

VOLUME XLVX No. 8 April 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

The Giving Challenge


This is the time of year to think about giving to others while benefitting yourself through some tax savings. Several ways are available in addition to a direct donation. Please consider the Giving Challenge this year on April 9 and 10. It matches what you give up to \$100. Another great way is to use your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Check with your accountant or tax advisor on what is best for you. AAUW has benefited from these approaches, as members have been gifting to us over the years. Thanks for keeping AAUW in mind for your financial planning. We really appreciate your generosity!

The Venice Branch of AAUW is again participating in the 24 hour online Giving Challenge in April. Donations raised during this event are matched between \$25 and \$100 by the Patterson Foundation. Only credit or debit card donations are accepted. Donations are 100% tax deductible.

There will be an open house for the Giving Challenge at the home of Paula Dulski on Tuesday April 9 from 4 to 7 pm. Friends, neighbors and spouses are welcome to the open house. Fine wine and sumptuous sweets will be served for the exciting Giving Challenge. RSVP to Paula

Visit www.givingchallenge.org for instructions and FAQs. Use the Search Box to find the American Association of University Women, Venice Branch.

NOON April 9 to NOON April 10...24 Hours Only



Presented by the
 Community Foundation of Sarasota County

**OUR APRIL GENERAL MEETING FEATURES WORLD CLASS ROWER
ANNA MCLEAN**



**MY ROW
ACROSS THE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN**

NEXT...THE PACIFIC!

Hear Venice local & 2x Guinness World Record holder, Anna McLean share insight into her world-first row across the Atlantic with her brother known as, “*The Seablings*,” spending 43 days at sea, battling 60ft waves, storms, sharks, & seasickness.

Bring your questions and discover what inspires Anna to conquer the Pacific next! This time with her friend Jenny - as team United Row!

Don't miss this inspiring event!

**Thursday
April 11th 2024
1:30 - 2:30pm
Venice Public Library**

William H. Jervy, Jr., Venice Library
300 Nokomis Ave S, Venice, FL 34285



**Everyone Welcome
Free Entry**



Sponsored by



Our proposed leadership nominees...

The Nominating Committee of AAUW Venice Branch is pleased to present the following for election at the Annual meeting on April 11. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the nominee's consent. If anyone wishes to be nominated, please notify the Co-Presidents (copresvaauw@gmail.com) by March 26, 2024, so that your name will be included on the ballot.

Vice President - Joyce Mikulski

A two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2026.

Education: *BA from Salve Regina University and graduate degree from Southern Connecticut University.*

Career: *Teacher for 42 years, including teaching adults and children. Also served as department chair and District Teacher of the Year. Joyce says that when you love your job, you never work a day in your life.*

Volunteer activities: *Girl Scouts, Junior Women's Club, and AAUW in Connecticut and Venice. In Venice AAUW, she has served as Nominating Committee chair and is currently finishing an unexpired term as Vice President. She initiated the sponsorship of Miss Venice Fast Pitch and belongs to various SIG groups.*

Family: *Married to Ken, they have 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren. They live in Venice in the winter and summer in Connecticut.*

Joyce looks forward to serving as vice president, where she will continue to lead the strategic plan and work to ensure we endeavor together to empower women.

Program Director - Charlene Turczyn

A two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2026.

Education: *University of Iowa*

Career: *McDonnell Douglas, CMW and Associates, and Leight Security international firms, which she founded.*

Volunteer Activities: *Venice Symphony, Women of the Moose, and is currently the leader of Euchre for AAUW*

Family: *Husband Paul, a retired Electrical engineer, and they have two children, one living in Iowa and the other one in the Silicon Valley*

Charlene is looking forward to bringing great programs to Venice AAUW.

Study Interest Groups (SIG) Director - Lynda Weston

A two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026.

Education: *BA from Otterbein University, Master of Education from Wright State University, and Ph.D. from Ohio State University.*

Career: *She taught kindergarten through graduate school classes. At one point, she had a radio talk show on WMVO in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and opened a bookstore in the same town.*

Volunteer Activities: *Y Reads, a program in Englewood, plays and directs handbells at her church. She also heads up two SIGS groups and is the current SIG director. She is also learning Portuguese for a trip to Portugal in August.*

Family: *Husband Tom, who she met at the church nursery school. They have two children and four grandsons. They live in Portland, Oregon in the summers and spend their winters on Manasota Key.*

Lynda is always busy with AAUW and many other activities. She looks forward to being your SIG Director again.

Nominating Committee - Rosemary Smith

A two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2026.

