

# 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

## President's Message for December



I saved a column from the Venice Gondolier from 2019 because I wanted to sear it into my memory. Drs. Oz and Roizen shared a study about the positive effects of volunteering. Our members make time to volunteer at organizations such as churches, animal shelters, theaters, thrift shops, Main Street, and more. Therefore, you will be elated to learn about these beneficial effects.

*"A study out of University of California, Berkeley found that when people 65 and older volunteered for two or more organizations they had a 44% lower likelihood of dying over the time of the study. That means that volunteering is nearly as beneficial to your health as quitting smoking."*

I am pretty sure that by accepting to be your President I will add five years to my life. This may be your incentive for joining the board. We need to fill the positions of Vice President, Program Director, Finance Director, Study/Interest Director and one nominating committee position in 2022.

Our current Nominating Committee is chaired by Jan Harris and consists of Anita Kunkle, Joyce Mikulski, Trena Kelley and Lynda Weston. You have already received an e-mail blast that the committee has started their search. Jan led a call to action at the November branch meeting. If the committee members speak to you about an open position, please give it your consideration. A board position will add years to your life.



2021-2022  
Venice AAUW  
Board Members



**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021, 11:00**  
**AM**  
**VENICE YACHT CLUB**  
**1330 TARPON CENTER DR., VENICE**

**Make your Reservations Now**

**Contact Samira Easton before December 5**

**\$35.00 (Check or Cash only)**

**Menu**

**Chicken piccata**

**WITH Lemon & Caper Beurre Blanc**

**Haricots Verts with Roasted Red Peppers**

**Parmesan Risotto**

**Or**

**Pasta Primavera (vegetarian Option)**

**Dessert**

**White Chocolate cheesecake with Raspberry Coulis**

**Coffee/Iced Tea**

**(Tickets available to purchase wine, beer, or soft drinks)**

**Music by Betty Badawi & Canny Schein**

**Entertainment by own AAUW Play Readers**



# Fund Raising Event for AAUW

*Featuring Art Lecture by Baila Miller*

*Entitled:*

## *Peggy Suggenheim: Art Addict*

**Where: Venice Community Center**

**When: January 13, 2022**

**Time: 2:00 pm**

**Doors open at 1:30 pm**

**Tickets available online at:**

**Venice-fl.aauw.net; or**

**At the Holiday Luncheon; or**

**At the door on day of event**

**Ticket Cost: \$25.00**



Baila Miller completed Bachelor's, Master's degree, and post graduate work at The University of Memphis. Through her company, Miller Music and Fine Arts Programs, she has been presenting college level courses that explore the role of literature, paintings, architecture, sculpture, cinema, photography, as well as orchestral and operatic influences in the development of European, Jewish, and modern American culture. Ms. Miller has taught or is currently teaching at The University of Memphis, Road Scholar International, ACE Adult & Community Enrichment, Longboat Key Education Center, The Venice Art Center, Historic Spanish Point, and The Ringling College of Art & Design.

## November program Recap: “Keeping the Arts Alive”

Guest speaker, Linda DiGabriele, wowed the AAUW audience with her candor, intelligence, and warmth!

Ms. DiGabriele has served as Managing Director of Asolo Rep Theater for more than two decades, and fulfilled leadership roles with professional theatre most of her adult life. This placed her in the extremely difficult role of leading her organization – and collaborating to help lead other performing arts organizations – through the pandemic.

We learned that first and foremost, it’s about caring for your people: performers and backstage employees and well as all of the support and administrative people who didn’t have a job when live theatre came to a halt on March 14, 2020.

A second major thrust was programming in the age of social distancing, and Linda described the outdoor staging that brought much joy to performers and cautious audiences. Currently, with a return to in-house productions, she shared the collaboratively-developed safety protocols now in effect among the 9 leading arts and cultural organizations in Sarasota County. The caring and creative thinking that was spurred by the Covid crisis has had lasting impact! One example is a newly-formed Office of Diversity and Inclusivity at Asolo Repertory Theatre.

