

VOLUME XLVIX, No. 9 MAY 2023 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

May's Meeting On May 11 at the William Jervey Library at 10:00 am



The 'official' program year and member meetings wrap up with a bang on Thursday, May 11, at the Jervey Library when fun-loving Jan Harris presents "**Women's Friendships: Current Topics and Issues.**" Jan will draw upon current research and a variety of resources regarding the impact of Covid and social media specific to women. She hopes that members will find this presentation to be interesting, interactive, and meaningful.

Sound a bit scholarly? Yes, Dr. Jan Harris is Professor Emeritus at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts where she has taught for 40 years. She holds a Masters and PhD from Boston University and began her higher education at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology.

She and her husband, Bob, have been married for 48 years and maintain a home in Nantucket. In 2009, they bought their first home in Venice. Shortly thereafter, while volunteering at the Venice Art Center, she met an AAUW member and immediately joined the branch. Jan has been active with home tours, scholarship fund-raising, and service as board secretary.

Jan is sincere and enthusiastic about AAUW, saying "I'm thrilled to be part of a vibrant group of women who are truly engaged in empowering other women!"

Together with Bev Weltzien, Jan will become part of the first-ever Venice branch Co-President team in the coming year!

[Pam Swarts, Program Director]

P.S. The year really isn't ending . . . For those who are present in June, an outing to the Venice Historical Museum is planned for Thursday, June 8th at 10 am followed by lunch at the Venice Art Center!

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on April 13, and gave members an opportunity to meet incoming officers, show appreciation to those who have served on the board, and thank the volunteers who work on various committees. As your outgoing President, it was both rewarding and nostalgic, and I'll treasure the Maritime compass that I was given! Congratulations to four new Venice Branch officers! Your new co-presidents will be Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien who have great plans for the branch. Marge Collin will be the Membership Director and Jo Rahaim has accepted the role of Secretary. In addition, Patti Warner and Naureen Zimmerman are the elected members of the Nominating Committee, which reports to the board. Other outgoing board members are Bev Weltzien, Vice President; Jan Harris, Secretary; and Patti Warner, Membership Director.

Bea Holt, our AAUW Florida President, shared updates on the activities of the state organization. AAUW Florida coordinates the Tech Trek science camps, and this year 94 seventh grade girls will attend two university locations. The state organizes webinars covering subjects such as DEI and the 1619 Project which all members are invited to watch.

Bea has planned four State Regional meetings to inspire the 30 state branches to share common challenges and successes. She also holds Zoom meetings for branch leaders so they can interact with counterparts across the state. Her focus is to keep the branches informed, effective and mission based. She ended by reminding members to say "YES" to opportunities to become more involved in branch activities.

Thirty-four members attended the post-meeting lunch at Café Venice. This was a special time to socialize and enjoy conversation with like-minded women! For those who will begin to migrate to their northern homes for the summer, we bid safe travels and a welcome return.

Paula Dulski





Joyce Mikulski (with microphone) introduced members of the nominating committee: (from left) Marge Collin, Lynda Weston, Trena Kelly & Patti Warner



Bea Holt (far right) did a personable induction of new board members: Jo Rahaim, Secretary; Jan Harris & Bev Weltzien, Co-Presidents; Marge Collin, Membership Director; & Patti Warner, Nominating Committee member.



Bea Holt, Florida AAUW President and long-time Venice AAUW member, gave opening remarks and received a 'thank you' orchid from Venice AAUW President, Paula Dulski.

Bea Holt bestowed the official AAUW Past-President's pin for Paula Dulski.





In-coming Co-Presidents, Bev and Jan, presented Paula with an engraved Maritime Compass engraved with words of appreciation.. (Paula leads our coastal cruising special interest group.)

Thank You Pam Swarts for being the photographer at the Officer Installation.

Membership Director's Message

What a great year for AAUW Membership! After struggling through a couple of Covid years our membership is now climbing towards 180, still making us the largest branch in Florida. Since the beginning of the new year (July 1) we have introduced 15 new members. So many have been guests brought by you, but we have had several very new members bringing their friends to us, too.

