



VENICE VIEWS

Volume XLVIX No. 8 April, 2023 Published Monthly
American Association of University Women, Venice, Florida Branch
P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284
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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

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2023-25

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the Venice AAUW proposed Slate of Officers for 2023-2025.

Co-Presidents: Beverly Weltzien and Jan Harris

Secretary: Jo Rahaim

Membership: Marge Collin

Nominating: Patti Warner and Naureen Zimmerman

The Nominating Committee members are: Joyce Mikulski (chair), Lynda Weston (secretary), Trena Kelly, Kathleen Pickering, Marge Collin, and Patti Warner (ad hoc).

This slate will be voted on during the April Annual Meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor with the nominee's permission.



ANTICIPATING THE APRIL 13 ANNUAL MEETING!!

We return to the morning schedule for the upcoming April member meeting at the Jervey Library. Join like-minded women Thursday, April 13 at 10:00 am to set-up, socialize and sign up for various fund-raising and SIG events. Bring books to share. Get ready for news about the future!

Important features of the Annual Meeting include election of officers, announcement of new directors, and appreciation for service. We're honored (and very lucky) to have the President of Florida AAUW, Bea Holt, in our branch! Bea will give a "State of the State" update and share her visions for the future of AAUW.

For continued connection with like-minded women, attendees are invited to a post-meeting lunch at Café Venice, 101 West Venice Ave. (Side note: Café Venice is the ONLY Main Street full-service restaurant owned by a woman! It's also where our evening Mix and Mingle SIG events take place.) Plan to 'go dutch' and bring extra cash for tips.

Two important caveats: First, reservations are required (and space is limited) so please RSVP to Lynda Weston no later than Monday, April 10. Second, as parking is always a premium downtown, connect with friends at the start of the April 13th meeting to plan mini-carpoools from the library to the restaurant. Precious parking is available in a small lot immediately after the turn onto Miami Avenue. [President, Paula Dulski]

Lobby Days March 15-17 in Tallahassee



Dr. Kay Lee-Smith, Florida Director for Public Policy (in black suit), prepared the members with an agenda for Lobby Days held on March 14 and 15. Eight AAUW members from all corners of Florida attended. Kay selected bills in the House or Senate that were relevant to AAUW interests. Important issues related to school choice, human trafficking, employee leave and wage and salary history were highlighted. We were able to make appointments with Senator Lauren Book, Senate Minority Leader, who has a bill on Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools. She spent a half hour with us to discuss a wide variety of issues. We also met with Representative Fentrice Driskell, the House Minority Leader, about a bill on Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle in the Education System.

Venice members Nancy Savenko, Paula Dulski and Susan Donovan visited Senator Joe Gruters' (R-District 22) office to leave information with him. He came out of a committee meeting and we were fortunate to see him for a short visit and a picture. We attended a Senate committee meeting on Partisan Elections for School Boards where Senator Joe Gruters spoke in favor of the bill while speakers from the public presented opposing views. It was a fascinating visit to the Florida Congress to experience the process of government. [Paula Dulski]





Dr. Jennifer Jaso, featured March Speaker

Dr. Jennifer Jaso captivated an audience of nearly 60 Venice AAUW members and guests with her presentation entitled “Beyond Names, Dates & Dead People: Teaching Historical Literacy & Critical Thinking to Affect Change.” As the 2022 Sarasota County District Teacher of the Year and 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year finalist, Jaso began by expressing her appreciation for connecting with Venice AAUW members.

Jennifer’s passion for history – and its power to shape the future – collides with her love for working with children. She is committed to cultivating a community of lifelong-learners who appreciate the past through research, inquiry, corroboration, and project-based learning.

She put us through the introductory steps of a critical thinking exercise like what she uses in the classroom. We were challenged to question a framework that might pass as ordinary as we critiqued a painting called “The First Thanksgiving.” It could well have been in our history textbooks! Jennifer drew our attention to the fact that the painting was created in the 1900’s while depicting an event in the 1600’s. She asked us to reflect on cultural issues in both eras, what religious beliefs were predominant, what roles women played, and what else was happening in the world.

Jennifer stated that her primary goal is to motivate civil and informed citizens. What better can we be if not this!!

[Pam Swarts, Program Director]

Program Think-Tank slated for Tuesday, April 25

Have you heard a great speaker lately? Do you know of an issue related to AUUW's mission that we should explore? Want to be part of planning for an important part of our organization's presence in the community?

