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JANUARY 2024

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

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BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net NATIONAL: aauw.org

AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOURS!

Dear VAAUW Members,

Wow! We began earnestly in September 2023 to bring excitement and meaning to the Venice Branch of AAUW. We invited you to come aboard and soar to new heights by sharing our visions and goals for the next two years.

And now, January 2024...And we've already taken off by achieving some wonderful accomplishments. We have provided a wide variety of social experiences...Mix and Mingle, Cook's Corner, and Coastal Cruising are only a few. Opportunities for intellectual growth and community connections have expanded by involvement with the League of Women Voters, Women's Resource Center, Sarasota Sheriff's Department, Book Clubs, and our Public Policy endeavors. We have welcomed new members; our membership numbers are the highest ever!

Another Wow! We celebrated our scholarship successes by honoring five winners at a Cafe Venice reception. These five women, without exception, spoke of their incredible pride, ambition, and resolve to complete a journey they never thought possible. Any of us who has ever doubted that we make a difference in our scholarship winners' lives would have received a gigantic boost of energy and enthusiasm from their stories.

As Co-Presidents, we plan to continue the great work our incredible board and chairs have planned to date, presenting these outstanding opportunities to our branch. We are humbled and grateful for the tremendous support you, as members, have brought to these events and goals. 2024 will bring great success to a group like ours. And it is because of YOU!

As we reflect upon the past, it is critical to note that we always want to move forward and create a brighter and more equitable future. We want to empower individuals to construct meaningful change and help to generate a more just world.

May the upcoming year bring you new opportunities, triumphs, and accomplishments. We wish you all this and a 2024 filled with happiness, good health, and friendships.

Best,

Jan and Bev, Co-Presidents, VAAUW 2023-2025



Starting Off Our VAAUW Year 2024 . . .

“So much talent – So much opportunity!”

The VAAUW is bursting with talent and **experience in many fields; every member is a gem in her own way!** Our new **Service Engagement Initiative** seeks to promote equity for women by utilizing each member’s individual talents. Two organizations have been selected as partners in this goal: The Women’s Resource Center/Sarasota and the University of South Florida, Sarasota/Manatee campus.

We were introduced to the Women’s Resource Center at the November meeting. MANY members generously **brought** clothing at the holiday luncheon for the collective ‘Career Closets’ that the WRC offers.

At the January 11 member meeting, we will meet Kaitlyn Kramer-Reeves, Associate Director of Development & Advancement for the University of South Florida (Sarasota/ Manatee campus). In her presentation, “Collegiate Connections,” she will share many innovative ideas for our members to volunteer on and off campus. Here’s a ‘tickler’ of what you will hear:

- National Conference for College Women Student Leaders
- Sip & Chat salons on campus
- A ‘West Coast’ Tech Trek possibility
- AAUW student membership
- Mentoring/supporting scholarship applicants

Be sure to schedule **Thursday, January 11**, at the **William H. Jervy Library** in your calendar! Invite a guest!

The library opens at **10:00 a.m.**, which allows for social interaction before the start of the program at 10:30 a.m. If you enjoy continued interaction with like-minded women, plan to participate in a post-meeting lunch at Café Venice Downtown on Venice Avenue. **RSVP to Marygene Witton. (contact information in directory)**

Pam Swarts, Program Director

Greetings from Membership Director Marge Collin

Since we began the VAAUW new year, we have added three new members to our Venice branch. We also have plans for more aggressive recruitment of new members. You can help by inviting your friends to a meeting, a Mix and Mingle, or a meeting of your SIG. Let's grow those numbers!

During the course of the year, we add new members, and members change their information. Go to our website for the most updated information. It's refreshed every month. Please get in touch with me if you have any difficulty. I can always get the correct information to you.

Again, I wish you all the best as we enter this new year. Your membership committee promotes membership growth and contributes to our AAUW goals. I am certain that this will be our best year ever.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS **JANUARY 14, 2024**

FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY EVENT

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

RBG is a one-woman performance based on the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The performance will take place at the Venice Arts Center, 390 Nokomis Avenue South. The 6:00 pm reception includes champagne and appetizers followed by the performance at 7:00 pm. Seating is limited to 150. Purchase your tickets online by clicking on <https://venice-fl.aauw.net/> **\$40 per ticket**. This event is open to the public. Profits go to our scholarships.



HOME TOUR UPDATE!