### Member comments:

“The ‘back story’ of the Asolo Rep and how they survived the pandemic was fascinating.”

“The financial impact of the Asolo and other arts and cultural organizations (together the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest employment sectors in the county) was very interesting and surprising.

“The ‘caring’ for employees in the arts is beyond anything I heard during the Covid crisis.”

I’m impressed with the importance of ‘partnering’ with other performing arts organizations – together they gained strength and success.”

“I enjoyed the whole lecture immensely! Linda is optimistic, enthusiastic, and determined.”

Pam Swarts  
Program Director



## Membership Update

We welcomed two new members and four guests to our November meeting with about 60 members in attendance. We are thrilled our membership has grown to 188 and that we are enjoying in-person meetings with wonderful informational programs.

Once again I am asking for members to step up and consider being a mentor to a new member.

We want our new members to feel connected to our organization right away so if you would like to help in this way, let me know.

I hope you are all looking forward to our Holiday Luncheon as I'm sure it will put you in the Christmas spirit right away with our Play Readers program. Until then. . .

Deck the Halls,

Patti Warner  
Membership



Barbara Swartz (L) and Betty Ehik (R) -- New AAUW Venice Members.



## Member Spotlight on Charlene Turczyn

Charlene currently heads up two of our groups, reflecting her wide-ranging span of interests. On the one hand, she's organizing the euchre group which meets twice monthly. And on the other, she's running Financial Fitness sessions, because she believes in education to help women "obtain skills needed to gain and manage their financial well-being."

This latter is a thread that has run through her life for many years. She joined the Women of the Moose and became involved in their Mooseheart program which "reaches out to disadvantaged kids to assist with their care and education." She also joined AAUW in Springfield, Ill., where she maintained a residence, with an interest in promoting STEM careers for girls."

That work she refers to modestly included several entrepreneurial undertakings, with security clearances needed for the high-level placement of personnel for the federal government. It included travel to military bases in Germany. Her location in Venice was handy because it was close to McDill as well as the Ft. Myers airport, which for some time "had easy flights into Frankfurt." Before embarking on a career, she earned a bachelor's degree and a master's, both from the University of Iowa.

Although she and her husband have lived in a number of locations, she's been in Florida for nearly three decades. She says, "We lived on the Atlantic side of the state for my husband's business and moved to the Gulf side in 2010 to be close to family." Her two children are further away - a daughter in California and a son in Iowa.

She rejoined AAUW and our branch shortly after arriving here and "likes the fact that AAUW encourages women to educate themselves so they are financially independent."

She was actively running her business until 18 months ago when she retired, a status she's still getting used to.



## Education News by Wendy Seeley, Education Chair

### TECH TREK

Even though the pandemic canceled in-person Florida Tech Trek camps in 2020, 93 girls from 20 different AAUW branches participated in a one-week virtual Tech Trek Camp. Zooming from home and using materials mailed to them made the hands-on classes possible. Each camper chose two-hour core classes each day. These included computer science, wearable tech, marine mysteries, structural engineering and neuroscience. A total of 16 lab workshops, each 90 minutes long, were offered, with each camper selecting one workshop daily. Campers could learn how to create videos of their Tech Trek experience, discover their own DNA, learn how each brain is unique, design a barrier to fend off storm surges, and much more. The campers attended virtual field trips which included the South Florida Science Center, Next Era Energy to learn about solar and wind power and Toyota Teen Drive 365 On Demand- The Engineering Behind Safety, to name a few. These middle school girls listened to STEM professionals from across the country that participated in virtual panels discussing astrophysics, robotic surgery, civil engineering and even included a statistician from NASA Langley. What an amazing opportunity they were given! Unfortunately, none of the schools our Venice chapter approached took advantage of this wonderful program. As a result, the budget balance designated for Tech Trek is about \$ 15,000, which is more than enough to pay for the girls who would like to participate. With the 2022 camps being in person next summer, hopefully we will have some attendees.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The pandemic put a big dent in our scholarship fundraising abilities due to cancellation of our annual house tour. At our November Board Meeting, Bobbi Amero, our Director of Finance, stated that our remaining budget allocated to scholarships is only \$6000. As a result, we hope you will consider donating to this important AAUW mission.