Our future is bright for accomplishing our mission driven goals with all these enthusiastic new members who have been asking "how can we help?" Since our membership seems to be changing every month, a wonderful way to get to know the new members is by being a mentor to them. Consider volunteering to be a new member mentor and always let membership know at veniceaauw@gmail.com if any personal information has changed for you.

Forty-five of us attended the Annual Meeting to thank many who had been on committees and on the Board, to install the new officers, and then many went on to enjoy lunch at Café Venice afterward. We hope to see even more of you at the next meeting on May 11th.

Patti Warner

Membership Director



To all new members: please send a bio and a jpeg formatted picture to be published in Venice Views if you have not done so yet. We want to know more about you! Send them to veniceaauw@gmail.com.

Annual Dues For 2024

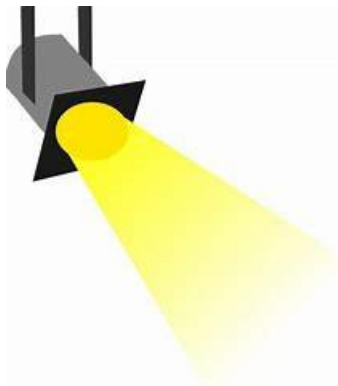
AAUW National dues for FY24 will be \$72.00 in accordance with the three-year increase implemented by the AAUW Board of Directors back in October 2020. This rate became effective in the system on April 1, 2023. This new rate applies to both new and renewing members. The Shape the Future discount of 50% off national dues when processing new members remains in effect.

Because of the increase in national dues, the total for Venice Branch membership will increase from \$98.00 to \$103.00 as of April 1, 2023. AAUW National will be sending out renewal notices. Members can renew online or can send a check for \$103.00 to: AAUW Venice, P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284. Please keep in mind that newer members have a different renewal date as national instituted rolling renewal dates in FY 2023.

Please direct any questions to Bobbi Amero, Finance Director.

Exploring Banned Books etc. SIG

Twenty-one interested women met in March to begin discussing the issue of banning books in schools in Florida and other related issues. For the April 24th meeting at 1:30 in the Jacaranda Library Youth Room, each attendee has been asked to read a book from a banned list and to bring an article regarding banning books in Florida. The books and articles will be discussed in small groups, then the highlights shared with the group at large. We will decide the best way to proceed as we head into the summer months and banning seems to be continuing in the state. If you aren't on the contact list for this group and would like to keep informed of their work, please email Lynda Weston.



Member Profile – Lydia Russo

She was one of our dedicated “lunch ladies” when we were meeting in a church hall with kitchen facilities. She says, “I made a lot of sandwiches that year. And pressed a lot of friends into service.”

Post Covid conditions, she is still helping to organize get-togethers for ladies who like to lunch. She’s one of the coordinators of Lunch Bunch (along with Anita Kunkle and Beth Gamel).

It was bridge that brought our branch to her notice. She “loves to play cards” and was introduced by a fellow bridge player to AAUW where she’s been a member for “about six years.”

She was a snowbird from Cape Cod when she rented in Florida for the first time in 2005. Eventually she and husband John sold their Northeast home and became full-time Venice residents. She has two sons (and two grandchildren) all based in the Seattle area.

Born in Tarrytown NY, she earned a degree from State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego and later a masters at Bridgeport University in Connecticut. She went on to a 32-year career in elementary education, teaching fifth and sixth grades.

One of our active members, she’s an “avid reader” who is also involved in the book club. “I enjoy learning different things,” she says from our monthly meeting speakers. “And it’s wonderful to be with so many like-minded people who are our members.”

Travel is another way she and her husband continue to learn different things, having recently returned from a 15-day ocean voyage from Rome to Israel.