Santa's helpers (our Home Tour Team) are working overtime to prepare for our signature event, the 2024 HOME TOUR - *Island Charm*. Be a good "elf" and sell your tickets to neighbors and friends. Patti Warner has your packet of 5 to pick up at the January meeting if you don't have them yet. Don't forget that they make great Christmas gifts!

Let's also support our generous vendors and artisans who are also selling tickets or offering their beautiful crafts:



Island Book Shop

*205 Miami Ave.
Downtown Venice*

Venice Olive Oil

*8459 S. Tamiami Tr.
Downtown Venice*



Naples Soap Company

*19790 Wellen Park Blvd.
Wellen Park*

Gulf Breeze Art & Framing

*1740 E. Venice Ave #16
East Venice*



Venice Art Center

*390 Nokomis Ave. S
Venice Island*

Our Artisans

Diane Boone, Handcrafted Artisan jewelry, www.DianeBooneStudio.com

Mary Erickson, Oil and watercolor paintings, www.maryerickson.com

Becka Foster, Handcrafted artisan jewelry, JustBecka.com

Susan Reinhardt, Jewelry and wall art

Degan Marshall Sayer & Georgianne Renella, Handmade and cross-over body purses, Geo.renella@yahoo.com

Linda Tilson, Silk art scarves and drape art tops, www.lindatilson.com



MAKE A RESOLUTION TO

MIX AND MINGLE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

4:00 TO 6:00 P.M.

ENJOY A TIPPLE (ALCOHOLIC OR NOT)

AND SOCIALIZE WITH AAUW

BRING A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER (OR TWO)

ENTER A DRAWING FOR A FREE BOTTLE OF WINE!

CAFÉ VENICE

101 WEST VENICE AVE., VENICE

TO HELP US PLAN:

RSVP TO KATHLEEN PICKERING

OR JUDY HOUSTON

MEET OUR PHENOMENAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Forty AAUW Venice members came to meet and congratulate our five scholarship recipients on November 20, 2023, at the Café Venice on the Isle. Each of the women shared their educational journeys and the impact of the scholarship they received. Their stories were all different and yet their paths crossed that night, due to the desire to better their lives by returning to school.

These are their stories:

Larissa Lippe is a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and is seeking a business degree. Graduating in June 2022, Larissa took a gap year to work on her business, Smart Kids Tutor. When the pandemic shut down schools, Larissa recognized that many students needed tutoring assistance and she had some smart friends who needed to earn money. The company started out with just a few tutors in Sarasota County, but more continue to join. During the pandemic, the tutoring was done remotely, but recently Larissa created the non-profit Smart Kids Foundation. As a result, rooms are reserved in local libraries for after school tutoring. Larissa works closely with a local woman to reduce tutoring costs for low-income students. She was recognized as a Florida Academic Scholar, has been nominated to the Tampa Business Hall of Fame, and produced a TED TALK. To finance her education, Larissa applied and received a PELL Grant, and applied to Emory University for financial assistance and a work grant.

Veronika Gemesi left Slovakia alone when she was just 19, struggled financially but is now married with one child. For 12 years she worked as a waitress to earn money for her education. In 2020 she enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology with a concentration in media and technology at the University of Phoenix. Prior to the pandemic, Veronika was fearful about going back to school, but she wants to benefit her life as well as the life of her daughter. She keeps a positive attitude, an open mindset, and believes that life's obstacles also bring opportunities. To accommodate her studies, Veronika changed jobs and now works at a bank during the day.

Heather Gomez was raised in New Jersey in a single parent household. Ever since she was little she wanted to be a teacher. Heather went to college following her high school graduation but left after two years to get married and have children. She works fulltime as a paraprofessional in a Title 1 school in Sarasota County. Now 20 years later, Heather is finishing her teaching degree in an online program at St. Leo University. Her lessons via Zoom are with highly trained instructors and she is already planning to attend graduate school for a Reading Endorsement. SWAG (Students with Amazing Goals) is a school club Heather began a few years ago. She helps students set a goal, prepare steps to accomplish it, and track their progress. In 2021, Heather was chosen as the "Sarasota County School Related Employee of the Year."

AnnMarie Medico has a bachelor's degree in biology. However, now 27 years old, she has decided to return to college for a Bachelor of Science in nursing. Eventually she would like to become a Nurse Practitioner with an emphasis in pediatrics. AnnMarie volunteers at the Virginia B. Andes Community Clinic, providing free medical services for the underserved. She is enrolled at WGU- Western Governors University.