Education: *Earned her BSN and MSN at Northern Illinois University, Specialist in Clinical Nursing at Purdue, and Doctor of Philosophy in Higher education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Career: *She was an RN and Nurse Practitioner and ended her career as the Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh*

Volunteer Activities: *Active in the League of Women Voters and Experimental Aircraft Association and numerous activities in AAUW.*

Family: *She is married to Dennis, a corporate pilot and small business owner. They have one daughter. Although they like winter in Englewood, they love the sunsets in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.*

Rosemary looks forward to serving a full term on the nominating committee and searching out great candidates to lead AAUW.

Spotlight on Tech Trek - March 14 Program Highlights



Education Director Wendy Seeley interviewing Tech Trek camper Emily Nason

Pam Swarts, our Program Director, introduced Carol Newman, a longtime Venice AAUW member, for the March program. Her passion for girls' exposure to STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) motivated her to help form the AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation, a 501(3)(c) organization that raises awareness and funds for two Tech Trek camps currently located at Florida Atlantic University in Juniper and Stetson University in Deland FL. After highlighting the subjects and experiences the girls had, Carol remarked, "I wish I could go to these camps, but I'm not qualified . . . I'm not a girl entering 8th grade!"

The day's highlight was hearing from Emily Nason, who was interviewed by Wendy Seeley, Education Director. Emily is an 8th grader at SKY Academy in Venice. She gave upbeat, positive replies to the challenging questions posed to her. To cap off Tech Trek's impression on these young women, Emily's father stood up to express thanks and stated how impactful the experience was for his daughter. She was one of 3 girls sponsored by Venice AAUW at the summer 2023



camp. Peyton Osmond and Mikayla Karrer, Venice Middle School students, were also selected.

Venice AAUW is a vital sponsor of Florida's Tech Trek project, and our branch plays a significant role in its success. For more information, visit the AAUW Florida Supporting Foundation's website: www.techtrek-fl.aauw.net.

Wendy presented Emily with a book entitled *Women in Science – 50 Fearless Pioneers* and a plaque saying "She believed she could so she did!"

Vote on AAUW Membership Qualifications –

Key Talking Points

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

This is a topic upon which each member has a different view. To gain a greater understanding of what the National organization is communicating, go to google.com and search: How can AAUW keep its name if it accepts people who are not college graduates?



VAAUW Public Policy Perspective

Looking Ahead to Critical 2024 Votes:
We Need You!

We all know this is a pivotal year for our national elections. Amid the intense media focus on the races for the Presidency and in Congress, be sure to keep crucial state and local elections on your calendars! So many key issues for women and Floridians are at an inflection point.

Here are a few:

Reproductive Rights Ballot

- Early April: Florida Supreme Court ruling on ballot language is due.
- Click [here](#) for an overview of the Court's role and its deliberations (from the *NY Times*).
- Once approved, FL Constitutional "**Amendment 4**" requires 60% voter assent to pass.
- October 7: Voter registration deadline for General Election.
- November 5: General Election, incl. State ballot initiatives. TURNOUT IS ESSENTIAL!

Sarasota School Board & Hospital Board Elections

- Here's a golden opportunity to support public education and healthcare, and ensure that candidates with deep professional experience in these fields are elected.
- July 22: Voter registration deadline.
- August 20: Election Day – School Board (two seats) & Hospital Board (four seats)
- EVERY VOTE COUNTS! This is NOT a primary!
- Full election information for Sarasota County is available [here](#), and Charlotte County [here](#).

Updates

- March saw welcome signs of moderation in "culture wars" in several school board elections. Focus is shifting to academics and security. Read about recent trends [here](#).
- Book bans appear to be losing steam: View this TERRIFIC spotlight by 60 Minutes [here](#). Worth your time!
- Finally: Watch an excellent PBS Special [here](#): **A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy**. Based on Dr. Richard Haass' best-selling book *The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens*, explores how Americans are working towards strengthening democracy and renewing the spirit of a more informed and engaged citizenry through interviews and real-life examples.

Consider:

"There is no shame in doing little. There is shame in doing nothing." –Alexei Navalny

Questions or Comments? Contact Barbara Constantz or Debbie Blackwell.

**Are you passionate about scholarship awards?
Be a part of the process!**



Greetings from the State College of Florida Foundation!

The Foundation is preparing for our annual scholarship application reviews, which will take place this May 2024. In the past, you volunteered to help review scholarship applications, and we'd love for you to join us again this year!

