

VOLUME XLVIX, No. 10

Summer 2023

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT: PAULA DULSKI

BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net

STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net

NATIONAL:

aauw.org

FROM OUR PRESIDENT PAULA DULSKI



Two years ago, I knew I was ready for the challenge of guiding the Venice Branch. I am so grateful that I had a wonderful collegial board who were excellent problem solvers to help me. These were the enthusiastic board members over my term: Bobbi Amero, Nancy Brex, Susan Farstrup, Alice Haber, Stephanie Hallowell, Jan Harris, Susan Hotzler, Wendy Seeley, Pam Swarts, Patti Warner, Bev Weltzien, Lynda Weston, and Phyllis Vogel. I value their support.

The board followed the Strategic Plan which is the nuts and bolts for how to accomplish branch goals. Our branch has had too many successes to fully list here. The branch meetings were mission based and were extraordinary. We welcomed many new members into the branch. Our Study/Interest Groups provided camaraderie and relaxation. Our Communications group created engaging Venice Views issues to celebrate our members and announce our activities. Our fundraisers supported scholarships and Tech Trek camps. We generously donated to AAUW National Greatest Needs Fund. We had 'good neighbor' events to give support to the Venice community. Thank you to all the members for making the last two years a pleasure. We have the best AAUW branch in Florida!

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT!

The membership of the Venice Branch of AAUW sincerely thanks the retiring board members who have served with enthusiasm and dedication. We honor outgoing Paula Dulski - President, Bev Weltzien - Vice President, Jan Harris - Secretary, and Patti Warner - Membership Director.

**** Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership ** Page 5**
**** Summer Social Happenings ** Page 10**

FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR PATTI WARNER



Another wonderful year has ended in AAUW. For me, four years as your Membership Director is over. There is so much to know about this organization and being on the Board is a great way to understand it. There is a learning curve for sure.

Thank you for electing me as I totally loved my job and the camaraderie of working with such smart, creative, and dedicated women. If you ever get asked to be on the Board, say YES! Have a healthy, safe, and wonderful summer!



Member Profile Melanie Odom



She's the younger member of a mother-daughter duo who belongs to our branch and one of only two such family groups in our midst.

Melanie and her mother Lois are both natives of Alabama. A family member encouraged her parents, both educators, to move to Florida for better jobs. They came, stayed and Melanie has been here ever since.

After getting her bachelor's degree (English and history), Melanie's dad suggested that she pursue a degree in library science. She did, then joined the staff at the Sarasota County library system. You'll find her as the reference librarian at the William Jervey branch on Venice Island.

A realtor she met while house hunting introduced Melanie to AAUW. She joined our branch in 1987; her mother became a member a year later.

When she's not behind a library desk, you can find Melanie and Lois at the Venice Symphony, Venice Theatre and at movie broadcasts of opera when they are available. She explains where her love for this musical form originated. "My dad was an opera addict."

In addition to organizing the "Evenings Out" SIG dinner group, we thank Melanie for helping the branch find its current meeting space at the library. With fundraising limits imposed by Covid



Patti Warner and Eleanor Rebolgar

Membership Director
Patti Warner
Interviewing
New Members during
our May Branch
meeting



Barbara Constantz and Patti Warner

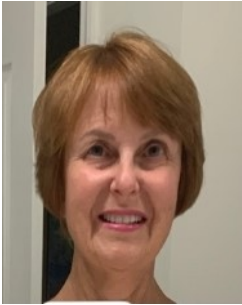


Ann Saller and Patti Warner



Judith Edson and Patti Warner

New Member Barbara J. Constantz



A recent transplant to Venice, Barbara holds a B.A. in international relations from Colgate University, a Master's in international finance from Columbia University, and a certificate in investment management from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Barbara grew up outside of Buffalo, NY and is a proud Bills fan. Except for a light dusting that falls like a snow globe and disappears the next day, she really hates the snow. Most of her professional career was spent in the Washington, DC area. Following her retirement, Barbara and her trusty rescue dog Casey moved to Venice in 2022 where her adult children are frequent visitors. Her daughter Jo is a reporter for Bloomberg News in NYC, and her son Jeffrey is a grants manager for an environmental consultant in DC.