Cassie Davis graduated in 2019 and went to work full time at Bayfront St. Pete Hospital as a Unit Secretary. That working experience gave her the opportunity to better understand the nursing profession. As a result, Cassie decided to enroll in the LPN program at Manatee Technical College and which she recently completed. Cassie is now enrolled full time in State College of Florida in the nursing program and hopes to become an RN. Due to family issues, Cassie was not able to attend the reception.

[Wendy Seeley, Education Director]



Do You Have Something to Say?? Let's Hear It!

Last month, we highlighted the vital importance of voting to preserve our voices.

It is an essential right and responsibility of our democracy. And local elections have become more impactful than ever. OK, in theory – but there is so much NOISE out there!

How can we keep up?

There's a great voter education tool created by The League of Women Voters that can help! Bookmark it for future reference: <https://www.vote411.org/>

The tool personalizes voter information by pinpointing your eligibility to vote in upcoming elections, providing info on the candidates, and much more.

You can also voice your opinion directly to those in positions of authority.

Our initial Public Policy page in September outlined how to contact your state and local legislators. (Past *Venice Views* issues are on the website.)

Given the mounting controversies surrounding its leadership and policies, we're also providing contact info for the Sarasota School Board. Find email addresses for individual members and the entire Board [here](#).

Issues include accountability of voucher expenditures, support for public education, the fitness of elected members to serve, book restrictions, and respectful treatment of LGBTQ+ persons – to highlight a few!

You can also contact Governor DeSantis directly [here](#). **He's the only one who can change members between election cycles.** Tell him what you think!

Another powerful way to use your voice: Write a Letter to the Editor!

The Daily Sun, Herald Tribune, and The Venice Gondolier accept letters on public interest or policy policies. There is an online version, too. Letter writers must follow their guidelines. This includes keeping the letter 200-300 words or less (depending on the publication) and attaching your full name, address, e-mail address, or phone number. Letter writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. If a letter is more than 250 words, they will ask the writer to trim it, or they may trim the letter to fit if the writer does not respond. Letters will also be edited for grammar and spelling. While they have a lenient rule regarding the content of letters, the editorial board will reject a letter it deems potentially libelous, racist, hateful, or a personal attack or if the writer criticizes a business by name. Letter writers are also not allowed to address a previous letter writer by name.

Do You Have Something to Say?? Let's Hear It! (continued)

Letters can be sent to:

Sun Editor (Daily Sun and Venice Gondolier), 23170 Harborview Road, Port Charlotte, FL 33980, or emailed to letters@yoursun.com.

The Venice Gondolier, Letters to the Editor, 200 E. Venice Ave, Venice, FL 34245 or Fax: (941) 485-3036

Herald Tribune, editor.letters@heraldtribune.com

School board: <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2475> You can find email addresses for individual members, along with the full Board, by clicking [here](#).

Governor: <https://www.flgov.com/contact-governor-2/>

Questions or Comments? Contact Debbie Blackwell or Barbara Constantz, Public Policy (contact info is in the Directory).

THANK YOU!

Thank you, VAAUW!...and Thank you, Debbie Blackwell and Barbara Constantz, our Public Policy representatives. Through their initiatives, our group has signed 40 petitions supporting reproductive rights for women to date.

KIND THOUGHTS

Val Dwek after recent hospitalization, and

Carol Cudia who had bypass surgery.

Please email Bonnee Hagen and let her know of any illnesses/accidents/deaths or other events happening to our members within our branch.

We need input from all members!

ISSUES REGARDING BOOK BANNING IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES 2023

BY LYNDA WESTON, PH.D., THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Many of us have become quite alarmed here in Florida over what seems like a scene from Ray Bradbury's famous 1953 dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Remember that the title references the temperature at which books burn. Most formally and informally educated people tend to believe that having the opportunity to read widely supports an informed citizenry. Below is a summary of two articles, one from the *Tallahassee Democrat News* and the other from the *Naples News* about the arguments arising from removing several classics and other new favorites from school libraries.