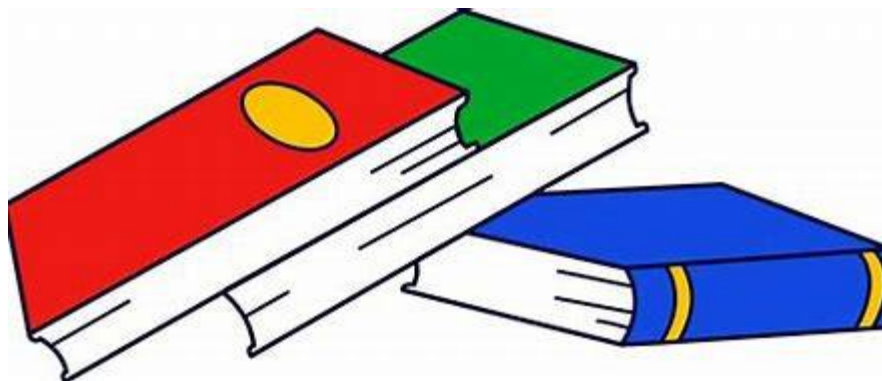
AAUW SIG Book Club

The members have voted! The following are the books chosen for 2023-24. Meetings June through October are held via Zoom. To make sure you receive a Zoom invitation, email Lynda Weston or Hilda Dillman.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	LEADER
6/12/23	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	Hilda Dillman
7/10/23	Splendid & the Vile	Eric Larson	Paula Dulski
8/14/23	The Paris Apartment	Lucy Foley	Joyce Mikulski
9/11/23	Secret Life of Sunflowers	Marta Molnar	Lynda Weston
10/9/23	Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir	Nina Totenberg	Jo Rahaim
11/13/23	Horse	Geraldine Brooks	Dottie Bingham
12/11/23	We Are Not Like Them	C. Pride and J. Piazza	Lynda Weston
1/8/24	The Book of Lost Friends	Lisa Wingate	Jean Norman
2/12/24	The Nature of Fragile Things	Susan Meissner	Mary Fritz
3/11/24	Demon Copperhead	Barbara Kingsolver	Kathy Dierstein
4/8/24	Fellowship Point	Alice E. Dark	Marge Ostrom
5/13/24	Next Year in Havana	Chanel Cleeton	Joyce Mikulski

Book Club

The AAUW SIG Book Club will meet May 8 at the Jacaranda Library. Lynda Weston will lead a discussion of *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn at 1:30, but come early to talk about books.



Lunch Bunch Update

April will be the final month for Lunch Bunch. Summer socials are underway and we always need members to come up with ideas. Lunch Bunch will resume in September.

Thank you,

Beth, Anita, and Lydia

Evening Out

There will be no Evening Out gatherings in the summer. The last one is April 19 of this year. We will see you in October.

Coastal Cruising

Coastal Cruising pontooned around Sarasota Bay on March 27 and had dinner at Marine Max .





3	Christine	Cairns
5	Wendy	Seeley
6	Betty	Badawi
7	Susette	Bryan
7	Samira	Easton
9	Lynda	Weston
19	Sherry	Lynaugh
20	Sue	Shea
29	Bobbie	Huibregtse
30	L. Carol	Newnam
31	Barbara	Swartz

Sharing and Caring

A card was sent to Lynda Friedman as she recovers from a hip replacement

A card was sent to Pat Comeau. She is a past member who is currently in Hospice care.

A Sympathy card was sent to Georgie Fedako on the passing of her husband.

May Calendar

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Tues	2	9:00	Walk & Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, Next to Sharkey's
Thur	4	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bridge boxes.
Fri	5	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Mon	8	1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	The Rose Code by Kate Quinn Jarcarda Library
Tues	9	9:00	Walk & Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, Next to Sharkey's
Tues	9	TBD	Exploring w/ Your Camera	Trena Kelly	TBD
Thurs	11	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
Fri	12	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch-Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance
Mon	15	Deadline for Summer Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com	
Tues	16	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, Next to Sharkey's
Wed	17	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Pot Luck Picnic at Maxine Barrett Park
Thur	18	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian, Players should have experience with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bridge boxes
Fri	19	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Fri	26	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch – Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.



Venice Views Editor for May:

Susan Hotzler

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!!

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—Pictures in JPG Format Only!

Deadline for the Summer issue of Venice Views is **05/15/2023**.

Remember the Summer issue covers June, July and August.