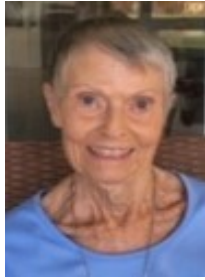
Fostering equality for women and girls has been a lifelong theme for Barbara both personally and professionally. An example: Early on, throughout her children's school years, she was a devoted softball/baseball mom. Jarring inequities abounded, particularly regarding facilities. One of her proudest accomplishments is winning \$1 million in joint funding from Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools for a new HS softball complex on par with the baseball facility. This was the direct result of a Title IX challenge mounted by a small group of determined parents, of which she was an organizer.

A few career highlights: Barbara's early career was spent in NYC, where she worked in commercial banking with large corporate clients in the international, not-for-profit, and higher ed arenas. Seeking more green space, she relocated to the Washington, DC area, which became home for over 35 years.

While in DC Barbara served as SVP and Treasurer of the National Geographic Society, one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. She was the first woman to serve as a senior financial officer since the Society's founding in 1888. For 23 years Barbara oversaw the Society's global treasury operations which spanned 25 countries, negotiated over \$1B in debt financing, and managed nearly \$1B of marketable investments.

Subsequently, Barbara returned to commercial banking as Executive Director for JPMorgan's Not-For-Profit, Higher Ed & Healthcare team in the mid-Atlantic. There she had the pleasure of working with an amazing array of prominent universities and mission-driven organizations, including AARP. Barbara also liaised with AAUW's headquarters, which provided research for a panel presentation JPMorgan sponsored on women's career mobility (or lack thereof) in higher ed finance. AAUW also facilitated a salary negotiation workshop for the JPMorgan Women's Group. At both NGS and JPMorgan Barbara prioritized the mentoring of junior staff, especially women, which resulted in bonds retained to this day.

In Memoriam - Barbara Stevens
January 1, 1939 - May 4, 2023



You may have only known her as a serious bridge player but Barbara was also one of AAUW Venice's leading ladies, having served as branch president from 2001 to 2005.

Originally from Chicago, she graduated from Drake University in Ames, Iowa, with a degree in elementary education. Marriage took her to Pennsylvania where her new husband was in graduate school. Once she had children, she continued working as a substitute teacher.

A move to Long Island, New York, prompted her to return to school. She completed her graduate work at Long Island University, earning a master's degree in library science. Her new credentials took her to the Great Neck library system where she worked for 16 years until she retired. She said, "I worked in most departments, everything from media to reference."

She was an AAUW member while on Long Island but "couldn't participate much due to working."

Relocating to Florida, she said, "was the best move of my life." She joined the Venice branch soon after landing here in 1997. She encouraged new AAUW members to participate by stating "The best thing you can do for yourself is get involved. I really don't know how someone can join and not participate." In her case, she took on a board position as secretary. "And then, when the nominating committee had a hard time finding someone to run for president", she took that on. "I guess I stepped up," she said.

The branch Home Tour began while she was president. An early project in the STEM area also took place during her tenure. "It was a competition at the elementary school level," she explained.

After completing two terms as Venice branch president, she went on to a term as AAUW Florida State president from 2008 to 2010.

For the past number of years, she played bridge but says that was "an understatement." She also started the duplicate bridge group at this branch. In addition to playing, she taught AAUW duplicate players once a month.

Cook's Corner and Play Readers were two of the special interest groups (SIG) she attended. She said that she "enjoyed every moment she has been an AAUW member", always making the most of her membership."

Cards may be sent to her son, Jeff Stevens at 4034 Oakhurst Dr. Sarasota, FL 34223. Her Celebration of Life will be announced later.

