

VOLUME XLVX No. 4 DECEMBER 2023 PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH
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HOLIDAY WISHES

We are fortunate and blessed to have the FL State President of AAUW as a member of our Branch. Bea Holt is a familiar face to many, and we hope she becomes familiar to those who have not had the pleasure of meeting her. As a way of introduction, we would like to share her sentiments for the season that reflect our holiday wishes with all of you.

[Co-Presidents Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien]

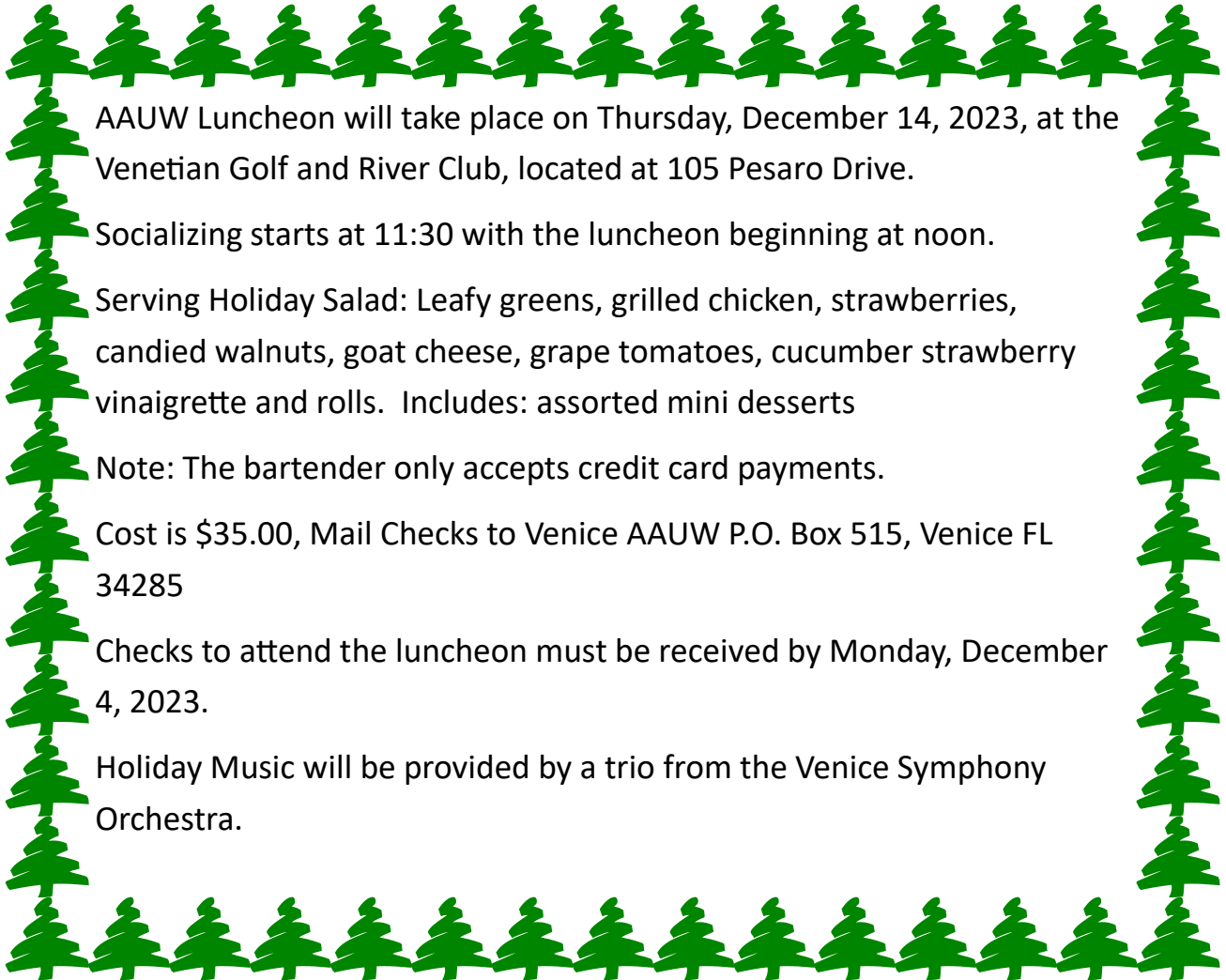


The Season for Thanks and Giving! *Message from Bea Holt, President, AAUW-FL*

It's that time of year for introspection and expressions of gratitude for the many positive forces that give our lives meaning and hope. While the world is in turmoil, it pays to pause and regret the good surrounding us. As an outward expression of goodness and hope, join your AAUW colleagues in reaching out to those in your community who would welcome a sign of peace and unity. Together, we can make the world a better place.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

VAAUW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



AAUW Luncheon will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Venetian Golf and River Club, located at 105 Pesaro Drive.

