

VENICE VIEWS

VOLUME XLVIII, No. 6

February, 2022

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

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

Monthly Meeting Changes from the AAUW Board

We would like to explain the changes we have made to the meetings in 2021-2022. The pandemic resulted in a sharp decrease in membership as people were vastly reducing social contacts. Concurrently, we experienced increased costs and restrictions from the church hall. Therefore, we are researching new locations and accommodating times for our branch meetings. As we review these new venues, we are keeping in mind the finances of our not-for-profit organization and the social opportunities for our members. These are a major consideration to maximize the value we can bring to being a member of the Venice AAUW. We will keep you informed of any upcoming changes by email and the Venice Views.

We are proud of our strong program lineup this year. We know that our members appreciate learning about the topics and issues addressed by our fine speakers that dovetail with the mission of our organization and the goals of our strategic plan. We trust that they will inspire further conversation and actions among our membership. The next meeting will be on **February 10** at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church as planned. The social time begins at 9:30 am, the program begins at 10 am and is a 'Community Impact Day' with People, Inc.



Update on Fellowship Hall Meeting Space

The Operation Manager from the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall spoke to the group at the January meeting to explain the new ventilation system which the church has installed. The system cleans the air particles etc. from the meeting space. However, it does make the air conditioning cooler, so he recommended to the group to bring sweaters or light jackets to our meetings.

Memorial Tributes — Pat Weber

Pat had special education background and after joining AAUW she was drawn naturally to the STEM and Tech Trek activities. She used her contagious enthusiasm and leadership in her role as Education Director for several years until her health prevented her from participating any longer. In this photo at the Annual Meeting in April of 2017 Pat is shown with members who were being recognized for their significant contributions to the Venice branch.



Pat was a mainstay for the AAUW branch. She always cheerfully volunteered to take on assignments and carried them out with enthusiasm. Her main contribution was with Tech Trek and STEM activities. She was on the team when the branch first worked with FL AAUW to begin FL Tech Trek at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg in 2014 and then again in 2015. Shirley Reid was director and Pat worked with the local schools to obtain applicants. These 8th grade girls were then added to the list of girls from across the state of which 44 would be selected to attend Tech Trek. Then as Tech Trek expanded and moved to the east coast, Pat continued to work as a coordinator recruiting local applicants. In addition she helped organize and participate in AAUW STEM activities for school age girls held at the local libraries through the years. She became the AAUW branch Education Director.



Marge Ostrom and Pat Weber

Pictured below: 2015 FL Tech Trek Team and 2018 STEM Event at Jacaranda Library



February 10 is Our First Ever “Family Impact Day!”

Designed as a fun program that allows every member to interact and contribute in a meaningful way, “Family Impact Day” promises to be rewarding for all! Venice AAUW has teamed with Family Promise of South Sarasota County to assemble “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” kits for Moms and children struggling with housing stability. (Note: this dignified term is slowly replacing the label ‘homeless’).



Family Promise of S. Sarasota County was named the 2021 Non-Profit of the year by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. The organization is part of a national network that strives to make homelessness for children RARE, BRIEF, and NON-RECURRING. Learn more at www.familypromisessc.org.

Jennifer Fagenbaum, Executive Director, will speak briefly; then we’ll go to work! But wait – back up! First we each go shopping for items of need in the ‘Neighbors Helping Neighbors’ kits. Do this prior to the February 10 event and bring all items unwrapped, to be placed around our meeting space.

If your last name starts with A through H, shop from the Kitchen Essentials list. Last names starting with I through Z, shop from the Cleaning Supplies list. Everything should be new, and please spend what is personally comfortable. You may purchase everything on the list or multiples of individual items.

