

VOLUME XLVX No. 6

FEBRUARY 2024

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

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“Sneak Peek” - Home Tour Overview

Change of Date! FEBRUARY MEETING

Due to the Home Tour falling on our usual week for the general meeting, we will be meeting the week before.

*Mark your calendars now. **Thursday - February 1, at 10:30 AM***



“Armada”

Dee Collins and Trena Kelly, Home Tour Chairs, have planned a “Sneak Peek” that **will feature the tour's 5 outstanding, artist-owned island homes** in preparation for the **Home Tour on Friday, February 9**. Come to meet the house managers and/or homeowners who will share what makes their homes unique.

Following the presentation, the teams of volunteers will meet with their house managers to review roles. A special thank you to the house managers:

“No Demo Reno” 608 Valencia - Jane Farley

“Lovin It” 717 Armada - Carol Stevenson

“Midcentury Classic” 331 Coral - Lynda Weston and Joyce Mikulski

“Lighthearted Charm” 412 Nassau - Suzanne Biviano

“Bungalow Studio” 216 Palermo - Pam Swarts

If you haven't yet committed to volunteering, or if you're shy about selling tickets, this program will ignite you in many ways:

- Learn why the homes are each so delightful
- Hear about the 'to-die for' raffle items: Plane ride, \$200+ and artworks
- Familiarize yourself with day-of-event activities and outstanding, professional artisans
- Become better acquainted with fellow volunteers
- Get fired up for final ticket sales!

Note: if you have volunteered, it is crucial that you attend the orientation.

If you haven't signed up, there are 4 slots left: 2 ticket takers (seated position) and 2 parking assistants. Please contact House Chair Marge Ostrom. We need everyone's help to make this another great success. Thank you!





Sheryl Faye as RBG

A Sold-out Success!

Over 150 patrons delighted in a 10-star performance by historical actor Sheryl Faye, portraying the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg on January 14 at the Venice Art Center. The event began with a champagne reception - champagne provided by Luanne Wood, PA and magnificent appetizers provided by our own Cook's Corner members Joan Kieran, Bev Weltzien, Wendy Seeley, Debbie Blackwell, Pam Swarts, Lynda Friedman, Nancy Brex, Bonnee Hagen, and Cynthia Bioteau, along with the gifted talents of pianist Dave Sayer. The evening was enjoyed from start to finish.

This performance highlighted the core mission of VAAUW and showcased the late justice's dedication to equity, social justice, and perseverance. Our intertwining of relevance and purpose was clearly demonstrated in this performance, not only to our members present, but to the many community members attending. We anticipate over \$5,000 raised for our scholarship funds and thank all of you who participated, especially our RBG Planning Committee members Paula Hagan, Jo Rahaim, Dee Glatz, Judith Houston, Leslie Curley, Sybil Hoffmeyer, Suzanne Biviano, Dottie Bingman, Betty Ehik, Pam Swarts, Cynthia Bioteau, and Joan Kieran.

Sheryl posted on her Facebook page: "I performed my art among all this beautiful art last night! A huge standing ovation for my #ruthbaderginsburg show! A packed house to support the AAUW Venice Florida branch of this national organization!! So honored to have been a part of this event!"

Thanks to all and to our VAAUW Board members for their tireless work in selling tickets, making online sales available, and connecting with our community to ensure the success of this event – you are amazing and phenomenal women!



Chairs: Pam Swarts and Cynthia Bioteau



VAAUW Public Policy Perspective



Title IX: What's It All About?

At our January meeting, it was announced that we are again sponsoring a young women's softball team, Miss Venice Fastpitch, in the 14/16 age bracket. This sponsorship, along with our funding of STEM camp and higher ed scholarships, aligns perfectly with **AAUW's national policy initiative under Education.**

Specifically: *"To address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates increased support for programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education".*

So how does Title IX fit in? As you know, AAUW strongly supports **public education** which incorporates programs that promote gender equity and diversity. By extension, AAUW also supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. **This federal law prohibits sex discrimination in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds.** (Click [here](#) for a fascinating brief from AAUW's National website explaining Title IX and why continued support is critical.)

The law has teeth. **Implementation and enforcement of Title IX rest with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR).** Every school district must designate a Title IX administrator with contact details publicly available. Click [here](#) to find out more about OCR's purview, and how any affected party may lodge a complaint.

Interestingly, according to the National Women's Law Center, some of the most egregious Title IX violations in youth athletics relate to inequity in funding and facilities for women's softball vs. men's baseball. OCR challenges, however, can be costly and take time. Thus, **while Title IX kickstarted an era of enormous progress for girls and women in public education, more work is needed to achieve its full promise. Our support of young women's athletic and academic opportunities in our community augments what public education offers and helps to fill that gap.**

To clarify, since our softball team is not federally funded, it is not subject to Title IX compliance. Nonetheless, our team sponsorship does fall squarely under AAUW's policy initiatives in Education and absolutely aligns with the spirit of Title IX. We are proud to partner with Miss Venice Fastpitch, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and inclusive physical education opportunities for school-age girls and women in our community. *Questions or Comments?* Contact Barbara Constantz or Debbie Blackwell.

