

VOLUME XLVIX, No. 9    MAY 2024

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. Box 515, VENICE, FL 34284

CO-PRESIDENTS: JAN HARRIS AND BEVERLY WELTZIEN

BRANCH: [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net)    STATE: [aauw-fl.aauw.net](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net)    NATIONAL: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

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

## A Letter from your Co-Presidents



One year of our two-year term has ended. And...WOW! What a year it has been!

Let's celebrate! We certainly have many reasons to do so. We have a Venice Branch of 150+ women who have cared enough over this year to make significant strides on a wide range of issues and interests concerning us as women.

As we started our year, we enthusiastically introduced our DIVA goals:

*Make a Difference*

*Be Inclusive*

*Increase our Visibility*

*Be Aware and Accountable*

We asked you to come aboard and share our visions. And you did!

"Time flies when you're having fun," which illustrates our year of fun and rewards. Yet-some might say, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is that we're the pilots." As pilots, we have recognized the ups and downs, both locally and nationally. You came aboard and were with us for this journey. You did step up; you have initiated change. You have been alert to new adventures and opportunities. And we can pat ourselves on the back and acknowledge our successes.

(continued on next page)

Our record is astounding. Let's marvel *together* at the list...

Home Tour - Generated \$25,000 for Scholarships

Community Involvement with Women's Resources and SFU

New SIGs - Movie Mavins, it has met once and will meet in May.

Expanded Venice Views - Now over 16 pages of worthy reading

Remarkable coverage and awareness through our Public Policy initiatives

Unique fundraising: RBG and Love, Libations, & Lite Bites brought additional scholarship monies to support VAAUW goals:

Women's Resource Center

Clothing Drive for WRC

League of Women Voters

Tech Trek Impact

Anna McLean's United Row

DEI Awareness

Sponsoring Venice Girl's Fast Pitch Team (Title IX and possibly ignited interest in Tech Trek for this age group)

Celebratory Cocktail Reception - Presentations by our outstanding scholarship recipients

Sending 8-9 of our local girls to Tech Trek camp this summer

New Thank-You program to show appreciation to our many donors

Updates to our Facebook and website pages

Enthusiastic participation in The Giving Challenge

As we end our first year, we don't want to rest on our laurels! "*Empowering Women*" acknowledges that much work still needs to be done. So, buckle up! Stay with us! We are eager to continue our valuable missions...with you...our fabulous Venice AAUW Branch Board, and our members.

Our Very Best,

Jan and Bev

# Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 9, at 10 am

Our last season meeting will be held at the Venice Island Jervey Library. You will not want to miss this important meeting! Several events are occurring.

It is the traditional time to elect and swear in our newest Board members and vote on changes in our By-Laws.

A wonderful program with a unique activity will be presented.

\* This is our opportunity to say goodbye to friends heading out and to applaud Pam Swarts, our most talented Program Director, for her phenomenal service over the past two years. She is permanently moving to Minnesota, brrr.

A continental brunch will be served at 10:30 am

Unique Donors  
61 !!



Donor Gifts  
\$5,150 !!



Presented by the  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Add Matches  
and Prizes  
\$10,800 !!



Venice AAUW  
Empowering Women

# WOW!! -- or Make That ROW!!

We are a proud sponsor of this fascinating endeavor by a very strong and determined young woman. Our Venice AAUW logo is proudly displayed on the bow of her boat. In April, the presentation was devoted to the experiences of Anna McLean, a Venice resident, two-time Guinness World Record holder, graduate of Clemson University, and rower extraordinaire. The Jervey Library meeting room was packed with nearly 150 attendees, including many visitors who had met—or are following—Anna and her dream. Pam Swarts, Program Director and Co-President Jan Harris warmly introduced Anna, whose program was entitled “My Row Across the Atlantic Ocean.”

On the approach to the library, there was an immediate WOW: A very unique boat was parked in the entryway! What precluded this exhibit was Anna’s prior accomplishments.

In 2020, Anna and her brother embarked on a monumental journey, rowing across the Atlantic in 43 days, 15 hours and 22 minutes. They became the first brother/sister team (they dubbed themselves “Team Seablings”) to row an ocean, and the fastest mixed pair. Anna shared their story, recounting the numerous hardships, challenges, and setbacks they encountered. Yet, their story was a testament to the power of attitude, perspective, and perseverance. Even her mother shared how she leaned on her faith to get her through the worry.

