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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH**

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: PAULA DULSKI

BRANCH: [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net) STATE: [aauw-fl.aauw.net](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net) NATIONAL: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

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

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Hopefully you made your reservation by the deadline, November 26th, and are looking forward to the luncheon. Our new venue, the Palm Clubhouse at Sarasota National, is at 25500 National Boulevard. Take Rt 41 towards North Port. Pass the traffic light at Venice East Boulevard and look for the entry to Sarasota National on your right. It's a gated community so check in at the guard house and proceed to follow National Boulevard for some distance until you reach the clubhouse on your left. There is plenty of parking.

We will start at 11:00 a.m. with a social time while we enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink. Tickets for wine or beer can be purchased for \$6. Our welcome will be at 11:50 a.m. and the luncheon of Chicken Marsala or Vegan Pad Thai will start at noon, followed by Holiday Cheesecake. Entertainment will be provided by the trio Paradise Found followed by the 50/50 raffle and thank you to the committee. The committee includes:

Dottie Bingman and Marge Ostrom – planning co-chairs

Pam Swarts and Anita Kunkle– promoting and collecting stuffed stockings for Schoolhouse Link.

Naureen Zimmerman – helping with registration and greeting members

Bobbie Amero – lives in Sarasota National and secured the clubhouse. As treasurer she handles the finances for the event.

Carol Miske and Barbara Swartz– selling wine/beer tickets

Maggie Surwilo and Kathleen Pickering – 50/50 raffle

\* \* \* See **Page 4** for specifics on bringing Stocking Stuffers to the luncheon, for School Link donations! \* \* \*



### **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT PAULA DULSKI**



The AAUW Board of Directors hopes your Thanksgiving was very special. We all look forward to a festive Holiday Celebration as it is the season to be jolly. Your board has been working diligently to bring you community and mission based programs, friendly study/interest groups, and a variety of fundraisers. You will love what 2023 has in store for the Venice Branch.

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR PATTI WARNER**



The rainy day did not dampen the spirit of our first meeting of the year. It was fun and informative from start to finish. Our new member, Carol McGrain, was introduced. Our two guests were welcomed—Toni McGuire and Marigene Witten and by the end of the meeting they both had filled out membership applications. We are still attracting new members and have taken in five since the start of this year. I can tell it is going to be another great year in AAUW Venice.

### **NEW MEMBER VICTORIA COULTER**



Victoria moved to Venice almost 3 years ago. At that time she was still employed and planned on going into “semi retirement”. The world changed and she officially retired April 1, 2021 after 43 years as a Flight Attendant with American Airlines.

She was born in New York and raised in New Jersey. Attending Duquesne University, she graduated with dual certification in both Special Education and Elementary Education. She says she never had much of a chance to put her degree to good use because back then jobs were scarce and highly competitive. She then did some long term substitute teaching. Victoria loved to travel, so she applied to many major airlines. She planned on seeing as much of the world for a “few” years. Victoria married, had two children and worked at her own pace while being "class" mom many years, chaperoning school trips and taking the kids to lots of fun and exciting places.

Victoria always loved to be creative and used to paint furniture, knit, crochet, sew, and actually made custom lampshades from scratch. One day she tried to make a leather bracelet and the rest is history. Today she has over 22k followers on Instagram and makes jewelry when in the mood! She sells to a local boutique and toys with starting her own website. The name of her business is MarleeLovesRoxy (named after her former Standard Poodle and her almost 14-year-old Pomeranian Roxy.)

When the pandemic hit in March 2020 she was still flying. Being able to stay out of work for almost one year on a paid leave, she decided to take a Real Estate course and is working on actively trying to get started. Victoria works for Keller Williams Island Life.

Victoria is always up for an adventure. In fact, she is already contemplating her next move. She truly looks forward to meeting other AAUW women and share her experiences as well as ideas. She is so happy to be a part of this organization!

## **REGIONAL MEETING**

The Venice AAUW hosted the Regional Branch Leader Workshop along with State President Bea Holt at the Venice Art Center on November 9. The theme for the meeting was Governance and Leadership Development. Thirty-three members from seven branches located in Southwestern Florida attended the meeting.



## **AAUW REACTS TO THE LATEST PAY GAP DATA**

Women's economic security is under constant threat and, no matter how you measure it, the gender pay gap remains persistent and unacceptable. In a calculation of the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau comparing full-time, year-round workers, women took home 83.7% of the pay that men did —a figure that is not statistically different from the pay gap in 2020. In addition, a more comprehensive calculation that compared everyone with earnings in 2021 (including part-time and seasonal workers) found that women were paid a shocking 77% of men's wages last year.