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT NOW!

\$ \$ 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.

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 by credit card at the AAUW Community Hub at <https://my.aauw.org/onlinejoin>. (If you have not previously signed in to this new database, you must start by resetting your password) **OR** you 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.

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◻ **DUES are DUE** ◻
◻ Please pay your dues before **July 1, 2023** ◻
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SUMMER SOCIAL AT THE VENICE ART CENTER

Don't miss the **JUNE 8th** outing to the **Venice Museum** located on 351 Nassau St. S. followed by lunch at the Art Cafe. We will meet our docent at **11 a.m.** to learn more about the history of Venice and the people and events that helped shape our city.

Walk or drive over to the Art Cafe for lunch. Regina Rogers from the Venice Museum will join us for lunch and answer any questions you may have. Call or email Betty Ehik if you wish to register for this event. Betty's contact information can be found in the AAUW Directory.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

“SPEAKING OUT WITH CURLY HAIR”

On May 11th several branch members attended a lecture given by 19-year-old Zander Moricz at the Jacaranda Library. Moricz is the class president who, from media reports of a year ago, gave a newsworthy graduation speech at the Sarasota County Pine View High School. Zander used the metaphor of having curly hair in his speech to explain his activism surrounding his support for the LGBTQ community and his fight to stop the new laws in Florida known as “Don’t Say Gay”. (He was born with curly hair. He couldn’t straighten it!) In 2019 he established the student-led organization, the Social Equity and Education Alliance (SEE). It began in his high school and has gained momentum with students working across Florida to energize voters amid the rise of anti-LGBTQ legislation. The inspiring, now Harvard student, spoke to a room of over 100 Venice residents about his past year. He and another PV graduate and SEE administrator, Anya Dennison, have been busy organizing to oppose many of the new pieces of legislation and action in Florida which, to many, are imposing restrictions to First Amendment rights. They spent so much of their first college semester working on SEE that they felt they had to take a semester sabbatical with the expectation of returning in the future.

Zander and his supporters are fighting to get young voters on the voting rolls and older voters to be sure they are following new voter rules in Florida. The group has rented a space in Sarasota from which to work. They have determined that they need to start with smaller elected offices and Boards of Education members as targets. They will partner Gen Z (born in mid 1990’s to mid 2010’s) and Baby Boomers (most AAUW members) to talk with voters. Social media will also play into their connecting with voters. Many in attendance will be following and supporting Zander. [Joyce Mikulski and Lynda Weston]



Rev Nancy Wilson, Senior Pastor at SunCoast MCC Church and a board member of Venice Pride, Inc. is pictured with Zander Moricz.

LOOKING BACK AT MAY'S GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION WITH JAN HARRIS

Member extraordinaire, Dr. Jan Harris, kept the audience captivated with her presentation on May 11th entitled “A Look at Women’s Friendships in Relation to the Pandemic and Social Media.” As a professor of sociology, Jan has followed renown researchers on the topic of friendships, firmly believing in the essential nature of human connections and social bonding.

Her presentation included an interactive exercise where the audience was required to use one-word descriptors for a fulfilling friendship AND a one-word label for what we bring to a friend relationship. I personally found this intriguing and not easy! Over 4 dozen characteristics were identified, ranging from kind to empathetic to loyal . . .and more!

Jan pointed out that we may have hundreds of friends on social media, but maintaining true friendships requires fairly precious resources: time and energy. And that leads to our ‘friendship capacity’!

In the end, it’s touch that truly connects us! “Social media can’t replicate social bonding!” Jan said in concluding remarks.

My personal take-aways: (1) Yes, it was essential to see and talk with AAUW friends in book club and other circles during the pandemic via Zoom; (2) Yes, I followed many ‘friends’ via Facebook who seemed to be thriving through the pandemic, congratulating them for positive strides; but . . . (3) I know that reaching out, physically, can mean the most! Thank you, Jan!!