PEN America (a free expression advocacy writers group) keeps track of book bans nationally. During 2022-23, 3,362 books were banned, a 33% jump over the previous school year. According to their statistics, more books were removed from shelves in Florida public schools than any other state, 1,400 or 40% of the national total. The main source of this is FL House Bill 1069, which allows schools to limit materials that reference sex and sexuality, gender, pronouns, and reproductive health, and a pair of lawsuits filed in the US District Court of Northern District of Florida over the removal of books in school libraries in Escambia and Lake counties.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moore recently wrote a legal brief stating, "Public school systems, including their libraries, convey the government's message." The state maintains that books on school shelves represent protected government speech. School libraries are 'a forum for government speech,' not a 'forum for free expression.' First Amendment experts and advocates find Florida's argument that schools have a First Amendment right to remove LGBTQ books extreme and chilling.

Experts interviewed for the *Tallahassee Democrat News* all gave grave warnings about what court support for the state's argument could mean. One expert stated, "If government speech determines what books can be in the library, the government is essentially saying your children can only see the ideas the government has approved." A 1982 Supreme Court decision ruled that school boards have "significant discretion" regarding school libraries, but it "may not be exercised in a narrowly partisan or political manner."

The very recent Collier County School plan restricts almost 400 titles. Some titles include: *Brave New World*, *The Color Purple*, *Catch-22*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *A Game of Thrones*, *Forrest Gump*, *Ender's Game*, *The Kite Runner*, *2001: Space Odyssey*, and so on. One parent said, "Sadly, many of the books pulled include stories about black, brown, and LGBTQ lives." Another said, "I'm deeply concerned that many of these (banned) titles are standard on honors and AP high school reading lists. And I don't think we're doing our children any favors by not allowing them to read sophisticated, complex, and sometimes classical works of literature."

So many issues are being turned inside out. Many of us have been concerned that our children and grandchildren are spending too much time with technology in their hands and they aren't reading. AAUW supports equality and diversity.

The information above was gleaned from:

"That's authoritarianism: Florida argues school libraries are for government messaging" by Douglas Soule, Dec. 4, 2023, USA TODAY NETWORK

"Collier Schools Target 400 Book Titles to Ban or Restrict" by Kendall Little, Dec. 13, 2023, *Naples News*



BANNED BOOKS SIG

The January meeting of the Banned Books SIG will be Monday, January 29, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the Jacaranda Library. The group will share various articles collected regarding the banning of books especially in Florida. We are following other groups which support the AAUW viewpoint. Bring recent articles and review any books which have been presented to a school district for banning, or have actually been removed from the school library shelves. Not only is this an issue for public schools, but following the Sarasota Commissioners' November 4 to 1 vote which declined to not renew the Sarasota Library membership in the national American Library Association, public libraries also need our attention and support. For the January meeting members of this SIG are asked to read the book *Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman and/or *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Reynolds and Kendi.

The articles below are for the new VV section regarding organizations which support the national positions and other activities of interest locally.

The ***Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast*** (SJAFS) "was recently formed by a coalition of organizations in Sarasota and Charlotte Counties that strive to foster a more equitable and inclusive society through advocacy, activism, collaboration, and community-led initiatives". Their biggest outreach so far will be a "Right to Read Festival" on Saturday, February 24 on the grounds of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice at 1971 Pinebrook Rd., Venice from 10 to 4. There will be events for all ages. For adults there will be several local and national speakers addressing the concern that Florida has the distinction of being the state with the most banned books of any state. Speakers will appear on two stages giving lectures. There will be authors from Florida who are fighting to preserve the right to read their books in the state. There will be books, merchandise, food vendors, entertainment including a children's corner complete with fun activities, and a bounce house. Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Lynda Weston if you can give some time, but please put this on your calendar and spread the word to likeminded people.

The Sarasota Library System has announced their One County One Book selection for 2024. The book is "An Immense World" by Ed Yong. The author will give a talk on March 1st at 10:30 at the North Port Suncoast Technical College.



HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Write a letter to the editors of newspapers and your state and national congress representatives. Let Debbie Blackwell know before she goes to Tallahassee for Lobby Days if there is anything you wish her to convey.

The Daily Sun, Herald Tribune, and The Venice Gondolier accept letters on public interest or public policies. There is an online version, too. Letter writers must follow their guidelines. This includes keeping the letter 200-300 words or less (depending on the publication) and attaching your full name, address, e-mail address, or phone number. Letter writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. If a letter is more than 250 words, they will ask the writer to trim it, or they may trim the letter to fit if the writer does not respond. Letters will also be edited for grammar and spelling. While they have a lenient rule regarding the content of letters, the editorial board will reject a letter it deems potentially libelous, racist, hateful, or a personal attack or if the writer criticizes a business by name. Letter writers are also not allowed to address a previous letter writer by name.