Input from our members is sought for planning general meeting programming for 2023-2024. A robust think-tank is planned from 9:30 – 11:30 am on Tuesday, April 25, with light breakfast fare provided; location to be announced. It will be a fun way to interact, with little or no obligation to serve on the official program committee -- unless you volunteer of course!

Watch for a sign-up sheet at the April 13th meeting, or email Pam Swarts, Program Chair

Equal Pay Day

The gender pay gap is real, persistent and harms women's financial well-being. Women often have greater job insecurity and are under-represented in decision-making roles. National Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earn in the previous year. It originated in 1966 to increase public awareness about the pay gap between men's and women's wages.

The Venice Branch will observe this day on Friday, April 14, 2023. You can help organize the event. Should we plan a lunch and/or a short march through downtown to the gazebo?

Contact Paula Dulski to sign up and to help plan the activity for equity awareness.

Member Profile: Hilda Dillman



Moving to Florida was a home run, in fact many home runs. Hilda Dillman and her sister, now deceased, spent a number of years indulging their love for baseball by vacationing in Florida from their native Maryland during spring training season.

Almost on a whim, the two siblings contracted to purchase a house under construction in Rotonda. Back home, they had to unload two homes with mortgages and a third vacation cottage. She says, "Here you have two middle-aged women putting their houses up for sale." Luckily, for the pair, their Maryland real estate eventually found new owners.

Hilda says, "I left my 'real job' in Maryland which was managing information system projects in health insurance. She took early retirement and began consulting with companies in the health insurance field, so she eventually quit and went back to school to complete a bachelor's degree.

She moved to Florida full-time in 1995 and worked for a non-profit for a few years, then for Weight Watchers. Then, she says, "I really retired."

You may know Hilda from her involvement in the AAUW book group (which she co-chairs with Lynda Weston). In fact, it was Lynda who steered her to AAUW. She knew Lynda from another of her interests, English handbells. While having lunch one day, she asked Lynda if she knew of a book club and was directed to our branch. This "book lady" is also a volunteer with the (Charlotte County) Friends of the Library and in the library at her church.

Baseball remains her overwhelming indulgence with tickets to games the primary source of entertainment when relatives come to visit. "I love baseball," she explains. "I would watch baseball every day of the year if I could." [Judith Houston]

**AAUW Presents
The Game Day Shuffle**



Join AAUW for a fun-filled afternoon playing a variety of easy games such as Bunco, 99, Mexican Train, Bingo, Yahtzee, and Family Feud. All are welcome!

The event will be held on April 20, 2023 from 2 to 5 in the afternoon at the Grand Palm Social Club, 1900 Observation Blvd., Venice. Your donation of \$25.00 per person will enable AAUW to offer additional scholarships to women and girls who want to continue their education.

Light refreshments will be available.

Please RSVP to Marge Collin on or before April 17, 2023.

New Member Profile: Sybil Hoffmeyer



I grew up in Belmont, MA, a suburb of Boston. Summers were spent in West Yarmouth, on Cape Cod, and those memories are some of the happiest of my life. I graduated in 1967 from UMass/Amherst with a major in History/Government and a minor in Education.

After college graduation, I briefly lived in Brattleboro, VT and then settled in South Dartmouth, MA. I started a family and eventually moved to Venice, Florida in 1983 when my children, Rich and Mark, were two and three. I love living in Florida and have never considered residing anywhere else.

My career path has been varied, but focused primarily on real estate, the law and finance. I retired in 2008, after having been a Residential Bank Loan Officer for 15 years and a Real Estate Paralegal for 9 years. I was an active member of the Venice business community and am fortunate to still have many friends who live and work here.

I enjoy playing Mahjongg, reading, walking, and socializing. I also enjoy all things French and am looking forward to belonging to the French Conversation SIG.

I have two sons. Mark, his wife and 2 college-age children live in Lakewood Ranch. Rich and his family live in Jupiter. I am fortunate to have them close and can spend time with them often.

I am looking forward to my membership in AAUW and hoping to contribute in ways meaningful to both AAUW and me.

Thank you for being so warm in welcoming me!

From *Talking to the Wild* by Becky Hemsley

Joyce Mikulski read this poem at the AAUW Book Club March meeting, and the group suggested that it be shared in the newsletter for all the members.