For more information on the pay gap and women's retirement pay gap see the AAUW National Website. [Alice Haber, Public Policy Director]

## RECAP OF NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

### Schoolhouse Link – Serving Students in Residential Transition

*(. . . why you'll want to shop for a fun Christmas stocking very soon!)*

The November program – presented 'on the fly' by Pam Swarts and Anita Kunkle - introduced members to a service provided by Sarasota public schools that helps homeless students enroll, attend and succeed in school. "Schoolhouse Link" is a partnership between Safe Child Coalition, Inc. and the Sarasota County School Board. In the aftermath of a tropical storm, Ellen McLaughlin, director, was unable to be with us but provided some compelling program background:

While being in a school environment provides the healthiest, most stable hours of the day for many children, the emotional stress of living in transition makes focusing on school extremely challenging. Being chronically late, not having clean clothing, or lacking school supplies are additional stressors.

Ellen and her team of case managers served 749 students last year, with about half being in elementary school, and she predicts the number will be doubled by the end of this school year. She reports, "Traditionally, 75% of our families are headed by single female parents, and the biggest issue we see now is the lack of affordable housing. We are currently working with approximately 100 families who were displaced by Hurricane Ian, in addition to about 20 families who have come from Ukraine."

***\*\* What can we do? Stuff a fun Christmas stocking! \*\****

Plan to bring a donation for Schoolhouse Link to the Holiday Luncheon on December 8<sup>th</sup>! Ellen suggested Christmas stockings stuffed with goodies, both practical and fun, and labeled by grade level and gender. Suggestions for elementary students: crayons, markers, scissors; for middle & HS: highlighters, folders, calculators. Also: socks, toothbrush/paste, hairbrush, puzzle or book, edible treats, etc. No wrapping!

Ellen plans to join us on Thursday, February 2 for a recap of her program and our AAUW impact. [Pam Swarts]

## AAUW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Our General Meeting was held at the Jervey Venice Public Library.

The program planned for today's meeting, "Serving Homeless Youth," had to be postponed. The scheduled speaker, Ellen McLaughlin, Director of School House Link of Sarasota Schools, was unable to attend because of resultant travel difficulties from Hurricane Nicole. Pam Swarts and Anita Kunkle shared information regarding School House Link and will be rescheduling.

President Dulski called the business meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Finance Report – Bobbi Amero:

Operating Funds - \$14,995.49

Tech Trek - \$11,058.92

Scholarship - +/- \$8,000.00

Gulf Coast - \$27,382.43

Membership – Patti Warner:

Introduced 2 guests

24 new members over past 2 years

Thank you to Paula Dulski for her work on our Directory

Education - Wendy Seeley:

Five Scholarships were awarded – 3 new applicants and 2 previous recipients

February 2, 2023 program will introduce awardees

Tech Trek – 2 in-person camps this year

Volunteer outreach is a future goal

Communication – Susan Hotzler:

All meetings are announced in Main Street Calendar

Questions regarding use of social media, Facebook

Considering evening or weekend meetings to attract working women

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting Adjourned - 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Harris, Secretary





## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS– 2022–2023

### BOOK CLUB

Would you like to read historical fiction that's also a mystery and a coming of age story? The AAUW book club will be reading just such a book for December: *Downstairs Girl* by Stacey Lee.

Jean Norman will lead the discussion in person Monday, December 12 at the Jacaranda Library. Book discussion begins at 1:30, but come anytime after 1:00 p.m. to catch up with what others are reading.



### COASTAL CRUISING

Coastal cruising will be on vacation in December. We will cruise again in January!

### COOK'S CORNER

For this month only, Cook's Corner will meet the **second** Wednesday of the month on **December 14, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**, at the home of Nancy Brex. A salad buffet and holiday cookie exchange (bring 3 dozen) is planned. RSVP to Joan Kieran.



### EVENINGS OUT

There will be **no** Evenings Out gathering in December. See you all in January.  
Happy Holidays to one and all!

## EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA

Call Trena Kelly to join our fun group outings to interesting places to photograph and usually enjoy lunch.

We meet the 3rd Tuesday except when an event is available a different date. We usually bring our cell phones, but serious photographers are welcome, too. December 13 we are going to Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda to see their fabulous holiday decorations and have lunch. December 15 a few of us are going to the Ringling Museum 5:00-8:00 p.m. where, if you bring an unwrapped toy, admission is free to see their decorations. Bring a spouse or friend. The home is also open for free.