Socializing starts at 11:30 with the luncheon beginning at noon.

Serving Holiday Salad: Leafy greens, grilled chicken, strawberries, candied walnuts, goat cheese, grape tomatoes, cucumber strawberry vinaigrette and rolls. Includes: assorted mini desserts

Note: The bartender only accepts credit card payments.

Cost is \$35.00, Mail Checks to Venice AAUW P.O. Box 515, Venice FL 34285

Checks to attend the luncheon must be received by Monday, December 4, 2023.

Holiday Music will be provided by a trio from the Venice Symphony Orchestra.

KIND THOUGHTS

Kind thoughts are sent to Peggy Greene who had leg fractures.

Encouragement was sent to Rosemary Smith as she will be recovering from shoulder surgery on 12/4/23.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Patricia Boruff who passed away this month. She was a 50 Year Life Member of AAUW.

Excitement is in the Air!

The Home Tour group has FIVE fascinating homes for 2024, procured by Degen Sayer, Phyllis Vogel, and Pam Swarts. We are excited, energized, and coming down the home stretch. The last major thing for them to do is get **YOU** to volunteer for Hostessing, Ticket Sales, or Parking Guides. A few spots are left, so partner with a friend, acquaintance, or spouse for a fun day “at our “

Signature Event - Home Tour 2024 - “Island Charm”

Don't let someone else get your favorite spot! Call the Home Manager or sign up at the Holiday Luncheon on December 14th.

All of these are sitting positions:

608 Valencia Road	Jane Farley, Mgr.
412 Nassau St. S	Suzanne Biviano, Mgr.
717 Armada South	Lynda Friedman, Mgr.
331 Coral St	Lynda Weston & Joyce Mikulski, Mgrs.
216 Palermo Place	Pam Swarts, Mgr. - <i>Our newest home!</i>
Ticket Table	Patti Warner, Chr.

You are wanted!

4 Hostesses
FILLED
7 Hostesses
4 Hostesses
10 Hostesses
6 Openings

Walk, talk, and direct drivers - Ask Beth Gamel, who does it every Tour. She loves it!

Parking Guides	Charlene Turczyn, Chr.	7 Openings
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Continue the excitement and celebrate the season!

Do you need that **perfect gift?** Give your friends or visitors a Home Tour Ticket! \$35 pre-sale price, \$40 at the door. So don't miss this sale price; we all love a bargain!

As per our tradition, each member is given five tickets to sell. More are available. Distribution will start at the Holiday Luncheon and go through the January meeting. It is each member's responsibility to turn in the money or unsold tickets at the February meeting.

Make it a happy holiday for all. The women and girls who benefit from our event will be forever grateful for the “gift of education” we give them.

Stuffed Closet?



Purge ;
package the
good quality
items: skirts,
dresses,
slacks, tops,
blouses,
jackets, shoes,
purses, jewel-
ry, plus
unopened
toiletries – for
our holiday
donations to
the Women’s
Resource Center “Career Closet!”

Bring to the Holiday Luncheon in a festive gift bag.

* If donation receipts are desired, include an index card with your name, email, and number of items.

*At any time, drop-off donations are welcome at the Venice Women’s Resource Center located in the Brickyard Plaza, 530 U.S. 41 Bypass S.

FREE TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS—CYBER CRIME PRESENTATION

Date: November 30th from 1 –3 pm.

Invited speakers include representatives from Secret Service, Florida Attorney General’s Office, Sarasota County Sheriff Department and Bank Representatives.

Presentation organized by the Venice Branch of AAUW.

Hosts for the Event is Venice Presbyterian Church located at 825 The Rialto on the Island of Vencie. The church has a large parking lot.



VAAUW Public Policy Perspective Voter Turnout is Vital -- Don't Lose Your Voice!

Did you know the Board of Elections site in Sarasota County (Sarasotavotes.gov) and Charlotte County (soecharlottecountyfl.gov) provide easy access to register, check your Vote-By-Mail status, and much more? In fact, there's a treasure trove of data on registered voters and County elections.

