

**VOLUME XLVX No. 1                      OCTOBER 2023                      PUBLISHED MONTHLY**  
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH**  
**P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284**  
**CO-PRESIDENTS: JAN HARRIS AND BEVERLY WELTZEIN**  
**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)**

## **Venice AAUW Opening Meeting: A Program by the Sarasota League of Women’s Voters**

**ALL MEMBERS:** Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 12, at 10:30 EST for a relevant and compelling program by Sarasota League of Women Voters (LWV) leaders. Everyone can be part of the opening meeting of the Venice AAUW program year due to ZOOM! (Contact Paula Dulski for ZOOM link).

Members and guests, including LWV members, who can participate in person, plan to arrive at 10 a.m. when the William H. Jervy Library, Venice Island, opens. Enjoy reconnecting, light refreshments, and signing up for various interest group (SIG) activities.

The program, entitled “Know Now – Act Now,” will be jointly presented by Shawn Bartelt, President of the League of Women Voters, Sarasota County (LWVSRQ), and Jill Lewis-Spector, Education Chair, LWVSRQ and the State of Florida. They will state the case for much-needed change in Florida in education, human rights, health care, and more. Most importantly, they will outline specific ways that we as individuals, can take action. Debbie Blackwell, AAUW Public Policy Director and active LWV member, will make introductions.

Feeling frustrated? Need a jolt? A recent AARP article entitled “How We are Changing America’ described older Americans as ‘thinkers, influencers and innovators with the power to. “exert pressure on elected leaders.” And isn’t that why we enjoy being in the company of educated, like-minded women?



## Welcome to the new Venice AAUW (VAAUW) year!

The summer has come and gone, and it's time for our trek from Connecticut to Florida. Although I'm always sad to leave the Connecticut shore, I'm excited to reunite with Florida friends and begin our VAAUW year. We have so many exciting events to look forward to: our Home Tour, our Holiday Luncheon, an Evening with Ruth Bader Ginsberg, our partnerships with the Women's Resource Center and USF, etc.

Powerful news! I am happy to report that we are sponsoring a U14-16 team for Miss Venice Fast Pitch Softball. I encourage you to check out their website, [missvenicefastpitch.com](http://missvenicefastpitch.com). You will see our logo there among their sponsors. Also, I would like to plan a "lunch and game day" in October. I will provide everyone with details soon. I spent a lot of time this summer updating our website, [Venice-fl.aauw.net](http://Venice-fl.aauw.net). Our directory and other strictly member information are available under the "Members Only" tab (the password can be obtained by sending a request to [veniceAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:veniceAAUW@gmail.com)). We want the website to remain current and referenced regularly by our members. If you have information, events, and/or pictures you would like posted, please send them to Nancy Brex at [AAUWveniceviews@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWveniceviews@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing all of you at our October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Jervey Library on Venice Island. This newsletter will inspire you with ideas for becoming actively and happily involved.

Joyce Mikulski, Vice President

## Book Barter

We will continue with the Book Barter in October.

Bring a book or two. Take home a book or two. Enjoy the read.



## **“An Intimate Evening with Ruth Bader Ginsberg”**

Sunday, January 14, 2024 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Venice Art Center - 390 Nokomis Ave.S.

During this special event, historical performer Sheryl Faye will present a media-enhanced portrayal of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This will be one of our chapter’s fundraisers and community builders, and we hope you will join us in this enjoyable evening. From 6:30-7 we will be serving champagne and small bites leading into the RBG performance from 7-8. More details to come throughout the Fall, so **MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THIS DATE!**

We are looking for members who would be kind enough to assist in hosting, check-in and publicity. If you might be so inclined, please contact Cynthia Bioteau. (contact information is directory)



### **October Book Club Meeting via ZOOM**

Did you ever wish you could have had dinner with Ruth Bader Ginsburg? NPR’s Nina Totenberg did just that, and she has written a book about their friendship. Jo Rahaim will lead a discussion of “Dinners With Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships” for the AAUW SIG book club. The meeting will be held via Zoom on October 9 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 an invitation.

## *What is* “Community Involvement”?

It is a new initiative for Venice branch members to promote equity for women.

Our members have many talents and work experiences to contribute to local organizations that help women and have missions that align with AAUW’s. The planning committee has selected two such organizations to focus on for the next three years:

### **Women’s Resource Center (WRC) is in Venice, Sarasota, and Bradenton.**

They need volunteers at several levels, ranging from Career Closet helpers, front desk supporters, career mentors, computer tutors, workshop facilitators, and legal and mental health consultants.

- Attend the November branch meeting and hear from directors from WRC, who will provide information and answer questions about volunteer opportunities.