Kitchen Essentials (A – H)

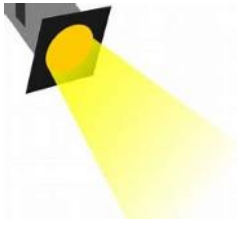
- Coffee Maker or Toaster
- Coffee filters and ground coffee
- 4 coffee mugs
- Paper plates
- Plastic bowls
- Utensils
- Salt and pepper
- Cooking oil
- Small resealable bags
- Kitchen trash bags (10 gallon)
- Laundry detergent & fabric softener

Cleaning Supplies (I – Z)

- Disinfectant wipes
- Multi-purpose cleaners
- Comet bleach powder
- Scrub brush
- Sponges (pack of 3)
- Drain cleaning product
- Window cleaner
- Paper towels (pack of 6)
- Utility scissors
- Dish soap

Trust that these lists have been carefully formulated over time by experts. For a newly housed family, these might be the first thing they bring HOME, and contribute to a sense of pride and dignity.





Member Profile—Jane Metcalf

When you talk to her about her life, the thread that runs through it is a French connection.

Originally from Ohio, she studied French in high school, then chose her college (Mt. St. Joseph) because it had a good French language program.

After gaining her degree, she took off for New York City where she had a sister who lived there.

A year later, she left her New York job working for a Belgian corporation and took off for Germany where she had another sister working for the American Department of Defense. It was there she met her husband who was completing a tour with the U.S. Army.

Back in the United States, she and her husband settled in his home state of Indiana. Together, they formed an accounting partnership and from that, many other businesses came along. They eventually branched off into real estate. As her husband's cousin said of him, He loved "the art of the deal." She learned to love it too and is now retired but still has some rental property in Lafayette, Ind.

She and her husband came to Florida, initially as snowbirds, then settled in full time 16 years ago. Why Venice? Her husband had a cousin who sold real estate in the area. Jane has a daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who live here.

Throughout her life, she kept up her interest in French language and traveled many times to France with a fellow French major. She currently tutors an individual she met through another local conversation group. Our branch's French conversation group was the initial draw that attracted her to AAUW. She's also a bridge player...and says, "I didn't come from a family of card players but my husband's family was." Through both SIG groups, she's found friends with shared interests.

She's a supporter of what "AAUW has done for young women through our scholarship program." And she helped to support branch endeavors with a seven year stint as one of the editors of our *Venice Views* newsletter.

To which we say, "Merci, Jane."

By Judith Houston



Introducing our new AAUW Trifold Brochure for 2022

Our brochure has been updated with a new layout put together professionally by Kathy Black and new descriptions have been written and added beautifully by Pam Swarts. The new brochures will always be available at the Membership table at meetings plus any other social or fundraising events. Just ask for one if you have a prospective new member to whom you would like to give one.

We do have several new members (one is transferring) who we would like to introduce.

Welcome Jane Levin., Debbie Lou Blackwell, Jo Rahaim and Catherine Crowley.

Thank you Kathy Black and Pam Swarts for a beautiful brochure.

Patti Warner
Membership

Visit us on our website:
venice-fl.aauw.net
or:
Facebook.com/AAUWVeniceFL
Email us at:
veniceaauw@gmail.com
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State: aauw-fl.aauw.net
National: aauw.org

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New Member Transfer - Debbie Lou Blackwell



Debbie Lou Blackwell grew up near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Temple University with a B.Sci. Elementary Education and was recruited from Temple University to teach elementary education on St. Croix in The United States Virgin Islands. Debbie received a Master of Education Special Education from The University of the USVI and taught early childhood special education.

After 13 years in the Virgin Islands that was spent sailing and diving as well as teaching, she moved to teach in Maryland for 32 years while living in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. There she enjoyed hiking the Appalachian Trail, biking the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal TowPath and sailing on the Chesapeake Bay searching for the best crab cake (Smith Island).

The mother of two very handsome and talented sons, (the oldest lives in Sarasota, youngest in West Virginia) and grandmother to three adorable little girls. Debbie is very happily retired, messing about on bicycles, boats, traveling and helping at the local Methodist church food pantry. Life is an adventure!

New Member—Catherine Crowley Paulsen



Meet Catherine Crowley Paulsen. She was born at Fort Snelling Hospital Station because her father was in the US Army and was stationed there. She has lived most of her life in St. Paul MN or within 20 miles. Her husband, Walt, and she became Florida residents after moving to The Villages FL in 2004. They still return to Minnesota every summer.