She sat at the back and they said she was shy
She led from the front and they hated her pride
They asked her advice and then questioned her guidance
They branded her loud then were shocked by her silence
When she shared no ambition, they said it was sad
So she told them her dreams and they said she was mad
They told her they'd listen then covered their ears
And gave her a hug whilst they laughed at her fears
And she listened to all of it thinking she should
Be the girl they told her to be best as she could
But one day she asked what was best for herself
Instead of trying to please everyone else



So she walked to the forest and stood with the trees
She heard the wind whisper and dance with the leaves
And she spoke to the willow, the elm and the pine
And she told them what she'd been told time after time
She told them she felt she was never enough
She was either too little or far, far too much
Too loud or too quiet, too fierce or too weak
Too wise or too foolish, too bold or too meek
Then she found a small clearing surrounded by firs
And she stopped and she heard what the trees said to her
And she sat there for hours not wanting to leave
For the forest said nothing, it just let her breathe

New Member Coffee



Toni McGuire, Nancy Savenko, Sybil Hoffmeyer, Barbara Gahry, Carol Stevenson, Carol McGrain, Dagmar Collins, Peggy Greene, Vicki Coulter (Not pictured, accidentally cut off when picture was taken).

Our New Member Coffee on March 20th at the home of Paula Dulski was a success!

The Board Members met with 9 talented, enthusiastic new members. We all got to know each other a little better and they learned a lot more about AAUW Venice from each Board member. Our future is bright with all these new faces joining us in our mission!



A comfortable chair
is no use to anyone
without a good book.

BOOK EXCHANGE

JUDY KOLK needs **assistants** to transfer the books to and from the branch meeting.

It will be easy with several members handling the book exchange.

Contact Judy or Paula Dulski



- 4/10 Melanie Odom
- 4/13 Nancy Donelson
- 4/15 Anita Kunkle
- 4/23 DeDee Connor

If you are not mentioned in the birthday list, please let us know, as it is an oversight we would like to correct. [Jeri Jaminet]

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

The third and final Art in the Afternoon will be held Wednesday March 29 at the Venice downtown Public Library at 11:30am. There will be a fun and inspiring set of performances including music, artwork and storytelling. Admission is free. Invite your friends since it is open to the public. [Beth Gamel]

LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE 2023-2024 DIRECTORY

Our organization needs assistance with editing and proofing the Venice Branch Directory for the coming year. This could be done in either Publisher or Word. We can provide the current Publisher file for the person(s) who are interested in assisting with this task.

The main tasks are to add new members' information for the next year's directory, update information for the 2024 meetings, and make changes of the board members and committee members. Also, we need members who will proofread the directory to ensure information is correct. [Nancy Brex and Susan Hotzler, Co-Chairs for Communication]

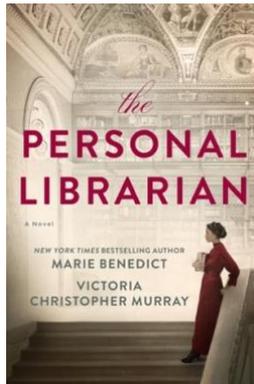
Study/ Interest Groups

WALK AND TALK



The Walk and Talk group continues to meet at Maxine Barritt Park every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. The pace is moderate on the beautiful paved walkway around the pond and near the gulf. We gather at 8:45 under the large pavilion next to Sharky's. There is no sign-up. Instead, you show up to enjoy time together with other AAUW members. Any questions? Call Beth Gamel

BOOK CLUB



Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray is the Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources 2023 One Book One Community selection. Any of the AAUW Book Club members who were able to hear co-author Victoria Murray speak about *Personal Librarian* in March will be able to share insights when Pam Swarts leads the discussion on April 10th at the Jacaranda Library. Book discussion will begin at 1:30, but everyone will want to be there early to see which books the group has voted to read for 2023-2024. [Hilda Dillman]

EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA



The “Exploring with your CAMERA” SIG met on March 14th at the Rookery just off Route 41 in Venice. AAUW member Barbara Zittel is an Audubon volunteer at the bird sanctuary. She helped identify birds on the island in the center of the pond and shared information about them and their migratory patterns. Barbara spends much of her volunteer time with the purple martins. She counts eggs and checks on the health of the adults. It was a wonderful morning! Thanks, Barbara!

This SIG is looking for a new leader. It has morphed a bit away from the emphasis on cameras, but still visits interesting places, photographing interesting/unique things, sharing photos and often eating lunch. If you’d be willing to do this, please contact the SIG Director. [Lynda Weston]



Lunch Bunch

Enjoy having lunch with other AAUW members this month at the British Open Pub. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 11:30. We hope to see you on the 26th! Call or email either Beth Gamel or Lydia Russo.

