



VENICE VIEWS



VOLUME XLVX No. 7 MARCH 2024 PUBLISHED MONTHLY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH
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TIME CHANGE FOR MEETING: 1:30P.M.

Mark your calendars with the new time for our meetings - Starting at **1:30 PM** for the rest of the season. See you at the Jervey Library this coming month on March 14.

Dear Valued VAAUW Members,

We began earnestly in September 2023 to bring excitement and meaning to our Venice Branch of AAUW. We used the words “come on board,” “share visions,” and “achieve meaningful goals.” Our response, “WOW! Again.”

In the January 2024 *Venice Views*, we wrote about our Branch’s extraordinary leaders providing a variety of social experiences, opportunities for intellectual growth, and expanding community connections. We have celebrated scholarship awardees and made ourselves known to the Women’s Resource Center, Florida Southern University, and Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball. And, most recently, we have reaped the rewards of diligent, full Branch participation in completing two incredible events that have allowed us to “raise” scholarship monies – the Ruth Bader Ginsburg presentation and our signature Home Tour “Island Charm.”

(continued on next page)

As we look forward to March and April, we have three Branch meeting *specials*:

1. Our March 14th meeting will be everything you ever wanted to know about STEM.
2. On Thursday, April 4th, we will be hosting an AAUW-FL 2024 Regional Conference. More info will be forthcoming, and you are all welcome to participate.
3. Then, on Thursday, April 11th, at 1:30 pm, our annual meeting will take place. This will be a special event in many ways! As VAAUW members come together to celebrate 2023-2024, we will be enthralled by a meaningful program featuring Anna McLean - a 29-year-old rower who has had *a dream come true*. Her words and PowerPoint presentation will fill you with wonder and delight.

Lastly, check out everything happening with our busier-than-ever SIG. A new mahjong group is on the horizon!

And *onward we go* with our 190+ members being *all we can be...empowering each other*.

Our Best, Jan and Bev
Co-Presidents 2023-2025



Programs - Finishing Strong

Pam Swarts is bringing us several “treats” as we wrap up our meeting programs for spring 2024! Don’t miss what will be dynamic, enlightening, and touching.

March will show us the rewarding effects on young girls who attended Tech Trek. The program will offer a closer look at Tech Trek and to their the camp experience. The exceptional work that Wendy Seeley has done to find deserving recipients only reinforces the value of our fundraising...And it’s a great time to invite a guest to show what we can do!

April will also be very special! It’s our time to induct new branch leaders – and salute outgoing board members. But that’s not all! Our program will introduce a fascinating woman from right here in Venice working at night far into the Gulf. Talk about grit and dedication! Read the ‘ticker’ in the Co-Presidents’ Column.

To end the formal part of our year, May will be an excellent time to enjoy friendships and interact uniquely with our members. An incredible short film will be shared along with a group program discussing our many diversities, equalities, or inequalities and our efforts for inclusion. These areas of awareness are critical to us locally and nationally as AAUW members. Special refreshments will be served to send us off before the long, hot summer!

However...don’t forget about the wonderful summer activities. If you are in town, these are fun get-togethers planned at many exciting places.



The final Art in the Afternoon for 2024 will feature several of our VAAUW members, Dee Collins and Joyce Mikulski, as storytellers. Gail DeVet’s husband, Phil, will provide music for the event. Join us at the Jervey Library at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, and enjoy this entertaining program.

Questions? Contact Trena Kelly

HOME TOUR IS BACK!

This was the comeback we were looking for. What a successful day all around! Good weather, happy visitors, and lots of profits for our scholarships!

So many people were grateful for having us host another Home Tour. They enjoyed the quirks of the homes, the unique artisans' wares, and the valuable raffles to pick from. We're overjoyed with profits in the \$25,000 range. The final accounting will be completed by the end of the month.

Congratulations to all of you who helped to make a successful HOME TOUR!