### **University of South Florida ( USF) on the Sarasota/Manatee campus.**

Let us mentor young women students seeking advice about future careers, employment, or graduate studies. Volunteers can meet students at “sip and chat salons” on campus starting this fall.

- Attend the January branch meeting to hear Kaitlyn Kramer, Associate Director of Development Advancement, and expand on volunteering at USF.

We hope you are as excited as we are about involving yourself in these volunteer positions to advance AAUW’s Mission. And...if you have any questions, reach out to one of our Planning Community Involvement Leadership:

Chair - Kathleen Pickering  
WRC coordinator - Dee Glatz  
USF coordinator – Bobbi Amero  
Support - Susan Hotzler  
Consultant - Marge Ostrom

### **KIND THOUGHTS**

### **SHARING THE FOLLOWING**

A symphony card was sent to Bobbi Amero, our chapter treasurer, on the passing of her husband, Jack.

## The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from a nonpartisan but equity-focused viewpoint? Would you like to be able to ask your own questions of experts regarding these issues? Then be sure to attend as many AAUW Florida Issue Forums this year as you can. All sessions will start at 6:00 PM and last for an hour. The series is open to AAUW members and guests.

### Reproductive Rights

**Sept. 14, 2023**

Moné Holder, Florida Rising

\*RECORDING WILL BE PROVIDED SOON\*

### Title IX and Dress Codes in Schools

**Oct. 5, 2023**

Nancy Tray, Change the Dress Code Movement, St. Johns County

[Click here to register for this session](#)

### Gender Studies and DEI Initiatives at Colleges

**Nov. 2 2023**

Dr. Elizabeth Brown, Past President of the United Faculty of Florida, University of North Florida

[Click here to register for this session](#)

### Florida 2024 Legislative Preview

**Nov.16, 2023**

Dr. Pat DeWitt, AAUW Co-Public Policy Director and Public Policy Committee Members

[Click here to register for this session](#)

**Additional sessions on the next page.**

**Continued from previous page.**

### **Public Education and Book Bans**

**Jan. 11, 2024**

Dr. Marvin Dunn, Professor Emeritus at Florida International University and Miami Center for Racial Justice

[Click here to register for this session](#)

### **Gender Pay Gap and Economic Security**

**March 7, 2024**

Dr. Mary Gatta, AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director and Director of Research and Public Policy, National Association of Colleges and Employers

[Click here to register for this session](#)

### **Voting Rights**

**April 18, 2024**

Debbie Chandler, Co-President, League of Women's Voters. Florida

[Click here to register for this session](#)

Please RSVP for each session individually. Once you RSVP you'll receive a Zoom link. Contact Mary Gatta, Co-Public Policy Director, AAUW Florida at [gatta.mary@gmail.com](mailto:gatta.mary@gmail.com) with any questions.

**To download and register for sessions, click [HERE:](#)**



## New Member—Jane Sacks

Jane was brought up in Newton, Massachusetts, where culture mixed well with education. Jane enjoyed both. She attended the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. Although she received a BA, finding a position in the early 70s was challenging, so when she was “dared” to go to Mexico and teach Mexican businessmen English for Berlitz, she grabbed the opportunity.

Jane’s professional life centered around facilitating and managing adults. Consequently, it was easy to begin her own consulting business, JSS Marketing. She traveled the country teaching “soft skills” (non-technical or product-driven) classes to employees on various levels. Because Jane was living in Miami at the time, she was able to contract with many of the cruise lines but also zeroed in on other industries. Her life was a rewarding and exciting 15 years.

The latter part of her professional life was within the corporate world, first with Wells Fargo and finally with Bank of America as part of their Global Learning divisions. Jane is passionate about giving back, whether living in Boston, Charlotte, NC, or Venice, Florida. She was on the board of Holy Angels (in Charlotte), a home for severely mentally and/or physically handicapped children. She is active in Literacy Buddies in Venice and tutors a young Ukrainian woman, teaching English as a second language. Jane loves to travel and looks forward to seeing more of the world.



# VAAUW Public Policy Perspective



## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### Protecting Reproductive Rights in Florida

Can't wait to see you all at VAAUW's first program, "*Know Now – Act Now*", on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> created in collaboration with the League of Women Voters!

**One critical issue deserving our immediate attention is the ballot initiative to ensure abortion access.**

This campaign is being managed by Floridians Protecting Freedom, a coalition of Florida organizations representing various women's groups, the ACLU, and health care professionals. The initiative was launched in response to the Florida legislature's passage of some of the most highly restrictive laws governing abortion in the country.

Polling supports that an overwhelming percentage of Floridians believe women should have the right to determine their own reproductive health care decisions without interference from politicians. Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision requiring consultation with healthcare professionals. Period.

