



# VENICE VIEWS



VOLUME XLVX, No. 1 September 2023 PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH  
P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

CO-PRESIDENTS: JAN HARRIS AND BEVERLY WELTZIEN

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)

## FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS JAN HARRIS AND BEV WELTZIEN

Hello, VAAUW Members,

We hope you are ready to soar to new heights with us! The kickoff letter you recently received spelled our goals out and we want you to join us for this meaningful and rewarding adventure. As you can tell, we are excited!

Our Branch leaders have energetically and skillfully been quite busy! Following is the beautiful new logo for our Venice Branch. Our Public Policy Directors will show us the way to get goals achieved! The Home Tour leadership has been named and meetings are scheduled. Join in the fun and celebration for our scholarship recipients in November. Mark your calendars for our joyful Holiday Special (very special) in December!

Powerful, potent programs have been planned for our monthly Branch meetings.

A most special event will occur in January! Home Tour is in February.

This is a year you definitely want to be “onboard!”

Take notice of our new initiative in *Community Involvement*. It is a fundamental way for you, our members, to give and get personal rewards in return. Ready? Let’s go! Up, up, and away!

### Important new email addresses

To contact Jan or Bev *for any reason*, email [copresvaauw@gmail.com](mailto:copresvaauw@gmail.com)

To contact Board members, email [vaauwboard@gmail.com](mailto:vaauwboard@gmail.com)

### In-Person and Zoom Meetings

Our monthly in-person branch meetings will be also available live on Zoom beginning with our first meeting in October. The virtual meeting is for those members who are unable to attend in person. The contact coordinator for the Zoom invitation is Paula Dulski. Contact Paula if you cannot attend in person and wish to utilize Zoom. Contact info is in the Directory.

## FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT JOYCE MIKULSKI

I welcome all of you to a new Venice AAUW year. It promises to be an exciting year under the leadership of Jan and Bev. I was happy to accept the appointed position of Vice President, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

It is our wish to work on our visibility in the community. One of the ways we decided to do this was through the use of a local logo. After a lot of research, we decided on an image from [shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com). We have unlimited use of the logo in any way we wish to use it. The designer has granted usage of his proprietary design to only a small number of individuals/organizations. We were lucky to be chosen as one of them. We can alter the image in terms of color and size and add our own wording, which we have done. We are excited to think about the possibilities of its usage in banners, mugs, polo shirts, ads, etc. We will continue to use the national logo in official business. Below are some variations of new logo.



One of our members, Barbara Constantz, made the following comments after seeing the image. I could not have expressed my own opinion any better or any more eloquently. Thank you, Barbara.

•**Colorful:** Highly visible, while reflecting the diversity and inclusiveness we seek to foster.

•**Descriptive:** The tagline -- "Empowering Women" -- makes it clear what we're all about!

**Symbolic:** The circle of interlocking women reflects our efforts to build connection and collaboration not only among members but women in general. And the outstretched arms reflect our desire to enhance outreach and impact in our community.

Another effort to increase our visibility is the adoption of a local girls' sports team. This helps to make us more present in the Venice community while promoting Title IX. I am happy to announce our sponsorship of a **Little Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball team**. They will wear our name on the back of their team jerseys. I will share which team and its game schedule when it is finalized. It would be great to have a group of us attend one or two games. I encourage you to visit their website [missvenicefastpitch.com](https://www.missvenicefastpitch.com). I am sure that you will be impressed with their goals and how closely they align with AAUW's goals.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the general meeting on **October 12, at 10 AM**.

## FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR MARGE COLLIN



I am very honored to be your Membership Chair. I look forward to many new and exciting accomplishments for our Venice Branch. I encourage all members to take time to get involved in our many opportunities for personal growth. AAUW offers a unique environment to develop new friendships with high-achieving women. As Membership Chair, my goals are to grow our numbers and support our current members to the best of my ability. I would like to give a **special thanks to Patti Warner** and all of the membership team for their help and support as I begin my term.