Please email us at FoundationScholarships@SCF.edu and let us know if you'd like to volunteer. As in the past, the entire process is online, and you can read applications at your convenience. We are preparing an instruction sheet and video to share with our reviewers later in April.

As always, we appreciate our scholarship reviewers. You play a vital role in the scholarship awarding process! I look forward to hearing from you.

If you have any questions about the review process, please Contact Paula Dulski, from VAAUW who participated in this activity last year.

Welcome New Member Kathy Harvey!



Kathy was born in Nyack, New York and moved often as a child. Besides New York, she has lived in Indiana, California, and Connecticut. She last lived in Ohio where she moved in 1972. Kathy has had a long career in education. She taught elementary and middle school for 36 years. She moved to Venice in 2014 and is loving her life here. Kathy's interests are many and varied. She sings in several groups when she is home in Ohio. She enjoys baking, swimming, and traveling. She has recently developed an interest in glass fusion and is learning this skill. We look forward to getting to know her better. Again, Welcome Kathy.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Marge Collins reports that for the months of March and April AAUW will be offering the "Shape the Future" discount for new members. This will reduce new members' National dues by 50% for the first year. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit and invite guests to our March and April Meetings.

Lois Odom – In Memoriam



One of our oldest members, Lois Oliver Odom, died recently. She was born in Castleton, Alabama 94 years ago. Our condolences go out to her daughter Melanie Odom, who is also a member of our branch.

Lois' artistic talents led to a life sharing those abilities. Following a degree from the University of Montevallo in Alabama, she taught art in an Alabama school system and later became its first supervisor of the art curriculum. She later taught first grade in the Pinellas County (Florida) school system.

Following retirement in 1988, she and husband Robert moved to Venice to be near their daughter who is a librarian at the Jervey Venice Library on the island. She joined our branch at that time, using her artistic talents to create score cards for card parties which were fundraisers for scholarships. She also chaired some holiday luncheons, managed houses for our annual Home Tour, and assisted in STEM activities. She was also active with the Venice Art Center and Loveland Center, where she volunteered in art activities for many years.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert who passed away in 2005. In addition to daughter Melanie, she is survived by daughter Julie, (Bill and Jennifer) Jennen of Sisseton, S.D., sister Ann Oliver Mobley, brother Warren Oliver (Paula) and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to Venice branch AAUW, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice, the Venice Art Center and Loveland Center.

Services will be at Trinity Presbyterian Church in July.

MARCH 14, 2024, VAAUW Branch Meeting Minutes

Bev Weltzien, Co-President called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

Bev announced our chapter will cover the cost to attend the AAUW-FL Regional State Meeting, April 4, 2024, 10:00-4:00 PM, Venice Art Center. Pre-enrollment is required.

Bobbi Amero, Finance Director, reported a balance of \$60,180.45. The Home Tour generated \$26,212.00.

Marge Collin, Membership Director, introduced visitor Cathy Harvey. Marge announced that new members who sign up in March and April will pay discounted dues of \$67.00, an incentive to recruit new members.

Paula Dulski will host the Giving Challenge party at her home on April 9, 2024. People can come and go anytime from 4:00-7:00 pm. Gifts are matched by the Venice Community Foundation.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski reported the current polo shirt order will be placed this month. The next order will be offered in the fall. She encouraged members to attend the next Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball Team game on March 28, 2024, 7:30 PM, Wellfield Stadium. Joyce is organizing a social before the game. All those who signed up will be contacted with details.

Lynda Weston reported new SIGS are being offered: Movie Mavens, Mahjong, and Hunger Games (lunch and board games). Sign-up sheets for all SIGS were available at the meeting.

Old Business

Kathleen Pickering encouraged members to volunteer at the Women's Resource Center and State College of Florida as part of our community involvement commitment.

Bev discussed the AAUW bylaw amendment on membership eligibility. The proposed bylaw change eliminates the college degree requirement. All members are encouraged to vote April 3 – May 15, 2024. The bylaw change has been sent to members by email.

New Business

New state by-law changes and branch changes will be submitted to VAAUW members via email in April.

Kathleen Pickering presented selections from the Nominating Committee for the 2024-26 board positions. They are: Joyce Mikulski (Vice-President), Lynda Weston (SIG Director), Charlene Turczyn (Program Director), and Rosemary Smith (Nominating Committee).

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 PM was made by Pam Swarts, seconded by Jane Farley and passed by all present.

A program about Tech Trek followed with a presentation by Carol Newnan and one of our camp recipients.