Registered Voters By County
as of 11/13/23

Party	Sarasota	% of Total	Charlotte	% of Total
Republican	156,172	44%	74,147	50%
Democrat	97,174	28%	32,126	22%
Other/Ind.	98,654	28%	41,886	28%
TOTAL	352,000	100%	148,159	100%

TAKEAWAYS

- No one group is preordained to prevail when voting for a specific candidate or issue.
- WHY? Two Key Factors: 1) Voter turnout, & 2) the independent "Other" contingent.
- Reproductive Rights Ballot Initiatives are a powerful example. To date:
- Voters in 8 out of 8 (!) states approved constitutional amendments protecting women's reproductive rights, *regardless of the state's dominant political party.*
- Success rested on high voter turnout across party lines, with voters focused on the issue, not a party platform. This will be critical for Florida's 2024 ballot initiative, which requires 60% voter approval to pass (vs. 50% in most other states).
- Be Empowered! Make your vote count in every local and state election for school boards, city councils, and statewide ballot initiatives. These are as important as national elections. You can make a difference.

POSTSCRIPT: Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Update

- Due to recent legislative changes, VBM requests made before 12/31/22 have **expired**. Check your VBM status for Sarasota County by clicking [here](#), and Charlotte County [here](#).
- If expired, you can renew your request for 2024 VBM ballots in Sarasota County by clicking [here](#) and in Charlotte County by clicking [here](#). Do it today!

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



Guest Speakers from Sarasota County at the event are:

Michael D’Imperio

Nancy Gallinaro,

Sara Kane and Amber White.

As we watch Manatee county roll back wetland protection, as the oceans warm, and sea levels rise, as hurricanes increase in strength, and as southwest Florida’s population continues to increase by 1% a year, **are we doing enough to preserve our natural resources?**

Join the League of Women Voters of Sarasota County as we host a panel of experts in water quality, estuary preservation and natural resource sustainability.

**Tuesday, November 28th, 1-3pm
Shannon Staub Library, North Port
To Register go to LWVSRQ.org/Events**



Book Club

“We Are Not Like Them” is a story about the lifelong bond between two women, one of whom is Black and the other white, which is also true of the authors, Christine Pride and Jo Piazza. It is the next selection of the VAAUW SIG book club, and Lynda Weston will lead the discussion on Monday, December 11 at the Jacaranda Library. Book discussion will begin at 1:30, but come any time after 1pm to catch up on other readers’ recommendations.

“An Intimate Evening with Ruth Bader Ginsberg”

January 14, 2024

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Champagne Reception

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Performance

Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave South

IT'S GETTING CLOSER!

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, your friends and neighbors will join us at this enjoyable evening. From 6:00 - 6:45 we will be serving champagne and small bites leading into the RBG performance from 7-8.

Ticket sales kick-off at our Holiday Luncheon on December 14 so check with your prospective guests now. Tickets are \$40 each, inclusive of reception and performance. Seating will be limited to 150 people.

Need to order tickets now or perhaps not able to attend the Holiday Luncheon? Send check made payable to Venice AAUW and send to Pam Swarts, 12608 Felipe Dr, Venice, FL 34293.

Many thanks to the RBG Planning Committee: Dottie Bingman, Suzanne Biviano, Leslie Curley, Jo Rahaim, Betty Ehik, Dee Glatz, Paula Hagan, Judith Houston, Joan Kieran, Wendy Seeley, Cynthia Bioteau, Pam Swarts.

Gail	DeVet	1		Diane	Sisko	13
Kathy	Black	3		Dottie	Bingman	15
Bernice	Allison	4		Sylvia	Irish	16
Cindy	Sproehnle	4		Jane	Sacks	16
Kathy	Dierstein	5		Elaine	Jarchow	17
Susan	Leege	6		Carol	Sbabo	19
Susan	Hotzler	9		Carole	Goolden	20
Patti	Warner	9		Sybil	Hoffmeyer	20
Karen	Cianci	10		Catherine	Paulsen	22
Naureen	Zimmermann	10		Jan	Harris	27
Judith	Kolk	11		Margaret	Collin	28
Jean	Norman	12				

POLO SHIRTS

Here's hoping you enjoyed our polo shirt reveal at the November General Meeting. We love the way the shirts look and feel. We are still taking orders from anyone who is interested in making a "Venice AAUW fashion statement." The polo shirts will identify us at the Home Tour and all Venice AAUW events.

If you need further information on the shirts or sizing, please refer to

<https://www.sporttekusa.com/p/9061> TrueNavy

Look under the picture at Product Measurements for sizing. Prices are as follows:

\$30 for sizes XS-XL

\$32 for XXL

\$33 for XXXL

Please mail your check with size clearly indicated to Pam Swarts (f you cannot give it to her in person). Pam's address is in the Directory.