**\*\*Please note** - Donations to a qualified non-profit organization may be deductible from taxable **Federal** adjusted gross income for those of you who are

- 1) At least 70-1/2 years old, and
- 2) Are required to take an annual Required Minimal Distribution from an existing IRA account, and
- 3) Who presently claim the standard deduction on your Federal tax return.

Individual contributions are limited to \$100,000 for Federal income tax purposes. Please note that this opportunity may not apply to **state** income tax returns

**Be certain to consult with your qualified financial advisor for additional details about this opportunity.**

Checks are payable to "AAUW, Venice Branch." Indicating Non Traditional Scholarship Fund on memo line and send to P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284

Donations that arise from IRA distributions and are targeted to a qualified non-profit.



## **AAUW General Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by Vice President, Susan Farstrup, following the program with Linda DiGabriele, Managing Director of Asolo Repertory Theater and the 50/50 Drawing of \$91 won by Rosemary Smith. She donated it to Tech Trek.

Minutes from October 14, 2021, were approved as amended removing Lydia Russo as winner of the 50/50 and posted in the October 2021 Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report shows net assets as of October 31, 2021, at Income-\$8,315.00, Fund

Raising-\$22,196.94 and Total Balance-\$30,609.64,

The President's Update: Paula Dulski asked for assistance with the Book Exchange. Judy Kolk and Pat Campbell volunteered. A workshop using Microsoft Publisher for the directory will be offered on November 23, at 4 pm at Paula Dulski's home.

The next Coastal Cruising time is December 20, at 10 am from Cape Haze Marina.

Membership: Patti Warner announced that the current membership is 188. Four guests - Natalie Shirer, Karen Boyland, Karen Kade, Gail Authier and two new members, Barbara Swartz and Betty Ehik were introduced. Suzanne Biviano will assist the Membership Director.

A special thank-you to Paula Dulski, who was responsible for the compilation of the directory. She also donated the total cost of printing to the branch.

Other thanks go to Susan Farstrup, Susan Hotzler and Jeri Jaminet for the publication of the Venice Views.

Patti Warner announced that newly designed Note Cards with the AAUW logo are available for sale in packs of 6 for \$7.50 through Pam Swarts. Purchases can be made through her and at our upcoming events.

Study/Interest Groups: Stephanie Hallowell asked that members contact the leaders through using the directory. The next specialty event, previously known as the Exploring with your Camera Group now named Away Day, is "The Invisible" at Spanish Pointe on November 18. This group will now meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Financial Fitness is starting again. Contact Charlene Turczyn. Trena Kelly announced that the next Cook's Corner will be "Favorites of Thanksgiving" held at Joan Kieran's home. The Art Walk to be held on January 19 at IslandWalk needs more story tellers.

Communications: Phyllis Vogel announced that the AAUW news has been kept up to date and sent to the local papers. Nancy Brex will work on the Website and Facebook pages.

Education: Wendy Seeley visited Pat Weber, who formerly headed this committee. Please send her cards and/or emails. 11 schools with 7th graders are eligible for Tech Trek. \$4000 is in reserve for future attendees. The luncheon will be planned in the Spring of 2022 for recipients who have not been honored in the past due to the pandemic along with those selected this year.

Members are urged to consider using the required distribution of their IRAs as a donation to the organization, particularly for scholarships. It can be used as a tax deduction.