Special thanks go to our Co-chairs, Dee Collins and Trena Kelly. Let's not overlook our exceptional chairs: Marge Ostrom, Patti Warner, Bobbi Amero, Judy Houston, Charlene Turczyn, Jan Harris, Bev Weltzien, and Elaine Winquist. The house managers did an outstanding job, so congratulations go to Suzanne Biviano, Jane Farley, Joyce Mikulski, Carol Stevenson, Lynda Weston, and Pam Swarts. We are so proud of everyone who helped: All of the hostesses, ticket takers, parking attendants, raffle workers, artisans, and those who donated gifts for the raffle. To top it off, our homeowners made it a point to complement our professionalism. It doesn't get any better than that!

To all of our members, new and old, we can't stress the importance of having all of us purchase a ticket (used or not) and giving your time that day or in its planning. Our Home Tour event is definitely involved. It requires the coordination of many parts with many hands (100 members and friends). However, it is one of the most successful activities we can do to make a large amount of money in that one day to support our favorite causes:

Scholarships for women returning to school and for 7th-grade girls to attend Tech Trek.



Co-Chairs: Trena Kelly, Dagmar (Dee) Collins, and House Manager Marge Ostrom



Participants waiting to tour a home.



FLORIDA AAUW REGIONAL CONFERENCE

On Thursday, April 4, 2024, the Florida State AAUW will be holding a one-day Regional Conference from 10am to 3pm at the Venice Art Center! Our Venice Branch will be hostess to many FL-AAUW members from our Southwest Region.

This Conference is being held instead of a state-wide convention. Topics will be addressed in four 45-minute sessions and the schedule is:

- 10:00-10:15 Registration – Meet your counterparts
- 10:15-10:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:30-11:15 Introducing the ‘Pathway to Leadership’ Project
- 11:30-12:15 Sharing Branch Successes
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch - Mix and Mingle
- 1:15-2:00 Achieving Sustained Membership Growth
- 2:15-3:00 Promoting Public Policy Issues – A Year-Round Endeavor
- 3:00-3:30 Wrap Up and Adjournment

Registration is \$25.00 per member

Venice Board members are automatically registered as it is our yearly retreat.

The Regional Conference is open to all VAAUW members and IF you are interested in attending, please email copresvaauw@gmail.com requesting your registration. Discounted registration is available to all.

POLO SHIRTS

Joyce Mikulski will take new orders for the polo shirts at the March meeting. Look for the sign-up sheet and bring your payment (cash or check made out to Venice AAUW). Your money is due at the March meeting for members who have already signed up for shirts. If you miss this deadline, please email Joyce as soon as possible. PLEASE NOTE: Following this order, the next order date is September.

PRICE AND SIZES

Small - through XL \$30

XXL \$32

XXXL \$33



Pictured are Cheryl Tortora, Bev Weltzien, Trena Kelly, and Lynda Friedman.

Thank You for Your Service

Jeri Jaminet has served as one of the editors of the Venice Views newsletter for the last seven years. She has requested to step down from this task but will be staying active in the branch with other activities.

Please extend a big **Thank You** to her for producing the Venice Views for all the membership to read.

MISS VENICE FAST PITCH

On a sunny and warm February 3, Joyce Mikulski and Susan Hotzler attended the Opening Ceremony of Miss Venice Fast Pitch. Our Venice AAUW 12U team, together with their parent assistants and coaches (all wearing Venice AAUW jerseys), gave Joyce and Susan a warm welcome and asked them to return to a practice to explain what Venice AAUW is all about. Although the final score is unknown to us at this time, our very enthusiastic team was looking good with a tied score at the end of inning four. Interested in attending a game? Below is the link to Miss Venice Fast Pitch. Just click on "Spring Game Schedule" for upcoming games. The games are home at Wellfield Park when MVFP is listed as the location.

Save the Date: Let's gather on Thursday, March 28, at 7:30pm at Wellfield Park to support our team! More details will follow, including a get together before the game.

missvenicefastpitch.com

Here are some pictures from Opening Day.



Women's Resource Update

I would like to update you on the volunteer opportunities that are currently available and new workshops that are being offered.