**VENICE BRANCH - AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**KEEP INFORMED ABOUT MONTHLY PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS BY FOLLOWING  
AAUW'S VENICE VIEWS!**

**2023**

**October 12, 2023**

Branch Meeting **10:30 AM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program - *"Know Now – Act Now"*  
In collaboration with the League of Women  
Voters

**November 9, 2023**

Branch Meeting **10:30 AM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program - *"Advocacy in Action"*  
In collaboration with the Women's Resource  
Center

**December 14, 2023**

Holiday Luncheon **11:30 AM - 2:30 PM**  
Venetian River Club  
Entertainment - Venice Theatre! *"Silver Foxes"*  
Member donations to the WRC Career Closet

**2024**

**January 11, 2024**

Branch Meeting **10:30 AM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program *"Collegiate Connections"*  
In collaboration with USF

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**Special Event - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
Venice Art Center  
*"An Intimate Evening with Ruth Bader  
Ginsberg"*

**February 1, 2024**

Branch Meeting **10:30 PM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program *"Sneak Peak" Home Tour Overview*

**Friday, February 9, 2024**

**Signature Event - HOME TOUR**

**March 14, 2024**

Branch Meeting **1:30 PM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program *"Tech Trek Impact"*  
In collaboration with FL AAUW Tech Trek

**April 11, 2024**

Annual Meeting **1:30 PM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island

**May 9, 2024**

Branch Meeting **1:30 PM**  
William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island  
Program—*"Public Support for Public Education"*  
In collaboration with Support Public Schools

**June 1, 2024**

Special Outing –

**Board Meetings - 9:30 AM - Tuesdays**

Members are invited to observe.  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
October 3 - ZOOM  
October 31  
December 5  
January 2  
January 30  
March 5  
April 2  
April 30  
June 4,  
July 2  
August 6  
September 3  
October 1 - ZOOM



***SEPTEMBER MIX & MINGLE***

***NEW PLACE, NEW DATE!***

***THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14***

***4:00 TO 6:00 PM***

***WE'LL MEET AT CHAZ 51***

***549 U.S. 41 BYPASS, VENICE***

***(ACROSS THE HIGHWAY FROM TJ MAXX PLAZA)***

***NO MONTHLY SEPTEMBER MEETING***

***LET'S GATHER AND SOCIALIZE!***

***RSVP TO***

***KATHLEEN PICKERING OR JUDY HOUSTON***

***(We need Attendee Count!)***

## BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

The Annual Report is being posted on the Venice AAUW website this year. There will be no printed copies handed out at the first meeting this fall. To review the report, visit the Venice Branch web site at [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net). The report is located under the Members Only tab.

Susan Hotzler, Co-Media Director

### SAVE THE DATE!

- What?** Scholarship Mix and Mingle
- When?** November 20, 2023 4:00 to 6:00 PM
- Where?** Café Venice on The Island  
101 West Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285
- Cost?** \$25.00 for one beer or glass of wine, hors d'oeuvres, tax and tip

Join us at this special event to celebrate the accomplishments of our five scholarship recipients: Cassie Davis, Anne Marie Medico, Heather Gomez, Larissa Lippe, and Veronica Gemesi.

Learn about these amazing women and how your contributions have or will change their lives!

The cost for the evening is \$25.00 and includes one beer or glass of wine, hors d'oeuvres, tax, and tip. Sign up at the meetings from September through November 13th. Payment can be made in cash or check payable to "AAUW Venice Branch".

Thank you, Wendy Seeley, Scholarship Committee Chair  
Committee members include Bobbi Amero, Dottie Bingman and Marge Ostrom



## DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!

### OUR “SIGNATURE EVENT” HOME TOUR 2024 IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 9

It’s exciting, and everyone is eager! Get ready to be a part of the fun and camaraderie of Home Tour. Once again, we can use our talents and efforts to raise money for local scholarships that benefit young women who have had their education interrupted. With these monies, we can assist them in improving their lives and the lives of their families.

A committee is in place, we’re filling spots for the homes, and it is your chance to sign up for your favorite activity, be it tickets, or being a host, or selling raffles. We have it all and will accommodate your particular flair or request. It takes our whole organization for this outstanding event, so sign in at the meeting or call one of the chairs. Note: We *welcome your friends* who might like to help. We always have room for more...

<b>Home Tour Chairs</b>	Dee Collins & Trena Kelly
<b>Home Recommendations</b>	Degen Sayer, Pam Swarts
<b>All Homes Management</b>	Marge Ostrom
<b>Specific Home Management</b>	Suzanne Biviano, Jane Farley, Lynda Friedman, Joyce Mikulski, Lynda Weston
<b>Tickets Chair</b>	Patti Warner
<b>Publicity Chair</b>	Judy Houston
<b>Parking Chair</b>	Charlene Turczyn
<b>Vendors Chair</b>	Elaine Winquist
<b>Artisans</b>	Diane Boone, Becka Foster, Linda Tilson, Degan Sayer, Susan Reinhardt



## VAAUW PUBLIC POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to the 2023/24 membership year! Expect to see a Public Policy page in each *Venice Views* going forward, along with related programming. Our goal is to educate our membership on key issues affecting women in Venice, Sarasota County and Florida, with a call to action. We'll offer ways big and small to get involved and be heard. JOIN US -- together we are stronger!