Please make checks payable to Venice AAUW



Members modeling our new logo shirts

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

At the November 9th meeting, Brent Giangregorio, Director of Client Services at the Women's Resource Center of Manatee, Sarasota, and Venice was our presenter. He gave an in-depth and compelling presentation while highlighting a myriad of ways that AAUW members could partner with this organization.

Dee Glatz introduced Brent, reminding members that the WRC has been selected by the Community Outreach Committee as a targeted volunteer outlet. The WRC thrives on volunteer involvement, ranging from resource advising, mental health and wellness, career coaching, legal services, and simply being an advocate for woman reentering training or education.

An interesting aspect of Brent's presentation was the introduction to the "ALICE Report". "ALICE" is an acronym for 'assets limited, income restrained, employed'. Picture women employed but not able to make ends meet! Many non-profits use "Alice" data: 75% of single women households are living below a survival budget; 42% of elder women live in economically unstable households.

Sign up for the Women's Resource Center newsletter to stay informed about opportunities and events at mywrc.org



VAAUW Branch Meeting, November 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:42 am.

Jan reintroduced the four themes that were the focus of the President's message in the Venice Views. DIVA: make a difference, inclusion, visibility, and accountability. She commented that the organization has been "hitting it out of the park between October's and today's meeting." Jan asked people to turn to someone they didn't know and say hello. She recognized Bea Holt, president of the Florida AAUW, who was in the audience.

Bev Weltzien then spoke, saying she was pleased with the turnout for the meeting and encouraging people to sign up for the December Holiday Luncheon. She asked if there were any corrections to the previous minutes, which there were not. She recognized a guest of Jane Metcalf, Judy Napier, and former member Susan Farstrup, who is visiting. Bev encouraged people to order polo shirts with the new VAAUW logo by contacting Joyce Mikulski.

Bobbi Amero announced a new policy: the national organization will remove them from the roster if people don't pay their dues on time. If they pay later, they will be listed as new members. Anyone who has a question about dues and renewal notices should call Bobbi.

Development - Cynthia Bioteau

The Strategic Plan is to raise \$50,000 this year. The three main programs for Development are the RBG presentation on January 14 (tickets available in early December, \$40 each), the Home Tour on February 9, and the Giving Challenge on April 9-10. She asked people to let her know if they have any new ideas for development.

Trena Kelly and Dee Collins spoke about the Home Tour. They plan to place posters in front of each home for business advertising and sponsors. They suggested businesses could sponsor a home for \$250 and \$150, depending on the size of the ads. They requested antique or vintage cars to be on display at the homes. About 100 volunteers are needed to work in various jobs. They are looking for a chair for the Raffle baskets.

(Continued on next page)

Education - Wendy Seeley

The Scholarship Reception is November 20, 4:00-6:00 PM at Café Venice. Thirty people have signed up. Please pay before the event by sending a check to Bobbi Amero. There are five scholarship recipients; four will attend the reception, and one woman will participate via video.

SIGs - Lynda Weston

Lynda introduced a representative from each SIG and encouraged members to sign up today.

Banned Books - Lynda Weston

Book Club – Lynda Weston

Bridge for Fun – Bernadette McEnenery

Coastal Cruising – Paul Dulski

Cook’s Corner – Joan Kieran

Euchre – Charlene Turczyn

Evening Out – Melanie Odom

Exploring with Your Camera – Val Dwek and Linda Friedman

French Conversation – Jane Metcalf

Lunch Bunch- Lynda Russo and Anita Kunkle

Mix and Mingle – Kathleen Pickering

Walk and Talk – Beth Gamel

Public Policy - Barbara Constantz

Barbara reported that 90,000 petitions are needed to get a reproductive rights bill for Florida on the ballot for November 2024. The next challenge will be voter turnout.

Barbara reminded members to read the monthly Public Policy column in the Venice Views and note the Zoom offerings listed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Rahaim

Exploring with your Camera

An exciting New Year of exploration and wonder is being planned, bring your cell phone/ camera. Our first adventure will take place, Tuesday, December 12th at Historic Spanish Point. After our visit , we plan on having lunch at The Point, Osprey. Tickets for Spanish Point are \$18.00 Carpooling will be available. Contact Lynda Friedman or Val Dwek if you plan on attending.