Volunteer needs include:

1. Sarasota Career Closet –

Assist clients in shopping in the closet, receive donations, and help keep the closet organized and looking its best.

2. Clothing Transporter – Volunteers needed to help transport clothing from the Venice office to the Sarasota office.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, you will need to register for Volunteer Training on the Women's Resource Website (mywrc.org.)

Two new workshops are starting this month. If you or anyone you know are interested in either of these workshops, you can find more information, costs, and registration on the Women's Resource Website (mywrc.org.)

1. You Are Worthy – Skills for self-confidence, assertiveness, boundary settings, and negotiation skills. This is an 8-week course with a course cost of \$25.

2. Divorce 101- This is a 5-week course that deals with the process of divorce. There is no cost for this course.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact, Delores (Dee) Glatz- Liaison with Women' Resource Center, Community Involvement



Book Exchange

Remember to bring your books to the March Meeting. Drop a book off and pick up one that you have not yet read!

Welcome new member, Debra Jackson!

“Deb “ was recruited by Kathy Black and they live in Nokomis. Her husband’s job transfer with Chase Bank brought her to Florida and...She has already been involved in VAAUW as a Home Tour hostess!

Deb has a vast and varied professional career, excelling in both academic and business environments. A University of Illinois graduate with a BS in Elementary Education,-she taught grade school in the Johnstown Monroe ,OH, local school district as well as here in the North Port district.

She built two successful businesses (a hardware store and a floral shop)) from the ground up. She was involved in her community and served on her local Chamber of Commerce. In addition, was also president of the Centerburg, Ohio, public school board and was a member of the Centerburg Library Board.

Deb feels her strongest attributes are her resiliency and willingness to serve. She is proud of her 44-year marriage and her ability to deal with whatever life throws at her. She has a passion for service and is currently seeking volunteer opportunities.

We are delighted that she has joined our branch.



Cook’s Corner: Cynthia Bioteau hosted February’s Event—Mardi Gras. Pam Swarts found the baby Jesus in her serving of cake.



Welcome New Member, Leona Crosskey-Marsani!

Leona was born and raised in Connecticut. She chose her career in nursing because it gave her the flexibility to be able to work whenever and wherever she needed to work.

She truly enjoyed the scientific learning and the interactions with the patients and her colleagues. Nursing offered many diverse opportunities and, for the most part, her career consisted of working in hospitals bringing diverse teams together to improve processes and procedures. Her most rewarding accomplishments were those which directly benefited the patients - especially in the area of safety.



She and her husband, Bill, have a large and wonderful family. They have five children, six grandchildren and three step grandchildren. They initially came to Florida for long weekends starting in 2005 and in 2015 they bought a home in Englewood. In 2021, they built and moved into a home, designed by her husband, in Nokomis. They have some family and friends living nearby and have also met many new friends in the Venice area. Company is always welcome at her home. Leona enjoys gardening, cooking and reading. She keeps active by biking and playing pickle ball.



Exploring with Your Camera group in Cortez.

Joan Kieran, Wendy Seeley, Val Dwek, Nancy Brex, Lynda Friedman

Welcome New Member, Dr. Ellen Kempf

Ellen moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to Fort Myers, Florida in 1983. She had a pediatric practice in Fort Myers and it was there that she met her physician husband, Jeff who was working in Public Health. They moved to Ohio in 1990 for his future career goals and stayed there until retiring. Both are retired now and are gradually returning to a more sane and normal life in Venice, Florida. Their combined medical careers have always included contributions to pediatric and global health issues. They continue to be involved in these initiatives. Of special interest to the Kempfs is St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti.

The Kempfs will be involved in the upcoming event to kick off World Health Day. Members are invited to attend the event to hear about the mission of St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti.

The event will be held:

Thursday, February 29, 2024

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Island Walk Clubhouse in the Lanai

18700 Tantino Drive
Venice, Florida 34293

Light food and drinks provided.

Here is Ellen volunteering at the hospital in Haiti.