So how does this work? Our focus will derive from the nonpartisan policy platform adopted by AAUW [nationally](#), and by extension, in [Florida](#). Click the hyperlinks to learn more! You'll see a set of defined positions grouped under three umbrellas: Civil Rights, Education, and Economic Security.

**Key local issues** we'll explore, given recent restrictive FL legislation, include:

Petitions supporting FL Ballot initiatives for:

Reproductive Rights

Access to Clean Water

Support of voter registration and voting access

Support of public education and academic freedom

Fittingly, our first program at the Oct 12th branch meeting is "**Know Now – Act Now**", created in collaboration with the League of Women Voters. Prepare to be enlightened on what's happening and what we can do to support (a lot)!

In the meantime, know who your elected representatives are, and be vocal!

We'll help – more to come!

### **Sarasota County FL House Delegation**

James Buchanan (R-H74)

[James.buchanan@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:James.buchanan@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5074

Michael Grant (R-H75)

[Michael.grant@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Michael.grant@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5074

Fiona McFarland (R-H73)

[Fiona.McFarland@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Fiona.McFarland@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5073

### **Sarasota County Senator**

Joe Gruters (R-S22)

[Gruters.joe.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Gruters.joe.web@flsenate.gov)

(850) 487-5022

### **Florida Governor**

Ron DeSantis

[www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/](http://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/)

(850) 717-9337

### **We want to hear from you!**

Contact AAUW members Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy Director, or Barbara Constantz. Contact info in Directory. Comments or suggestions welcome!



**THE VENICE BRANCH OF AAUW HAS A NEW SUNSHINE PERSON!**

Effective immediately, **please send all requests** for Kind Thoughts to Bonnee Hagen (contact info in Directory) when you have news to share (illnesses/accidents/deaths or other events happening to our members within our branch) so that AAUW members stay informed.

**W E N E E D Y O U R I N P U T ! !**

**KIND THOUGHTS  
SHARING THE FOLLOWING . . .**

Marcia Seaman, an active member for many years, passed away recently. A sympathy card was sent to Linda Brossett, Marcia's daughter. A Memorial service is planned for September.

A get well card was sent to Bea Holt after knee surgery.

Former member Pat Conway passed away (reported by friend Dottie Bingham). A Memorial service is planned in September.

Carol Ann Beyers has moved to assisted living as a result of a fall. She enjoys calls.

Sympathy Card sent to Marye Lois McCroskey on the death of her mother - AAUW member Miriam (Mimi) Welch. More information on Mimi in October's Venice Views.

Get well card sent to Bonnee Hagen recuperating from a nasty fall.

Sympathy card sent to Jeff Stevens, Barbara Stevens' son.

[Bonnee Hagen and Marge Collin]



## 2023 SUMMER SOCIALS REVIEW

Several summer socials took place in 2023! In addition to a well-attended **Mix and Mingle** at Café Venice, new this summer was a **Movie Night**, along with a yummy Pot Luck supper and Book Exchange. Laughter! Good Eats! Good Reading!

Early in the summer we all had fun at the **Venice Art Center** and lunch at the Art Café.

Most exciting (this author's opinion) was our tour of the non-profit **Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary** in Punta Gorda. A delicious **High Tea** was enjoyed at Le Petit Jardin Café, Venice, and finally a most interesting docent-led tour of the **Bishop Museum of Science and Nature** in Bradenton, with lunch at Pier 22 on the Manatee River.

Suggestions for next summer's socials are welcome. A day trip to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park is already planned. Email Jeri Jaminet with *your* suggestions.



May Coastal Cruising

## **STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS**

*Offered to members. Check your monthly Venice Views for up-to-date information on the various groups and meeting times.*

### **Banned Books:**

Meet with others concerned about the movement to censor books from libraries and schools and other issues gaining speed within our community.

*Lynda Weston*

**4th Monday, 1:30 PM, Jacaranda Library, October thru April**

### **Book Group:**

Book lovers discuss a variety of group-chosen literary titles.