She attended the same grade school that her mother, siblings and her daughter attended. She then attended an all-girls parochial high school with a student body of only 120, and then the University of Minnesota with a student body of 30,000. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy in 1966.

A classmate told her about a US Navy program for occupational therapy in her junior year that offered an officer commission at the end of that year that would provide Ensign pay and allowances in exchange for 2 years active duty after graduation. She immediately bought a 1966 red Mustang convertible! That money also enabled her to do out of state internships.

Upon graduating, Catherine spent six weeks at Officers' School in Newport RI. The next two years of active duty were at Great Lakes Naval Hospital near Chicago. It was the best job she ever had! She worked with physically injured patients and psychiatric patients. Catherine had experiences she would have never had in any other hospital as well as responsibilities at age 21 that she has not encountered since.

When released from the Navy, Catherine returned to St. Paul and worked at the VA Hospital, did consulting in nursing homes, and spent 20 years working in adolescent behavioral health before retiring. Life settled down in St. Paul, but she always wanted to be traveling and expose her daughter to US and international travel.

Sharing And Caring

Patti Warner, Membership Director, - Get well card as she recovers from surgery.

Suzanne Talbot—Get well card as she continues to recover from injuries from a car accident.

Carol Cudia - A Thinking of You card was sent to her as she recovers from Covid.

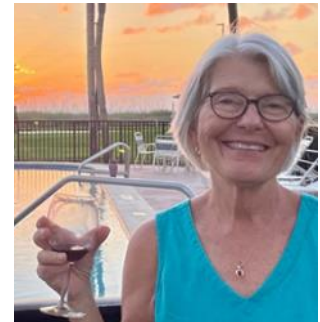
New Member—Jo Rahaim

Jo Rahaim (pronounced “ram”) is excited to join the local chapter of AAUW and to become more active in the Venice community.

Jo became a property owner in Venice 4 years ago in the Aldea Mar condo community. She and her husband, Sam are snowbirds, in FL for the winter months and then return to Bear Lake in northern Michigan for the summer.

She grew up in Farmington, MI but when it came time to go to undergraduate school, Jo chose Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ for a change in venue and experience. After graduation, she returned to Michigan where she married her husband and raised their family in Ann Arbor. Jo received her master’s in social work from the University of Michigan and was employed by the University in several positions: as a medical social worker, a research associate in the School of Public Health, and finally the director of planned gifts in the University Development Office.

She leads an active lifestyle by biking, hiking, playing pickleball, kayaking and traveling. Living year-round in sunshine and warm climates allows her to enjoy these activities year-round. However, the few times the weather is not pleasant, Jo enjoys knitting and reading. Through the years she has participated in several book clubs, women’s discussion groups, and community organizations. She is looking forward to the activities offered by AAUW.

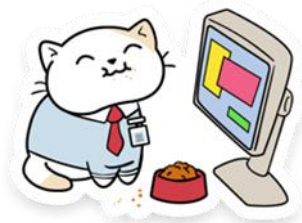


Scholarship Fund Raiser Event

In high style, Baila Miller wowed an audience of over 80 attendees at the Venice Community Center on Thursday, January 13. While the planned power-point didn’t cooperate, Baila spoke extemporaneously for nearly an hour about the connection between art evolution and political and cultural trends. She mingled with the audience, addressed questions in depth, and displayed her grace and subject knowledge! Audience members learned how Peggy Guggenheim, with dissent from her powerful family, managed to bring modern art to America and helped establish a new world capital of art in the United States!

This scholarship fundraising event helped raise over \$1000.





TECH SMART

Are you a curious person? You know that the directory is a complex publication. Would you like to see how to put the elements together? This is your chance to see how it is done.

This invitation is for every curious kitty cat, curious member, or seasoned techie.

See how the Directory is created using Microsoft Publisher.

The Directory and the Venice Views are essential to announce branch events and to reinforce the mission of AAUW.

Come to Paula Dulski's home to see the demonstration.

217 Montelluna Drive in the Venetian Golf and River Club.

Wednesday, February 2 at 3 pm

This is a 'show and tell' on how the information is organized and edited.