NATIONAL ELECTION

2024 Proposed Bylaws Changes

IMPORTANT!!!

REVIEW & COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO OPEN MEMBERSHIP

If you did not get this email from **National AAUW**, please read it now and comment if you have strong feelings on the topic of Membership qualifications. As members of AAUW, you will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. In accordance with AAUW's bylaws, every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws before they are put to the membership for a vote.

You'll find all the information you need to comment on the proposed changes to the bylaws. **Comments can be submitted until Friday, January 26 at 5:00 pm ET.** [View 2024 Proposed Bylaws Changes and Comment Now](#). Online voting will be on May 15, 2024.

Click on this link. [COMMENT NOW](#)

Immerse yourself in contemporary culture...

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

The second event of three will be at the Venice Jervej Library on February 21 from 1:30-3:00 pm. Enjoy storytellers and musicians interpreting the artworks. Did the artists achieve their goals, or did they have something completely different in mind? Come and find out for a joyful afternoon! "Save the Date" for the last of the series, March 27. Contact Trena Kelly with questions.



"I know there are people out there in the world who think girls can't do it, but I know that we can."

—Tech Trek attendee Haley H.



Don't miss this! "TECH TREK IMPACT"

Wendy Seeley, Education Director, promises us a very exciting VAAUW meeting on **Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 1:30 pm at the William H. Jervey Library in Venice.** (Please keep in mind the change in time for our general meeting.) The program "Tech Trek Impact" will give you a better understanding of why our branch supports this outstanding program. AAUW has been one of the leading organizations in the country that encourages more young girls to develop interests in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Last year, our chapter sent three young girls to the camps held in Florida. All three campers were 7th-grade students at SKYE Venice. They have been invited to the March meeting to share their experiences, and one of our very own members, Carol Newman, Tech Trek's supporting foundation chair, will join us!

Introducing New Member Judy Napier



Our new member, Judy, comes to us from Chicago, where she and her spouse raised their two daughters in Naperville. They now live downtown in a condo on Lake Michigan. She splits her time between her Chicago residence and her Venice condo on the Gulf. She is originally from Racine, Wisconsin, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Judy also holds an advanced degree from Northern Illinois University. Her field of expertise is Speech Pathology and Special Education. She has extensive experience in this field, both in practice and education. She taught at and retired from DePaul University in Chicago. Judy enjoys the fine arts, reading, swimming, and kayaking and has a passion for education. She is dedicated to advocacy for women's issues. She joined AAUW to network with and work with other women who share that dedication.



Joy Mahler

“As 2023 ends, we remember these magical people”

is the headline of December 28th's *Sun Gondolier* column by Fran Valencic. Ms. Valencic suggests “it is time to give thanks and to acknowledge those who have impacted our community.”

Our VAAUW Branch is sending congratulations to our very own incredible member - **Joy Mahler**. We agree that Joy is certainly a most “magical” person. For over 25 years she has been working with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Joy is now BBBS CEO/President of the Sun Coast. Quoting from the column, “Bigs and Littles lead productive lives because Joy and her team taught them the meaning of love and making good choices.”

STRATIGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Our Vision for the Future

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Monday, January 8. They are happy to report that we are making great progress in meeting our goals for the year. They will meet again in March for a more extensive review. Joyce Mikulski, VP, wants to thank the members of the Committee for their help: Cynthia Bioteau, Pam Swarts, Bobbi Amero, Susan Hotzler, and Leslie Curley.

POLO SHIRT UPDATE

Orders have been submitted for polo shirts. We anticipate their arrival by Home Tour. Don't be concerned if your check has not been cashed yet. They will be deposited once the order is confirmed. Joyce Mikulski will continue to take polo shirt orders. Please submit only your name and size. When six orders are received, she can submit a new order and will contact you at that time for payment. You can order one at the general meetings or directly from her.

MISS VENICE FASTPITCH

Once again, we are sponsoring one of the 14-16 yr. old girls' team for the spring season. Their uniform shirt will be navy blue with our logo. Also, our logo will continue to be displayed on their website. Opening Day is Saturday, February 3, and is also the season's first game. The ceremony is at 10:30 am at Wellfield Park off Pinebrook Rd. on Ridgewood Ave. Let's show up to cheer and give them a rousing ovation as our team is introduced. Contact Joyce Milkulski with any questions.

Study/ Interest Groups



COOK'S CORNER – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 12:00

The February Cooks Corner will be held at the home of Cynthia Bioteau. Cynthia is contemplating her theme and looks forward to sharing it soon!

The group welcomes newcomers and if you'd like to join them for very enjoyable luncheons, please email Joan Kiernan to be added to their email list.

Several of the CC members were pleased to provide wonderful appetizers for the Ruth Bader Ginsburg evening.

BOOK CLUB – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1:30 pm



A massive earthquake struck San Francisco in 1906, changing many lives. Susan Meissner has written about some of those lives in *The Nature of Fragile Things*. Mary Fritz will lead the discussion at the Jacaranda Library, but come any time after 1 pm to catch up on other readers' recommendations. There is always an enjoyable discussion.