Kind Thoughts

Get Well cards were sent to Catherine Paulsen, who had shoulder replacement surgery on February 16th, and to Barbara Swartz, who had surgery on February 23rd. Another member who will have shoulder replacement is Cynthia Bioteau on March 18. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Please let Bonnee Hagen know about anyone who could use a “*kind thought.*”

FEBRUARY 1, 2024, VAAUW Branch Meeting

Jan Harris and Bev Weltzien, Co-Presidents called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Minutes and financials were approved.

Marge Collin, Membership Director, introduced new members Leona Crosskey and Debbie Jackson. Also attending the meeting were guests Kathy Ducet, Carol Hart and Meg Berry.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, reported that the Ruth Bader Ginsberg program earned \$5,160.00 for the scholarship fund at the sold-out event. She thanked all who sold tickets and Cook's Corner for supplying the appetizers.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski reported polo shirts were ordered for the Home Tour. Shirts will be ordered again with a minimum order of 6.

Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball Team's opening day game is Saturday February 3. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Our Facebook page has been activated. Members are encouraged to LIKE and SHARE especially the Home Tour page.

President Jan Harris described the following raffle prizes for the Home Tour all worth \$200 or more: Airplane flight around Venice, Salon treatment, Painting, Wine, Money tree, and more. A bag was passed around the room to collect funds for the money tree. Tickets for the raffle are 6 for \$5.00, 15 for \$10.00, and 40 for \$20.00.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Program commenced describing the homes to be toured, team assignments and jobs. Each house manager and team met in small groups to discuss expectations and assignments.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Blackwell



Mix and Mingle

VAAUW members enjoyed libations and appetizers at Café Venice.

Banned Books SIG

Our monthly meeting will be held at the Jacaranda Library on Monday March 25th at 1:30. We continue to explore books that have been removed from classroom and school library shelves. Teachers are fearful that they could lose their jobs because of books they've had in their classrooms, sometimes for years. We continue as a SIG to collectively search for ways to stop "anti reading" policies in Florida.

Matinee Movie Mavins

There is an idea for a new SIG that will gather once a month in the afternoon at the Venice Movie Theater to view a current movie. When possible it will be a movie based on a book. A leader/organizer and interested members need to be identified. If this sounds like something you'd like to participate with, please email Lynda Weston, the overall SIG chair.

Exploring With Your Camera

Bring your camera or cell phone to Snook Haven, a piece of old Florida along the Myakka River, Tuesday March 12th. We will meet at 9:30 am at the British Open Pub, 367 Jacaranda Blvd, Venice. Please email Lynda Friedman or Val Dwek if you plan on joining us.

Book club

"Demon Copperhead," by Barbara Kingsolver, spent 64 weeks on the best-seller list, and it is the March selection for the VAAUW SIG Book Club. Kathy Dierstein will lead the discussion on Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Jacaranda Library. Book discussion will begin at 1:30 p.m., but come any time after 1 p.m. to share book recommendations.

MARCH 2024

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	1	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Tues	5	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Mon	11	1:30	Book Club	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	“Demon Copperhead”, by Barbara Kingsolver, Discussion led by Kathy Dierstein
Tues	12	10:00	Exploring with Your Camera	Lynda Friedman Val Dwek	Snook Haven, Meet at British Open Pub for car pooling.
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
Fri	15	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch—Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance
Fri	15	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail Nokomis
Fri	15	Deadline for April Venice Views		Send Word articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to auwveniceviews@gmail.com	
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 with Joan
Wed	20	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	Leone's at Jacaranda Pines Shopping Center. Call or email Melanie to attend.
Fri	22	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge and Lunch—Venetian Golf & River Club. You must sign up in advance.
Mon	25	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library
Tues	26	9:00	Walk and Talk	Beth Gamel	Maxine Barrett Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S.
Tues	26	2:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Meet at Marina Jack’s in Sarasota
Wed	27	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	Farlows on the Water in Englewood, Contact Anita or Lydia to attend.



Venice Views Editor for March: 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 April issue of Venice Views is 3/15/2024

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**.