Layout

Text Boxes

Columns

Fonts

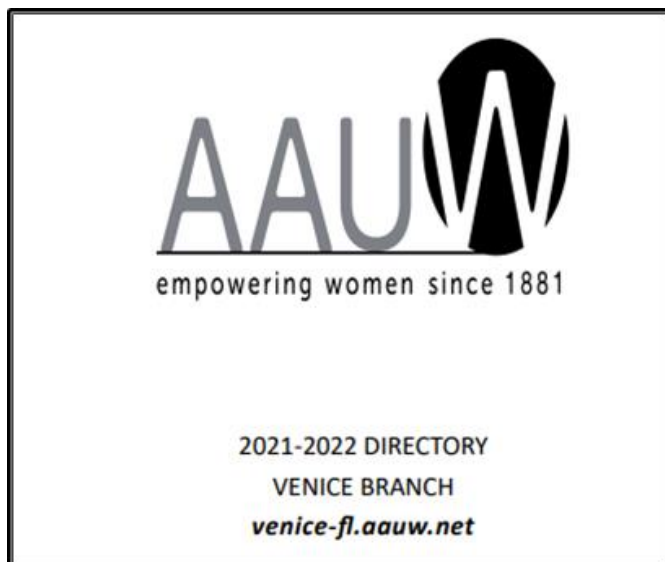
Paragraphs

Page Links

Pictures

Undo-Redo

Moving pages



AAUW General Meeting Minutes - January 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by President, Paula Dulski, following the program by Dr. Karen Holbrook, University of Florida - Regional Chancellor.

Announcements: There will be a tribute for Pat Weber. TBA.

Prepare for next month's meeting with your donations from the Family Impact Day list, which supports our February Program, People, Inc.

Minutes from November 11, 2021 were approved per the December, 2021 Venice Views publication.

The Nominating Committee has completed the slate of officers to be elected July 2022. The position of Development Director needs to be filled.

Treasurer's Report shows as of December 31, 2021, operating assets are \$7,120.43. Fundraising Income for Tech Trek and Scholarship Funds is \$34,760.44. Total Balance of Net Assets - \$41,888.07. The Endowment Fund at Gulf Coast Community is \$31,971.32 with approximately \$1000 available for scholarships this year.

New Memberships were introduced: Sue Donovan, Donna Herold, Aimee Odette and Jo Rahaim. Naureen Zimmerman was a guest.

Study/Interest Groups: New leaders are Joan Kieran for Cooks Corner, Trena Kelly for Exploring with your Camera, Upcoming events are announced in the Venice Views.

Development: The Baila Miller event cleared \$1000 for scholarships. We will participate in the Sarasota County Giving Challenge on April 26 and 27. Save the Date notices will be sent.

Education: The portal to apply for Scholarships has not opened yet. Tech Trek will once again be done virtually.

Communications: Nancy Brex has updated our website. Submissions to newspapers have changed and is more difficult. Continue to check the Venice Views for all new communications from Venice AAUW.

New Business: Kindra Muntz and Carol Lerner explained the upcoming issues on the ballot for March 8: Recommending continuing the 1 mill Referendum for Public Schools and to retain the Single Member District on the Charter Amendment. Each issue is non-partisan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Weltzien, Secretary

Art in the Afternoon

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 23 for our next Art in the Afternoon.

Then email, text, or call Trena Kelly for gate access to IslandWalk where the event is held at the Event Center.

Storytellers interpret art and we have two singing guitar players also interpreting the art.

You'll love the interesting art being presented. Our own Val Dwek has amazing head statues in addition to other artists with paintings and a photo.

Please wear a mask (as all the Sarasota arts organizations require) and we are limiting attendance to 67% of capacity for your safety.

Look forward to seeing you!



1	Ginny	Hurney
3	Lynda	Irvin
7	Debbie	Blackwell
8	Pat	Hirt
8	Mary Lou	Thetford
12	Katie	Morey
13	Beth	Gamel

14	Mary Ann	Dillahunty
15	Suzanne	Biviano
21	Jeri	Jaminet
23	Lidia	Madrazo
24	Gayle	Grant
27	Paula	Choyke



Are you “wild” about wildlife?