Letters can be sent to:

Sun Editor (Daily Sun and Venice Gondolier), 23170 Harborview Road,
Port Charlotte, FL 33980, or emailed to letters@yoursun.com.

The Venice Gondolier, Letters to the Editor, 200 E. Venice Ave, Venice, FL 34245
or Fax: (941) 485-3036

Herald Tribune, editor.letters@heraldtribune.com

School board: <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2475>

Governor: <https://www.flgov.com/contact-governor-2/>





We are back for our 7th season of Art in the Afternoon and you'll not want to miss our uplifting performance as we combine storytelling, music, art and photography into a fun and entertaining performance.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 17 at 1:30 p.m. at the William H. Jervey, Jr. Venice Public Library, 300 Nokomis Avenue South in downtown Venice. Plenty of parking!

Art in the Afternoon is sponsored by IslandWalk at the West Villages and promoted by the Venice Branch of the American Association of University Women. (AAUW.)

Questions? Call Trena Kelly

OVER AND ABOVE

Welcome to our possible new column for *Venice Views*. So many of our members do good deeds outside of our VAAUW. We want to honor them and their selfless work. To start this month, we want to applaud:

Trena Kelly's great work with Art in the Afternoon. See Page 13 for details of the upcoming event.

Bonnee Hagen put herself out there to donate Teddy Bears to children for Christmas through the Lion's Club.

Jan Harris, team captain for Pelican Pointe's Relay for Life Community Garage Sale- Saturday, January 27, 2024. All profits go to the American Cancer Society for cancer research.

Do you have a good deed or know someone who has done a good deed recently? Let's hear from you!



DID YOU MISS OUR FORMIDABLE SEMINAR ON SECURITY?

In 2022 the residents of Sarasota County lost over \$13 million dollars to illegal frauds and scams! To help protect and inform our local citizens, members of the Venice Branch of the American Association of University Women (VAAUW) organized an *Economic Crimes Seminar*. The seminar was held on November 30. The Venice Presbyterian Church served as our gracious hosts to over 75 attendees.

The topic "trending scams and frauds" was presented by speakers from the **Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Economic Crimes Unit** and **Assistant State Attorney Andrew Van Sickle**. An engaging PowerPoint presentation was followed by a *Question-and-Answer* opportunity that was informative, meaningful and substantially interactive.



*** * NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS * ***

Attention all members,

Your nominating committee is busy at work securing candidates for the elections taking place in April.

We welcome your nominations for the positions of Program Director, SIG Director, and Finance Director.

The program director has the responsibility to secure meaningful programs for the Branch's monthly meetings. Programs should focus on our mission : AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

The SIGS director (Study Interest Director) is responsible for coordinating the interest groups and making sure they are all approved by the board.

The Finance Director is responsible for all income received and expense disbursement and for developing an annual budget for the coming year.

If you have someone you would like to nominate or yourself, please send a brief bio and the position you are recommending to Kathleen Pickering. Thank you for your interest in keeping our Branch strong with great leadership.

Kathleen Pickering, Nominating Committee Chair

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Patsy Campbell |
| 2 | Joan Cash |
| 2 | Joyce Mikulski |
| 7 | Elaine Winqvist |
| 9 | Eleanor Rebollar |
| 13 | Joyce Mahler |
| 16 | Betty Ehik |
| 18 | Gail Densler |
| 19 | Joan Kieran |
| 24 | Lydia Russo |
| 26 | Cynthia Bioteau |
| 26 | Mary Lloyd Burroughs |



STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy fiction that begins in the past and then connects to our time? If so, read “The Book of Lost Friends” by Lisa Wingate and come to the AAUW SIG book club meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the Jacaranda Library. Jean Norman will lead the discussion of the book. Book discussion will begin at 1:30, but come any time after 1pm to catch up and share what you have been reading.



COASTAL CRUISING

We pontoon out on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. from the Marine Max in Venice. Contact Paula Dulski for information.

COOKS CORNER

Due to an AAUW conflict on our usual third Wednesday of the month, **we will meet on January 24 (the 4th Wednesday)**. Contact Joan Kieran for further info.

EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA

Grab your camera/phones and let us explore the hottest place in town and one of the most walkable neighborhoods in Sarasota, the Rosemary District. We will then have lunch and share our pictures at a restaurant, TBA.