Development: Susan Hotzler announced the upcoming Fundraiser, the Baila Miller Lecture will be held at the Venice Community Center on January 13, 2021, 2 pm. Cost is \$25. (continued on next page)





**The Away Day SIG Group Announces an evening  
aboard the Sarasota Trolley's famous  
"HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR"**

Join us for an evening of fun & holiday cheer, as we enjoy the **1.5 hr.** tour through the neighborhoods aglow with Christmas lights!

Spouses/Significant Others are welcome!

**DATE:** Thursday, 12/16

**TIME:** 5:00 pm leave Venice (Sarasota Tour time 6:15 pm)

**DEPART:** Carpool available from parking lot in front of British Open Pub (Jacaranda Commons Shopping Center).

**ADMISSION:** \$15 (Masks required)

\*\*\* Don't wait to make your reservations! Seats are filling up quickly for our date & time. Call **941.346.3115** today or go online to [sarasotatrolley.com](http://sarasotatrolley.com). Book tickets under **your own name**. Our tour trolley departs at **6:15 pm** from the Burlington Coat Factory parking lot in Sarasota (Cattleman & Bee Ridge Rd.)

\*\*Snacks & beverages allowed on the trolley.\*\*

**Questions:** Call Stephanie **Hallowell**

The "Away Day" SIG group is the new name of the former "Exploring With Your Camera" SIG.



1	Gail	DeVet	15	Dottie	Bingman
3	Kathy	Black	16	Sylvia	Irish
5	Kathy	Dierstein	17	Elaine	Jarchow
6	Susan	Leege	18	Amy	Schirber
9	Patti	Warner	19	Carol	Sbabo
9	Susan	Hotzler	20	Carole	Goolden
10	Karen	Cianci	27	Jan	Harris
11	Judith	Kolk	28	Margaret	Collin
12	Jean	Norman	30	Emily	Jennings
			30	Ronnie	Storch

## Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Our AAUW SIG Book Club will meet in person on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Jacaranda Library with the discussion of *Caste* led by Barbara Zittel beginning at 1:15. Author Isabel Wilkerson says that “racism is an insufficient term for the systemic oppression of Black people in America.” In her 2020 book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* she examines the unspoken caste system in the United State as she places race against other caste systems found in India and in Nazi Germany. This is a tough book but one that should be on every American’s must-read list. How can we move on in our society with equity and equality if we don’t have a solid understanding of our history?



## Cooks Corner

Join AAUW friends for an old-fashioned Cookie Exchange on December 15 at Trena Kelly's in IslandWalk. Everyone brings a minimum of **3 dozen** of their favorite home-baked cookies, and we go home with an assortment of festive cookies.

For lunch everyone brings a salad component and we feast on salad and cookies while enjoying our AAUW friends.

RSVP to Trena by email or phone to join the fun.

Here is a picture of last month’s group enjoying their time together.



## Coastal Cruising

Next date for this SIG is December 20 at 10 am from Cape Haze in Englewood. Carpool from Venice. Contact Paula Dulski to sign up for the cruise.



### Lunch Bunch

The next get together of the group is on Wednesday 12/22 and we will be lunching at 11:30 at Landy's Restaurant in Englewood. Please contact Paula Choyke to reserve your spot.

### Art in the Afternoon

SAVE THE DATES: January 19, February 23 and March 30 at 1:00 p.m. to sit back and be entertained by artists, storytellers and musicians.

January Venice Views will have RSVP contact information

## The Women of MOTE

It's not too late to view this informative series featuring the remarkable women of MOTE.