Join the **Away Day** group for our next excursion to **Peace River Wildlife Center**, in Punta Gorda. This is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation & education center, tucked neatly into the mangroves overlooking Charlotte Harbor at Ponce de Leon Park, in Punta Gorda Isles.

Since its beginnings, the wildlife center has treated over 50,000 birds and small mammals, offering skilled care by trained wildlife rehabilitation specialists. The Center currently has over 120 permanently disabled wildlife residents. A volunteer will accompany us on a guided tour, to view the spacious aviaries and habitats, suggestive of the animals' native environments.

Date: Thursday, Feb. 17th

Time: 10:00AM – Carpool Leaves from **British Open Pub** (Jacaranda Commons) parking lot

Admission: **Free** (Donations appreciated to support their mission)

For more information contact: Stephanie Hallowell

Mark Your Calendar to Participate!

The Venice Branch of AAUW will be participating in the Giving Challenge this year. The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects non-profit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties will occur on April 26 – 27 from noon to noon. The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.



The Exiles

Our AAUW SIG Book Club will meet in person at 1:15 on Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Jacaranda Library with a discussion of *The Exiles* led by Lynda Weston. Christina Baker Kline, author of bestseller *Orphan train*, has written an ambitious, emotionally resonant novel about three women whose lives are bound together in 19th century Australia and the hardships they weather as they fight for redemption and freedom in a new society.

Cook's Corner

The February 16 Cooks Corner will be held at the home of Anita Tedrow at **11:30 a.m.** Anita's theme is "Side Dishes for a Cookout". The maximum Anita can accommodate is 12, so sign up early by contacting Joan Kieran to let her know you can attend. Anita will send a follow-up email to all guests with directions to her home.

If you wish to be added to our email list for this and future Cooks Corner luncheons, please email Joan. It is a very enjoyable monthly event to get to know other members and to have an exceptional lunch!!

Exploring With Your Camera

Exploring with your camera is meeting Tuesday, February 15 at the North Jetty to meander around, and take photos. We will have lunch at their improved site that offers burgers, beer and tacos. From home we will share our favorite photos--it's always fun to see how differently we captured the same day. If you need to car-pool, call Trena Kelly. Otherwise, let's meet at 10:30 at the North Jetty. Please let Trena know you're coming so she can get an email group for photo sharing. This should be great fun. Put my cell phone number in your contacts for emergencies.

Dorothy Mancini at Art in the Afternoon at January's Event



AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES — FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location/Notes
Thurs	3	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes.
Fri	4	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Elks Club, Nokomis.
Fri	4	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Venetian Golf & River Club
Fri	4	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch - Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	14	1:00	Book Group	Linda Weston Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library. In person Book: <i>The Exiles</i> by Christina Baker Kline
Tues	15	Deadline for March Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com	
Tues	15	10:30	Exploring With Your Camera	Trena Kelly, new contact for SIG	North Jetty
Wed	16	Noon	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Theme: Side dishes for a cook out, hosted by Anita Tedrow
Wed	16	6:00	Evenings Out	Melanie Odom Lois Odom	Leone's Jacaranda Pines Shopping Center, Call or email Melanie by Feb. 14
Thurs	17	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes.
Thurs	17	9:30	Away Day	Stephanie Hallowell	Peace River Wildlife Center, Punta Gorda
Fri	18	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Elks Club, Nokomis.
Mon	21	3:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulsik	Cruise leaving from Venice MarineMax.
Weds	23	11:30	Lunch Bunch, Etc.	Paula Choyke Mary Greenberg	Clever Monkey Craft Grill and Bar, Osprey located in shopping Center, south of Blackburn Point Rd. Call or email Paula to RSVP.
Thur	24	10:00	Play Readers	Fran Brinkman	Fran's home.
Fri	25	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Venetian Golf & River Club
Fri	25	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch - Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.



Venice Views Editor for February: Susan Hotzler

E-copies Circulation: Paula Dulski

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 Formatted File or an Email

Pictures in JPG Format Only!

Deadline for the March issue of Venice Views is 2/15/2022