**The ballot initiative to amend the Florida Constitution will guarantee this right.** To get on the 2024 ballot, more than 900,000 Amendment petition forms from registered Florida voters must be verified by the State. For insurance, the coalition aims to collect 1.25 million petitions, since some may be invalid.

**Progress is promising:** In the campaign's first 90 days, over 600,000 petitions were collected -- nearly 50% of the overall goal and double the prediction for this initial period. Of these, nearly 300,000 have been validated by the State. That number will rise once compliance checks are completed. Once on the ballot, passage requires 60% approval by voters, making turnout essential.

So, what does the petition and proposed Amendment say, exactly? Read it right [here](#). Keep in mind that signing the petition just means you think the people of Florida should get to vote directly on this important issue in November 2024.

**We need YOU!** If you agree, here's what you can do:

PREFERRED: Come to any of our VAAUW branch meetings, and we'll have pre-printed copies waiting for you! Just complete and sign. We'll bundle and submit them for you.

Alternatively: Click [here](#) to download, print, and mail the completed petition to: Petition Collection, P.O. Box 4068, Sarasota, FL 43230.

**Questions or Comments?** Contact Debbie Blackwell or Barbara Constantz.



## IN MEMORIAM Mimi Welch

We had an outstanding member who passed over the summer. She had an outstanding career and life, which we would like to share with you.

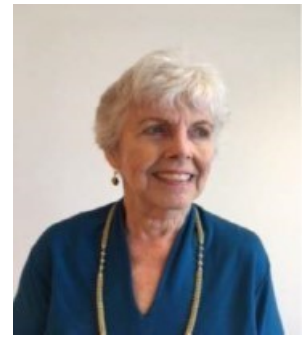
Mimi Welch was our parliamentarian and a woman of many abilities, including expertise on Robert's Rules, acquired when she was appointed to municipal boards. She turned her attention to these procedures while living in the Washington, D.C., area. She was appointed to some municipal boards and needed to know how to operate effectively within those decision-making groups. Also, she was an appointed officer by the state organization and acted as AAUW-Florida board liaison for both the Sarasota and Venice branches.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, she lived in Florida for many years with stints in Texas, California, Virginia, and Tennessee. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, she was the second woman in the university's history to be granted a degree in physics. With graduate work in nuclear energy and related energy disciplines, she became a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy for 25-plus years. She retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1997.

On retirement, she and her husband, Brad, lived aboard their 44-foot DeFever trawler and traveled from their base in Longboat Key Moorings around Florida. Sadly, she became a widow in 2003.

What might you not know about Mimi? She loved sewing and volunteered her skills in the costume shop of the Sarasota Opera. Her only regret was that she couldn't do more. She said, "It's such fun, but we only work from January through March."

Mimi strongly supported AAUW's educational endeavors, including our funding of local re-entry scholarships. She not only played bridge with our branch SIG but was a vital contributor to our branch for nearly two decades.



## OUR SOFTBALL TEAM UPDATE

Opening Day was Saturday, September 16, at Wellfield Park. Pam Swartz, Joy Mahler, and Joy Mikulski had the pleasure of watching their first game of the fall season. They are fabulous, enthusiastic, and talented young women who easily defeated their opponents while demonstrating true sportsmanship.

Please check their schedule for upcoming games at [missvenicefastpitch.com](http://missvenicefastpitch.com). Look for the team **14/16 Coach Jason**.

Here are some pictures from Opening Day. Guess what? Joy Mahler's granddaughter, Liz #7, is on our team! Play ball, AAUW!

Joyce Mikulski



Susan Champion 2  
 Patricia Ritner 4  
 Paula Dulski 7  
 Degen Sayer 12  
 Helen Boruff 20  
 Lynn Kroll 22



Linda Patriarca 22  
 Leslie Curley 23  
 Toni McGuire 23  
 Claire Waddington 23  
 Joyce Delaney 25  
 Judy Weber 28

### October Calendar

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	6	11:30	Euchre	Charlene-Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Mon	9	1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Dinners With Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships Discussion Leader: Jo Rahaim
Fri	13	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch-Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance
Sun	15	Deadline for November Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a>	
Wed	18	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	British Open Pub 367 Jacaranda Blvd by the roundabout. Contact Melanie by Monday, Oct 16.
Wed	18	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Kathleen Pickering & Judy Houston	Café Venice 101 W Venice Avenue
Fri	20	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Mon	23	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Leaving out of Venice Marine Max
Wed	25	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle	Burgundy Square Cafe
Fri	27	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Carol Cudia	Bridge and lunch – Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	30	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Group discussion



Venice Views Editor for October:

Susan Hotzler

E-copies 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 November issue of Venice Views is **10/15/2023**.