Respectfully submitted, Jo Rahaim, Secretary

Study/Interest Groups (SIG)

From Lynda Weston:

If you haven't yet found a Study/Interest Group SIG to join, or you are available to add other SIGs to your schedule, 3 new SIGs will start over the next months:

Mahjong - led by Jan Harris

Matinee Movie Mavins - startup leader Lynda Weston

Hunger Games - (fun to play card and board games) led by Gail DeVet

and there may be another by fall!!

BANNED BOOKS



On Monday, March 25 at 1:30 pm at the Jacaranda Library the Banned Book SIG hosted Liz Barker. She discussed current issues facing the Sarasota School Board. Banned books will not be meeting in April.

EVENING OUT



The last Evening Out for the year will be Wednesday April 17 at 6 pm at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse 1219 US 41 Bypass. Call or e-mail Melanie Odom by Monday April 15.

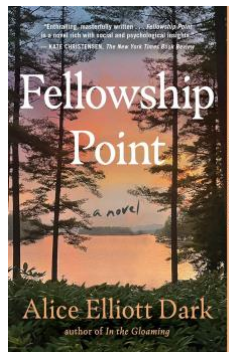
EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA



Come on a safari to Jungle Gardens, 10 acres of fun and some great picture taking. **Tuesday, April 9th**. Meet at British Open Pub, 367 Jacaranda Blvd Venice at 10:00 am to carpool.

Please contact Val Dwek if you are planning on joining us.

BOOK CLUB



Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark is the story of friendship between two women, perfect for the AAUW SIG book club. Marge Ostrom will lead the discussion on Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Jacaranda Library. Book discussion begins at 1:30, but come any time after 1pm to learn which books were voted in for 2024-2025.

COOK'S CORNER



The March lunch was hosted by Kathy Black. Thanks to her for selecting the theme of foods from favorite countries.

Our **Wednesday, April 17 Cooks Corner lunch** will be held at **Beth Gamel's home at noon**. Her theme is **Something With A Sauce**. Cook's Corner welcomes new participants for a very enjoyable afternoon, so please let Joan Kieran know if you'd like to be added to the email list.

LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, April 24 at 11:30 at Croissant & Co. Please note the new location of this restaurant: 501 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice (in the Publix Plaza). Contact Anita Kunkle for details.

Mix & Mingle

*Change of Venue
San Marco of Venice
305 West Venice Avenue
Monday
April 8
4 to 5:30*

*This restaurant has a popular music
entertainer
Beginning at 5:30 so if you wish to stay for
dinner,
Make your reservation early.*

*To help us in our planning,
Please let one of us know you are coming:
Judy Houston or Kathleen Pickering*

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR APRIL 2024

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Tues	2	9:30	Board	Jan/Bev	Gulf Coast Community Ctr.
Thurs	4	10:00-3:30	Regional State Meeting	RSVP to Jan/Bev	Venice Art Center
Thurs	4	4:00	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for Location
Fri	5	11:30	Euchre	RSVP to Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Mon	8	4:00	Mix and Mingle	RSVP to Judy Houston or K. Pickering	San Marco of Venice
Mon	8	1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark, discussion led by Marge Ostrom
Tues	9	10:00	Exploring with Your Camera	Lynda Friedman Val Dwek	Jungle Gardens, meet at British Open Pub for car pooling.
Tues	9	9:00am to 10:00pm	The Giving Challenge		
Wed	10	9:00am to 10:00pm	The Giving Challenge		
Thurs	11	1:30	General Meeting		Jervey Library
Fri	12	11:30	Bridge for Fun	RSVP to Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch—Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	15		Deadline for May Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com
Wed	17	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	Shogun Japanese Steakhouse

Continued on the next page

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Wed	17	11:30	Cook's Corner	Joan Kiernan	Hosted by Beth Gamel- preregister with Joan Kiernan
Fri	19	11:30	Euchre	RSVP to Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Mon	22	no meeting	Banned Books		
Wed	24	11:30	Lunch Bunch	RSVP to Anita Kunkle	Croissant & Co. 501 S. Tamiami Tr. (Publix Plaza)
Fri	26	11:30	Bridge for Fun	RSVP to Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch— Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.



HOME TOUR RAFFLE PRIZE

Linda Burnside won the plane ride raffle at the Home Tour in February. She and her friend Mary Eve took off with the pilot on February 27. They had a wonderful ride and can't say enough about it.





Venice Views Editor for April: 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 May issue of Venice Views is 4/15/2024

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, write the article in the third person. We thank you for your information. Please note your copy may be edited.

(2) 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.

(3) 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**.