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Have you checked out our website? It has been updated, and all the announcements and activities are there. Do you want to reread the Venice Views or check the date and time? **GO TO THE WEBSITE!**

Put our web address in your search engine (Google, Chrome, Safari, etc.) and type in **venice-fl.aauw.net**. If you forget where to find the branch addresses, look at the backside of your directory. Did you forget the password for the Member's Only section? We are sending the password in an e-blast with it to the membership. Please write it down for future use. If that method fails, call Marge Collin, who will assist you.

Cook's Corner



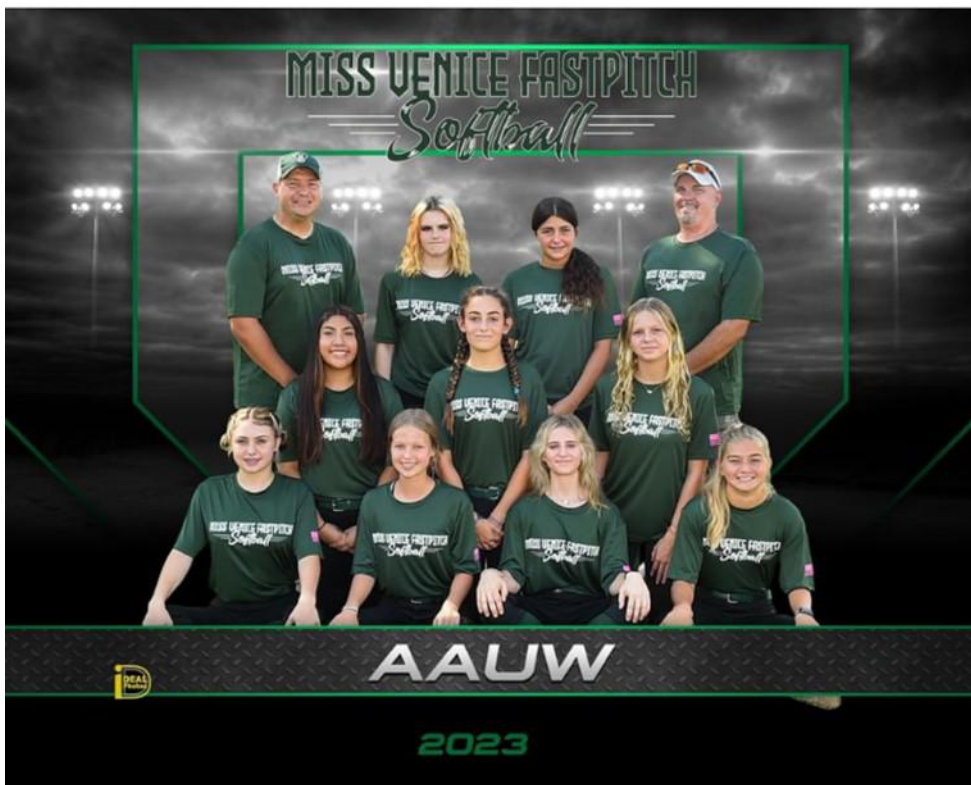
Asian Food was the theme chosen by the host, Nancy Brex, in November. During the lively dinner conversation, Beth Gamel offered her sage advice on the best Teriyaki sauces.

Nest month's event will be the annual Cookie Exchange and Salad Fixings at Carol McGrain's home on Wednesday, December 13, at noon. Call Joan Kieran with your reservations and details for the lunch.

The Miss Venice Fast Pitch Softball program posted this thanks to us on their page on Facebook.



Thank you [AAUW Venice Florida](#) for sponsoring one of our teams this season!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	1	11:30	Euchre	CharleneTurczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Tues	5	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park , 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Fri	8	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch—Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	11	1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	We Are Not Like Them Discussion Leader: Lynda Weston
Tues	12	10:00	Exploring with Your Camera	Lynda Friedman Val Dwek	Historic Spanish Point, 401 N Tamiami Trail
Tues	12	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Tues	12	4:00	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for Location
Thurs	14	11:30	Holiday Luncheon	Kathleen Pickering	Venetian River Golf & River Club
Fri	15	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Fri	15	Deadline for January Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com	
Mon	18	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library
Tues	19	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Wed	20	11:30	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Need to Pre-Register, Cookie Ex- change and Salads
Fri	22	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch—Venetiam Golf & River Club. You must sign up in ad- vance.
Tues	16	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Wed	27	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	Boca Royale Clubhouse, 1601 Englewood Road, Englewood



Venice Views Editor for December:

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

Text in Word Formatted File—Pictures in JPG Format Only!

Deadline for the January issue of Venice Views is **12/15/2023**.