MIX AND MINGLE – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 4-6 PM



“Look who got the message!” Like-minded women in black and white at Mix and Mingle in January. Come join in the fun on the second Monday from 4-6 pm.

Enjoy a beverage, alcoholic or not, and celebrate the season with AAUW friends.

Café Venice
101 West Venice Ave.
4 to 6 pm

RSVP to Kathleen Pickering or Judy Houston





EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Join our group for a visit to historic Cortez—cash only for lunch at The Star Fish Company. We will have a unique opportunity to take pictures of an old southern fishing village. (No need for anything more than a cell phone!) Please contact Lynda Friedman if you plan on joining us. Carpooling will be available leaving British Open Pub at the Round-About of Venice and Jacaranda at 8:30 am.



KIND THOUGHTS

A “thinking of you” card was sent to Lois Odom who is at Sunset Lakes Rehab.

A “thinking of you” card was sent to Lidia Madrazo who is caretaking her husband who is very ill.

A “thinking of you” card was sent to Linda Taylor who has pancreatitis.

Good news: Carol Cudia's heart was repaired with a stent.

Please let Bonee Hagen know of anyone who could use a kind thought.

MINUTES: January 11, 2024, VAAUW Branch Meeting

Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien, Co-Presidents called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

Bobbi Amero, Treasurer, Financial Director, created a separate account item under Assets called Stripe payments. It is a record of online sales.

Marge Collin, Membership Director, introduced seven guests attending the meeting. Present were two new members, Judy Napier and Dr. Ellen Kempf.

Joyce Mikulski, Vice President, stated the Strategic Planning Committee determined our chapter is on target for meeting our goals. Polo shirts can still be ordered; \$30-\$33, small to extra-large. Send payment to Joyce. Our chapter is sponsoring a Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball Team. Our logo is on their t-shirts. The first game is February 3, 2024 at Wellfield Park.

Kathleen Pickering, Community Involvement chair, encouraged members to volunteer at the Women's Resource Center and/or the University of South Florida. The nominating committee is meeting to discuss candidates for the positions of Program Director, Vice President, SIG Director, and Finance Director. The election is in April.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, reviewed the three fundraising projects underway this Spring: Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation January 14, Home Tour February 9, and Giving Challenge in April. Strategic Plan's goal is to raise \$50,000 this year.

Trena Kelly and Dee Collins spoke about the Home Tour. Each member is asked to sell 5 tickets. Volunteers are still needed to fill positions at several homes. More details will be discussed at the February 1 meeting.

Trena Kelly announced Art in the Afternoon will be held at the Venice Library on January 17, 1:30-2:30 PM. Melanie Odom mentioned several upcoming programs; Dinner Out at Café Venice on January 17 and two events sponsored by the Friends of the Venice Library: Media Literacy on January 18, and Sue Chapman as Mable Ringling on January 25. Online registration is required.

Lynda Weston, SIG Director, reminded members to sign up for any of the 13 SIGs. The Banned Books SIG is reading two books, *Stuck in Neutral* and *Stamped*.

Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy Co-Director, discussed several important issues.

- The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship/Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options Purchasing Guide which allows the use of voucher money for non-educational items.
- The FL legislature is considering a proposal to allow 16–17-year-old teens to work 30 hours per week on school nights. Contact your legislator.
- Write to the governor to request removal of Bridget Ziegler from the Sarasota County Board of Education due to her inappropriate behavior.
- The Reproductive Rights petition exceeded the required signatures needed. Ballot language is currently under review by the FL Supreme Court. Their approval is required to place the proposed amendment on the 2024 ballot.

Barbara Constantz, Public Policy committee member, reminded members of the Public Policy Zoom meetings offered by AAUW. Pre-registration is required. Contact Barbara for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.
Submitted by Jo Rahaim

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES – FEBRUARY CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTE
Thurs	1	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for more information
Fri	2	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Tues	6	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S. Venice
Fri	9	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf and River Club RSVP-Sign up in Advance
Mon	12	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library. Book: <i>The Nature of Fragile Things</i> by Susan Meissner 1:00 Social time
Mon	12	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering	Café Venice, 101 Venice Ave., Venice. RSVP to Judy or Kathleen
Tues	13	8:30	Exploring with your Camera	Lynda Friedman	Destination: Cortez. Meet at British Open Pub at 8:30
Tues	13	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice
Thurs	15			Deadline for March Venice Views	Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceview@gmail.com
Fri	16	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Tues	20	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S. Venice
Wed	21	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Location: home of Wendy Seeley. Bring a dish that starts with the first letter of your last name
Wed	21	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	TJ Carney's Contact Melanie by Feb. 19
Fri	23	11:00	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf and River Club RSVP-Sign up in Advance
Mon	26	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library
Tues	27	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S. Venice
Tues	27	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Venice Marine Max
Wed	28	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle and Lydia Russo	Skillets in Venice Village Shoppes



Venice Views Editor for February: Nancy Brex
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 March issue of Venice Views is 2/15/2024

