asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed. The nominating committee members were declared elected by acclamation.

Installation of officers by Marge Ostrom.

Susan Farstrup presented Kathleen Pickering with plaque and a presentation in appreciation for her years of leadership.

Bea Holt – April 16-18 are the dates for the state convention.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Izzi, Secretary

### Replacement Name Tag Needed

Have you lost or misplaced your AAUW magnetic nametag during the Pandemic year?

If you did, you may order a new one at the next in- person meeting for \$8.50 from Membership. Or you may send a check to Patti Warner in the mail in that amount made out to **Patti Warner** (address in our Directory).

Please specify the name you want printed on the tag and your school's name.

Below is a photo of a group participating in the Coastal Cruisers SIG.

The next Coastal Cruisers event is scheduled for Wednesday May 19 at 3 pm from Cape Haze in Englewood. Contact Paula Dulski to sign up.

Joan Armstrong, Ellen Franck, Paula Dulski, Carol Miske, Gail Densler, Wendy Seeley, Sue Luterbach, Jane Farley, Nancy Brex



### **AAUW Euchre Starts Again!**

AAUW resumes Euchre play at the Venezia Hotel, 11:30 a.m., on May 7, 2021.

Any interested member is invited to play but please respond to the new Chairwoman/Organizer, Charlene Turczyn, by May 3rd. (Charlene's email is available in our directory.)

Again, we will be playing the first and third Friday of the month and through the summer.

Lunch will be ordered and served sometime during the play. Our next day to get together in May will be **May 21st**.

Will look forward to seeing you . . . You Euchre players!

## AAUW Book Club Schedule 2021-2022

Date	Title	Author	Facilitator
*June 14, 2021	<i>Four Winds</i>	Kristin Hannah	Dottie Bingman
*July 12, 2021	<i>Anxious People</i>	Frederick Backman	Pam Swarts
*August 9, 2021	<i>The Kindest Lie</i>	Nancy Johnson	Paula Dulski
*Sept. 13, 2021	<i>Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany</i>	Lori N. Spielman	Gail Densler
*Oct. 11, 2021	<i>The Three Mothers</i>	Anna M. Tubbs	Marge Ostrom
Nov. 8, 2021	<i>Warmth of Other Suns</i>	Isabel Wilkerson	Barb Zittel
Dec. 13, 2021	<i>Caste</i>	Isabel Wilkerson	Barb Zittel
Jan. 10, 2022	<i>Woman of No Importance</i>	Sonia Purnell	Mary Fritz
Feb. 14, 2022	<i>Exiles</i>	Christina B. Kline	Barb Tompkins
March 14, 2022	<i>Fast Girls</i>	Elise Hooper	Joyce Mikulski
April 11, 2022	<i>Hamnet</i>	Maggie O'Farrell	Susan Farstrup
May 9, 2022	<i>Nickel Boys</i>	Colson Whitehead	Hilda Dillman

\*Indicates a Zoom Meeting

Here is the list of titles for our next season of the Book Club SIG beginning June 14, 2021. Please note that we plan to meet year-round. We will continue meeting over Zoom and hope to meet in person at the Jacaranda Library in November.

Thanks to all of you who submitted titles for consideration and to those of you who voted!

Lynda Weston and Hilda Dillman

Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources has chosen the best-seller ***Suncoast Empire: Bertha Honoré Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota*** for the 2021 "One Book, One Community" program. This selection was chosen to complement the county's Centennial celebration in 2021. This book was read last year by our AAUW book SIG.

The Sarasota Library is hosting Zoom events featuring the author, Frank Cassell. To participate check out the Sarasota Library One Book events here: [One Book programs](#)



## Cooks' Corner

The group met at the home of Trena Kelly on April 21st. The theme for the gathering was Corn or Carrots.



Submission Deadline for articles for Summer Issue of Venice Views has been extended to May 24. This will allow additional time to come up with some great ideas for members to host “Summer Socials.” Send your articles and pictures to [aauwveniceviews@gmail.com](mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com)



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