If you plan on joining us on January 9, 2024, please send a text to Val Dwek's cell (contact info in Directory).

Save these Dates in 2024!

February 13—Cortez

March 12—Rye Preserve

April 9—Snook Haven



Exploring with Your Camera
at Historic Spanish Point in December
(L to R) Lynda Friedman, Lynda Weston

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES — JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

| DAY | DATE | TIME | EVENT | CONTACT | LOCATION/NOTES |
|-------|------|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Tues | 2 | 9:00 | Walk and Talk | Beth Gamel | Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice |
| Fri | 5 | 11:30 | Euchre | Charlene Turczyn | Paradise Grill, Nokomis |
| Mon | 8 | 1:30 | Book Group | Hilda Dillman Lynda Weston | Jacaranda Library. Book: <i>The Book of Lost Friends</i> by Lisa Wingate. 1:00 - Social before mtg. |
| Tues | 9 | 10:00 | Exploring with your Camera | Val Dwek Lynda Friedman | The Rosemary District, Sarasota |
| Tues | 9 | 9:00 | Walk and Talk | Beth Gamel | Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice |
| Thurs | 11 | TBD | French Conversation | Jane Metcalf | Contact Jane for more information. |
| Fri | 12 | 11:30 | Bridge For Fun | Bernadette McEnerney | Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. RSVP -Sign up in advance. |
| Thurs | 15 | Deadline for FEBRUARY Venice Views | | Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com | |
| Mon | 15 | 4:00 | Mix and Mingle | Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering | Cafe Venice, 101 W. Venice Ave., Venice. RSVP to Judy or Kathleen. |
| Tues | 16 | 9:00 | Walk and Talk | Beth Gamel | Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice |
| Weds | 17 | 6:00 | Evenings Out | Melanie Odom | Cafe Venice, 101 W. Venice Ave., Venice. Call or email to RSVP Melanie Odom by January 15. |
| Fri | 19 | 11:30 | Euchre | Charlene Turczyn | Paradise Grill, Nokomis |
| Tues | 23 | 10:00 | Coastal Cruising | Paula Dulski | Marine Max, Venice |
| Tues | 23 | 9:00 | Walk and Talk | Beth Gamel | Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice |
| Wed | 24 | 12:00 | Cook's Corner | Joan Kieran | NOTE: 4th Weds this month. Theme: TBD. At Wendy Seeley's home. RSVP . |
| Wed | 24 | 11:30 | Lunch Bunch, Etc. | Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo | Deep Lagoon, 482 Blackburn Point Rd., Osprey. RSVP . |
| Fri | 26 | 11:30 | Bridge For Fun | Bernadette McEnerney | Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. RSVP -Sign up in advance. |
| Mon | 29 | 1:330 | Banned Books | Lynda Weston | Jacaranda Library |
| Tues | 30 | 9:00 | Walk and Talk | Beth Gamel | Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice |

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON — DECEMBER 2023



Rafael Ramirez, Shea Kole, and Amy Ramstein with Bea Holt (who hosted Shea)



String Trio from the Venice Symphony



Rapt audience enjoyed a Q & A with the musicians

DECEMBER 2023

COOK'S CORNER

COOKIE EXCHANGE





Venice Views Editor for January: Susan Hotzler

E-copy 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 **February** issue of Venice Views is **1/15/2024**

MAKING VENICE VIEWS BETTER FOR YOU!

The Venice Views Editorial team continually tries to make our newsletter more informative and easier to read. In order to do so we came up with the following requests:

Everything that is emailed for inclusion in a monthly newsletter **MUST BE SENT ONLY** to: aauwveniceviews@gmail.com. Venice Views has its very own email address.

(1) We ask that each member who submits a notice to please keep the article down to a reasonable size. Too much information is often **not read** at all!! All submissions should be sent in **WORD** format, either as an attachment to the email (preferably) or may be written in the body of the email.

Because the newsletter is posted on the internet, personal contact information is **not** to be included. Personal info is located in our Annual Directory. Contact Membership Director Marge Collin for a copy.

(2) We LOVE your photos! **BUT** please do **not** send them **twice**. [Often photos are sent to the SIG chair and by the individual straight to the Venice Views.]

(3) Not everybody knows everybody! **Please** label your photos, as much as possible, with the event and the names of the people in the photos.

(4) All photos are to be sent in **JPG format ONLY**.