### Women of Mote Series

(Watch on You Tube)

Coral Crusaders: <https://youtu.be/WfIW4wiKbmk>

Trailblazers: <https://youtu.be/mlgz2q40Wws>

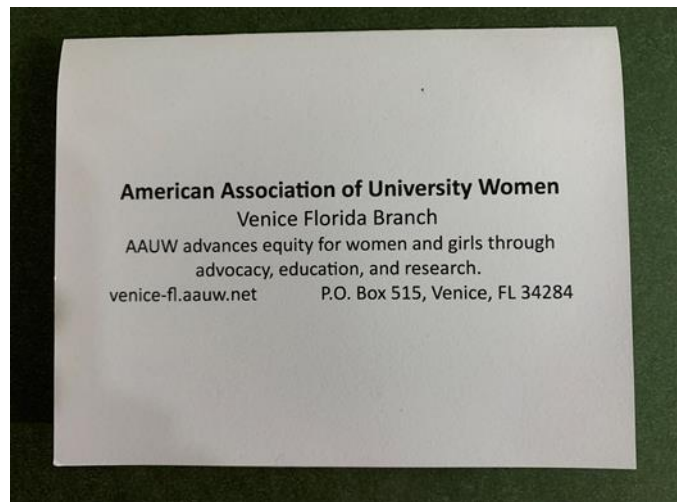
Fearless Women: <https://youtu.be/NwaWKNUh93w>

## Fund-Raiser with Pizazz!

How might you use a set of custom-produced AAUW notecards? Imagine learning about a young girl or woman who needs a bit of encouragement or a BRAVO! Or think of a new acquaintance that might like to learn about AAUW. Maybe your girlfriends are exchanging 'under \$10 gifts' this year.

Help raise awareness – and scholarship funds – for Venice AAUW by purchasing sets of our new notecards produced locally at Nellie's Notecards. Packaged in sets of 6 cards plus envelopes, they sell for \$7.50.

Notecard sets will be available for purchase at the Holiday Luncheon, one set per member. If you would like multiple sets of notecards (stocking stuffers, you say?) please email Pam Swarts with your desired quantity.



## Sharing and Caring

Bev Weltzien, secretary for Venice Branch, was sent a speedy recovery card for her foot surgery that she had in late October.

A get-well/speedy recovery card was sent to Charlene Turczyn for surgery that she had in early November.

**AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES — DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR**

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location/Notes
Thurs	2	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes.
Fri	3	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Elks Club, Nokomis.
Thurs	9	11:00	Holiday Luncheon	Samira Easton	Venice Yacht Club. 1330 Tarpon Center Dr., Venice
Fri	10	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Venetian Golf & River Club
Fri	10	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch - Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	13	1:00	Book Group	Linda Weston Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library. In person. Book: <i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</i>
Tues	14	TBD	Financial Fitness	Charlene Turczyn	TBD
Mon	15	<b>Deadline for January Venice Views</b>		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a>	
Wed	15	Noon	Cook's Corner	Trena Kelly, Starting 1/1/22 Joan Kieran is contact person	Theme: Cookie Exchange. Location IslandWalk
Thurs	16	5:00	Away Day	Stephanie Hallowell	Holiday Lights Tour in Sarasota. Leave Venice at 5, tour starts at 6:15
Thurs	16	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes.
Fri	17	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Elks Club, Nokomis.
Mon	20	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Cape Haze in Englewood. Car pool from Venice
Weds	22	11:30	Lunch Bunch, Etc.	Paula Choyke	Landy's Restaurant in Englewood. Call Paula to reserve your spot.
Thur	23	10:00	Play Readers	Fran Brinkman	Fran's home.
Fri	24	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Venetian Golf & River Club
Fri	24	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch - Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.



Venice Views Editor for December: Susan Hotzler

E-copies Circulation: Paula Dulski

**\*\*Venice Views is a public document that is available to non members community. For this reason, personal information such as addresses or phone numbers cannot be included in any of the articles.**

**Contact information is in your Directory and monthly updates are provided.**

**\*\*Any personal contact changes like addresses, phone numbers, emails should be sent to [veniceaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaauw@gmail.com). These changes will be noted and sent out in monthly Directory Updates.**

**\*\*If you have any questions not answered in the Directory or Venice Views, send an email to [veniceaauw@gmail.com](mailto:veniceaauw@gmail.com).**