[Pam Swarts, Program Director]



Jan Harris

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

- 3 Mary Fritz
- 7 Carolyn Shrauger
- 9 Judith Houston
- 10 Kathleen Economides
- 11 Andie Mercert
- 11 Beverly Weltzien
- 14 Lois Odom
- 16 Jane Metcalf
- 16 June Lee Reninger
- 17 Pam Swarts
- 19 Mitzi Fiedler
- 20 Barbara Zittel
- 21 Marge Ostrom
- 22 Connie Nelson
- 22 Phyllis Vogel
- 22 Kathy Bosche
- 23 Nancy M. Pike
- 24 Claudia Withey Hanley
- 24 Charlene Turczyn
- 25 Maida Zamoff
- 26 Bernadette McEnerney

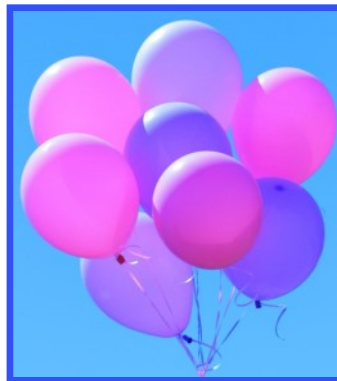
JULY

- 5 Bobbi Amero
- 6 Victoria Coulter
- 7 Carol McGrain
- 9 Joan Armstrong
- 10 Susan Wood
- 12 Peggy Greene
- 13 Pat Coelho
- 14 Jean Hanson
- 16 Kindra Muntz
- 23 Barbara Constantz
- 26 Ruth Sweetser
- 27 Fran Brinkman
- 30 Marie Ruvolo

AUGUST

- 1 Jane Farley
- 1 Pat Knasiak
- 3 Ellen Franck
- 9 Sharon Cullinan
- 9 Frances Potter
- 12 Julie Fiedler
- 14 Florence Bennett
- 26 Nancy Brex
- 26 Judith Edson
- 28 Maggie Surwilo

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know and email the date to us at aaauwveniceviews@gmail.com.



SHARING AND CARING

Sympathy card sent to Jeff Stevens on the death of his mother, Barbara Stevens

Judith Kolk - death of son

Roberta Meyers - chronic back problems and sciatica

Pat Ritner - continuing health issues

Claudia Handley - chronic Covid

Fran Brinkman - eye sight problems

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!!



**AAUW VENICE GENERAL BRANCH MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2023**



President Dulski called the meeting to order at 11:40 am
The February 2, 2023, minutes were approved as submitted.
Treasurer Bobbi Amero's treasurer report was approved as submitted.

CHAIR REPORTS

Membership Director Patti Warner introduced our newest members who were In attendance.

Program Director Pam Swarts announced our June meeting with the Venice Historical Society.

Education Director Wendy Seeley reported on the three campers selected to go to Tech Trek.

The process of selection scholarship awardees is ongoing.

Communication – no report

SIG Director Lynda Weston thanked her SIG leaders.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Harris, Secretary



2023 SUMMER SOCIALS

Four summer socials are planned. Details will follow via an email blast to all members. All dates and times have not yet been set so if you'd like to come on these excursions and have a particular date in mind, email Jeri Jaminet to inquire about an event.

1. **Thursday, June 8 - Venice Art Center**, 11:00 a.m., 351 Nassau St. S., Venice
Lunch will follow at the Art Cafe. Sign up with Betty Ehik. See Page 5.

2. **Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary**, 41660 Horseshoe Road, Punta Gorda.
<https://www.octagonwildlife.org>. Carpooling available. Details TBA.

3. **Saturday, July 21 -Tea at Le Petit Jardin Cafe**, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Venice.
http://lepetitjardincafe.com/uploads/1/1/2/8/112858405/new_tea_time.pdf

4. **The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature**, Bradenton.
<https://bishopsience.org>. Carpooling available. Details TBA.