EXPLORING THE BANNED



“Exploring the Banned” is a new SIG recently approved by our AAUW Board. The purpose of the group is to explore issues of censorship and the banning of books and topics within our society, especially within educational institutions. Lead by Lynda Weston, who handled book challenges in her position as a school administrator, this SIG will meet for the first time on Monday, March 27th at 1:30 in the Youth Room of the Jacaranda Library. Preregistration is not required, but if you are interested in this topic, please send your name to Lynda so she can include you on a contact list. Discussions will include: the potential results of removal of materials from the public, age appropriateness of materials, parental choice, institution choice, societal choice, first amendment rights, etc.

MIX AND MINGLE

This month's Mix and Mingle will take place at Café Venice from 4 to 6 on April 17th. [Kathleen Pickering]

COOK'S CORNER



May love and laughter fill your days, may peace and plenty bless your world! We sure did have blessings at the March Cook's Corner along with all kinds of shepherd's pie, corned beef and cabbage, soup, Guinness brownies and hot tea. It was a chilly cloudy Irish type day. Debbie Blackwell, March host

Plans for April will be sent to all those on the email list as well as any welcome newcomers who email me to be added to the list. [Joan Kiernan]

AAUW-Venice Branch General Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2023

President Dulski called the Branch's General Meeting to order at 2:30.

Minutes of 2/2/23 Branch Meeting as submitted to Venice Views were approved.

Treasurer Bobbi Amero

- Total assets - \$35,224.46
- Operating funds - \$14,279.52
- Tech trek - \$11,058.92
- USF Pat Weber Scholarship - \$1,000

Chair Reports

Membership - Patti Warner

Introduced new members

Program – Pam Swarts

April 14th Branch meeting will be our Annual Meeting and election of officers

Introduced concept of *Think Tank* for program ideas

Communications – Susan Hotzler/Nancy Brex – no report

Study/Interest – Lynda Weston

Signup sheets are available for all activities

Proposal of new SIG -*Exploring the Banned*

Education – Wendy Seeley

Tech Trek decisions made for 3 campers

Scholarship applications in process

Old Business

Survey Questionnaire – Bev Weltzien

Questionnaire distributed to those who had not previously completed it

Telephone tree will be established to reach entire membership

New Business

Nominating Committee – Joyce Mikulski, Chair

Announcement of Nominations:

Co-Presidents - Bev Weltzien and Jan Harris

Secretary – Jo Rahaim

Membership – Marge Collin

Nominating Committee – Patti Warner and Naureen Zimmerman

Announcements

April 20, 2023 – Game Day Shuffle, Grand Palm Social Club

Melanie Odom – sign up for Evening Out

Paula Dulski – Equal Pay Day April 14th

Meeting adjourned at 3:30

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Harris

Secretary

SHARING AND CARING



Cards were sent to:

Carol Beyer, who is recovering from a nasty fall.

Karol Olson, who has been injured in a fall.

Marigene Witten, recovering from a knee replacement.

Marge Collin

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR APRIL 2023

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Tues	4	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, Meet at Big Pavilion, 20-to-30-minute brisk walk.
Fri	7	11:30	Euchre	Charlente Turcyn	Location to be determined.
Mon	10	1:30	Book Group	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	<i>THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN</i> by Marie Benedict and Victoria C. Murray Jacaranda Library
Tues	11	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, Meet at Big Pavilion, 20-to-30-minute brisk walk.
Tues	11	11:30	Exploring with Your Camera	TBD	TBD
WED	12	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for dates, times, and location The goal is to meet twice a month.
SAT	15		Deadline for May Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com
Mon	17	4:00 to 6:00	Mix and Mingle	Kathleen Pickering	Café Venice
Tues	18	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barritt Park, Meet at Big Pavilion, 20-to-30-minute brisk walk
Wed	19	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	TBD
Thurs	20	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridan, Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bridge boxes
Fri	21	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turcyn	Location to be determined.
Mon	24	1:30	Exploring the Banned	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library Youth Room
Mon	24	3:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Venice Marine Max
Wed	26	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Beth Gamel or Linda Russo	Meet at 11:30 at The British Open Pub
Fri	28	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch – Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance



Venice Views Editor for April:

Nancy Brex

E-copies Circulation: Susan Donovan

Reminder for Sharing and Caring Cards:

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 your input!!

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—Pictures in JPG Format Only!

Deadline for the May issue of Venice Views is **4/15/2023**.