## LUNCH BUNCH, ETC.

Our December Lunch Bunch will be meeting on **December 28 at 11:30 a.m. at The Point Restaurant** which is located at 131 Bayview Drive, Osprey. Please contact **Lydia Russo by phone or email by December 26** if you are planning to attend.

Directions: Take 41 N to Bay Avenue. At the light, make a left and then make the first left which will take you to the parking lot and restaurant. We will be on the second floor and there is an elevator. If you pass Spanish Point, you have gone too far.





## **Jingle, Jingle Meet & Mingle**

*Join Venice AAUW members  
At Café Venice,  
101 W. Venice*

***Monday, December 12  
4 to 6 pm***

*We had such a good time at our October Meet & Mingle,  
We are doing it again.*

***No charge but it's BYOD....Buy your own drinks!**  
(Consider an appetizer or dinner while you're here.  
And please bring your name tag  
so newer members will know who you are.*

*To help us in our planning, please r.s.v.p.  
to one of the party planners,  
Kathleen Pickering [kecumings@gmail.com](mailto:kecumings@gmail.com)  
or Judy Houston [judywrites.jh@gmail.com](mailto:judywrites.jh@gmail.com)*

**WALK AND TALK AT MAXINE BARRITT PARK**  
Every Tuesday morning 9:00 a.m. with Beth Gamel





## ART IN THE AFTERNOON - THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

The Event Center was flooded in Islandwalk and re-opening date is uncertain. We have booked the Venice library as a backup site so there may be slight changes in timing. January is still on so **Save the Date - Wednesday January 25**. We will update the time and location when available. Call Trena Kelly with questions.



### MIX AND MINGLE -- PARADISE GRILL





## SHARING AND CARING

Thinking of You card sent to Barbara Gahry as her husband is scheduled for heart surgery.

**Please email Marge Collin and let her know of any illnesses/accidents/deaths or other events happening to our members within our branch. We need input from all members!**



12	1	Carol Cudia
12	1	Gail DeVet
12	3	Kathy Black
12	4	Bernice Allison
12	5	Kathy Dierstein
12	6	Susan Leege
12	9	Susan Hotzler
12	9	Patti Warner
12	10	Karen Cianci
12	10	Naureen Zimmermann
12	11	Judith Kolk
12	12	Jean Norman
12	13	Diane Sisko
12	15	Dottie Bingman
12	16	Sylvia Orosj
12	17	Elaine Jarchow
12	18	Amy Schirber
12	19	Carol Sbabo
12	20	Carole Goolden
12	22	Catherine Paulsen
12	27	Jan Harris
12	28	Marge Collin
12	30	Emily Jennings
12	30	Jo Rahaim
12	30	Ronnie Storch

## AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES — DECEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

Day	Date	Time	Event	Contact	Location/Notes
Fri	2	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Tues	6	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr S, Venice
Fri	9	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.
Mon	12	1:30	Book Group	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library, in person. Book: <i>Downstairs Girl</i> by Stacey Lee.
Mon	12	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Kathleen Pickering Judy Houston	Café Venice, 101 W. Venice Ave.
Tues	13	TBD	Exploring with your Camera	Trena Kelly	Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda. Call/text/email Trena Kelly for details and registration
Tues.	13	12:30	Mahjong	Andie Mercer Naureen Zimmerman	Elks Club, 1021 Discovery Way, off Knights Trail, Nokomis
Tues	13	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr S, Venice
Wed	14	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Theme: Salad Buffet and Holiday Cookie Exchange. RSVP to Joan.
Thurs	15	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes.
Thurs	15	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for more information.
Thurs	15	<b>Deadline for JANUARY Venice Views</b>		<b>Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a></b>	
Fri	16	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Tue	20	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice 1800 Harbor Dr S, Venice
Fri	23	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. You Sign up in advance.
Tues	27	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice
Wed	28	11:30	Lunch Bunch, Etc.	Lydia Russo	The Point Restaurant, 131 Bayview Dr., Osprey. Contact Lydia to reserve spot.



Venice Views Editor for December: Jeri Jaminet

E-copy Circulation: Susan Donovan

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

**[Text in Word Formatted File](#)**

**[Pictures in JPG Format Only!](#)**

Deadline for the **January** issue of Venice Views is **12/15/2022**