*Lynda Weston and Hilda Dillman*

**2nd Monday, Jacaranda Library, June thru October - ZOOM**

**Pre-talk at 1:00 PM, Start at 1:25 PM**

### **Bridge For Fun:**

An inclusive group which welcomes newer to experienced players. (Not a beginner teaching group). Plan for lunch. Please phone ahead.

*Carol Cudia.*

**2nd & 4th Friday, 11:30 AM, Venetian Golf & River Club**

### **Coastal Cruising:**

Members enjoy the pleasures of boating along Sarasota Bay or the Intracoastal Waterway.

*Paula Dulski*

**4th Monday - Info in the Venice Views**

### **Cook's Corner:**

Members choose a monthly culinary theme and recipe to prepare and share. Must Pre-Register.

*Joan Kieran*

**3rd Wednesday, 11:30 AM, October thru May, Info in the Venice Views**

### **Duplicate Bridge:**

Intermediate or higher level players. Scoring follows ACBL guidelines. Must Pre-Register.

*Susan Leege*

**1st & 3rd Thursday, Info in the Venice Views**

### **Euchre:**

An excellent social card game, simple in concept but, with a high degree of subtlety in the play. Plan on lunch.

*Charlene Turczyn*

**1st & 3rd Friday, 11:30 AM, Paradise Grill, Nokomis**

## ***STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS (CONTINUED)***

### **Evenings Out:**

Enjoy an evening dining out at one of the local restaurants.

Melanie & Lois Odom

**3rd Wednesday, 6:00 PM, October, November & January thru April - Info in the Venice Views**

### **Exploring w/your Camera:**

Grab your camera, smart phone, or iPad to explore some wonderful, wild & wacky sites only found in Florida! Every picture tells a story. Join us!

*Val Dwek and Lynda Friedman*

**2nd Tuesday Info in the Venice Views**

### **French Conversation:**

Stay active engaging in the French language. All levels are welcome to participate in French discussions.

*Jane Metcalf*

**Thursdays, 4:00 PM. Location varies. Info in the Venice Views**

### **Lunch Bunch:**

Join us for Lunch, Brunch or Happy Hour! Daytime fun with friends.

*Anita Kunkle and Lydia Russo*

**4th Wednesday, 11:30 AM. Info in the Venice Views**

### **Mix and Mingle:**

Meet up with members for wine tasting and lively conversation, often at a female owned business.

*Kathleen Pickering and Judy Houston*

**2nd Monday 4:00-6:00 PM - Location varies**

### **Walk and Talk:**

Light exercise in the beautiful surroundings near the Gulf.

*Beth Gamel*

**Tuesdays 9:00 AM Maxine Barrett Park**

## **STUDY INTEREST GROUP BOOK CLUB**

The AAUW SIG Book Club spent the summer in France: July with the VanGoghs and August in The Paris Apartment. September's book will not take place in France, but France will be a subject of interest. The book is "The Splendid and the Vile" by Eric Larson. Paula Dulski will lead the discussion via Zoom on September 11 beginning at 1:30. Sign on anytime after 1:00pm to catch up and share what you have been reading. If you have not joined the Zoom meeting in the past, email Lynda Weston to get on the invitation list. Lynda's contact info in Directory.

**S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3 C A L E N D A R**

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	1	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	8	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.
Mon	11	1:25	Book Group Zoom	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Zoom Meeting via email link. Book: <i>The Splendid and the Vile</i> by Eric Larson. Facilitator: Paula Dulski
Fri	15	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, Nokomis
Fri	22	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. Sign up in advance.
Weds	27	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle	Meet at Dockside Waterfront Grill, 509 N. Tamiami Trail, Venice



- 2 Joyce Boot
- 3 Susan Donovan
- 5 Jane Brodt
- 5 Georgie Ann Fedako
- 8 Ann Saller
- 11 Linda Taylor
- 12 Patricia Boruff
- 15 Karen Linkemann
- 18 Carol Stevenson
- 20 Barbara Gahry
- 20 Delores Glatz
- 20 Roberta Lovelace
- 29 Dorothy Korwek

We apologize if your birthday has been omitted. Please let us know if that has happened.



Venice Views Editor for September 2023: Jeri Jaminet

E-copy Circulation: Susan Donovan

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

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 **October** issue of Venice Views is **9/15/2023**