Want to go somewhere else? Contact Jeri and we will talk!

OUR DAUGHTERS' DESTINIES

This is a program idea for March 2024! With over 160 members, surely there are several Moms of daughters we would love to meet! We envision a panel of 4 to-5 women in STEM careers who could speak to the subjects of pay equity, DEI philosophy in their field, barriers to advancement, as well as rewards.

Does this intrigue you? If you have a daughter who might be able to join us -- maybe you'll fly her here -- please let me know! I look forward to receiving replies **before the end of July** with the following information:

Member name:

Daughter's name:

Daughter's career/employer:

Short paragraph describing your daughter's struggles/rewards:

Thanks very much!

Pam Swarts, Program Chair

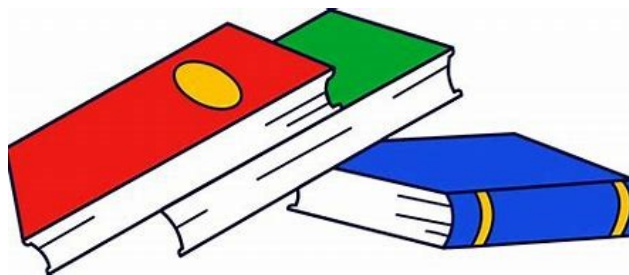
p.s. – This is not a commitment . . . yet!!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS 2023-2024

BOOK CLUB

The members have voted! The following are the books chosen for 2023-2024. All meetings (June through October) will be held via Zoom. Email Lynda Weston or Hilda Dillman to make sure you receive a Zoom invitation.

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	LEADER
June 12, 2023	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	Hilda Dillman
July 10, 2023	Splendid & the Vile	Eric Larson	Paula Dulski
August 14, 2023	The Paris Apartment	Lucy Foley	Joyce Mikulski
September 11, 2023	Secret Life of Sunflowers	Marta Molnar	Lynda Weston
October 9, 2023	Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir	Nina Totenberg	Jo Rahaim
November 13, 2023	Horse	Geraldine Brooks	Dottie Bingham
December 11, 2023	We Are Not Like Them	C. Pride and J. Piazza	Lynda Weston
January 8, 2024	The Book of Lost Friends	Lisa Wingate	Jean Norman
February 12, 2024	The Nature of Fragile Things	Susan Meissner	Mary Fritz
March 11, 2024	Demon Copperhead	Barbara Kingsolver	Kathy Dierstein
April 8, 2024	Fellowship Point	Alice E. Dark	Marge Ostrom
May 13, 2024	New Year in Havana	Chanel Cleeton	Joyce Mikulski



JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Thurs	1	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	2	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
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 Zoom	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Zoom Meeting via email link. Book: <i>Lessons in Chemistry</i> by Bonnie Garmus. Facilitator: Hilda Dillman
Thurs	15	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	16	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	23	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Thurs	6	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	7	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Mon	10	1:30	Book Group Zoom	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Zoom Meeting via email link. Book: <i>Splendid & the Vile</i> by Eric Larson. Facilitator: Paula Dulski
Fri	14	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.
Thurs	20	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	21`	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	28	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.

AUGUST 2023 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Thurs	3	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	4	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	11	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.
Mon	14	1:30	Book Group Zoom	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Zoom Meeting via email link. Book: <i>The Paris Apartment</i> by Lucy Foley.
Tues	15	Deadline for September Venice Views		Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com	
Thurs	17	10:00	Duplicate Bridge	Susan Leege	The Floridian. Players experienced with modern conventions, duplicate strategy & bidding boxes. Must pre-register.
Fri	18	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Elks Club, Nokomis, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	25	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.



Venice Views Editor for Summer 2023 (June, July, August): Jeri Jaminet

E-copy Circulation: Susan Donovan

The **NEXT** Venice Views will be the **September 2023** issue.

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 **SEPTEMBER** issue of Venice Views is **8/15/2023**