Looking ahead, Anna and Jenny D’Anthony are preparing for their next challenge: a race beginning June 8th in Monterey Bay, California, culminating in Kauai, Hawaii. The crossing is expected to take approximately 60 days and cover 2,800 miles -- all in a two-seater rowing boat, with everything needed to survive onboard. The former Clemson roommates and rowing teammates are united in pursuing new challenges. They will race under the banner “United Row,” a non-profit organization they founded to raise funds for charity through extreme endurance events. Their primary charitable cause is “Hear Her Roar,” which supports women student-athletes at Clemson University. From our sponsored event, United Row received contributions of over \$1000.



JAN HARRIS MODELS “HEAR HER ROAR” HAT

# What's new with Membership?

On April 23 Suzanne Biviano's home hosted a new member reception. Our Branch welcomed this year's new members and provided the opportunity to learn more about our branch and all that we have to offer.

***Shape the Future*** membership (new members only!) is available until the end of May. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage women to join our organization. National dues are reduced by half during this promotion.

Last month, we welcomed Cathy Harvey into our Venice Branch. She is Cathy with a "C," not with a "K," as published. Her name is correct on all of our records now. Please update your records.

## VAAUW MISS VENICE FAST PITCH

A spirited group of VAAUW members gathered at Joyce Mikulski's home for pizza and wine before proceeding to Wellfield Park to cheer on our **undefeated** 12U (12-year-old and under) team. It was a delight to watch these talented young women battle to victory. The interaction between the coach, parents, and our members was a wonderful example of bringing visibility to Venice AAUW. Congratulations to these young women and their coaches for such a successful season! Our branch is looking forward to supporting another team in the fall season. They are *AAUW-some!*

## Orders for POLO SHIRTS

Joyce Mikulski will contact members when their shirts are ready. If you are interested, new orders will be taken in the fall.

# VAAUW SIG Book Club 2024-2025

## Book Club Meets 1st Monday of the Month

Date	Title	Author(s)	Leader
*June 10, 2024	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i>	Shelbey VanPelt	Pam Swarts
*July 8, 2024	<i>Mad Honey</i>	Picoult & Boylan	Lynda Weston
*Aug. 12, 2024	<i>Olive Again</i>	Elizabeth Stout	Paula Dulski
*Sept. 9, 2024	<i>Collected Regrets of Clover</i>	Mikki Brammer	Hilda Dillman
*Oct. 14, 2024	<i>Lady Tan's Circle of Women</i>	Lisa See	Dottie Bingman
**Nov. 11, 2024	<i>Someone Else's Shoes</i>	JoJo Moyes	Joyce Mikulski
Dec. 9, 2024	<i>Tom Lake</i>	Ann Patchett	Jean Norman
Jan. 13, 2025	<i>The Women</i>	Kristin Hannah	Mary Fritz
Feb. 10, 2025	<i>First Ladies</i>	Benedict & Christopher	Lydia Russo
Mar. 10, 2025	<i>The Heaven &amp; Earth Grocery Store</i>	James McBride	Joan Cash
April 14, 2025	<i>Pineapple Street</i>	Jenny Jackson	Bev Weltzein
May 12, 2025	<i>Hello Beautiful</i>	Ann Napolitano	Joyce Mikulski

\*Zoom Meetings

\*\*Alternate Site VUCC 620 Shamrock Blvd. Parlor

All others Jacaranda Library Youth Room

General book conversation at 1:00 pm., All meeting discussions are from 1:25 until 2:30

### Book Club

For a different view of Cuba, you might read *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton, the May selection for the VAAUW SIG book club. The discussion will be led by Joyce Mikulski on Monday, May 13, 2024 at the Jacaranda Library. This is the last in person meeting until November. Discussion begins at 1:25pm, but come any time after 1:00 to talk books.

## **Study/Interest Groups (SIG)**

*(Contact information for the individual leaders of each SIG is listed in the Directory.)*

We currently have 14 SIGs in our VAAUW branch. They are varied and probably offer something for everyone. Each group operates independently of the other but with respect for the others. Over time, some SIGs lose member interest, and others are recommended. Recently added SIGs:

### **Matinee Movie Mavens**

The Movie Matinee Mavens SIG had its initial gathering on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The group viewed “Wicked Little Letters” and then enjoyed a rousing conversation over lunch at Mama Marias. The wicked little letters were full of vulgar words, and the 1916 British seaside community was shocked that the daughter of one of their upstanding citizens should face these awful missives. The acting was superb, the setting perfect, and the female characters the mainstay of the movie. Reviewers referred to it as a dark comedy!! There was lots of laughing in the audience!

The next scheduled Movie is Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Details will be sent out a week before to those on the contact list. If you wish to be on that list, send Lynda an email.

### **Mahjongg**

Contact Jan Harris to sign up. They are ready to begin again.

### **Hunger Games**

Gail DeVet will lead this new SIG beginning this fall. She is looking for a place to play various table games. Do you know of a place or would like to join? Please contact Gail or Lynda Weston, SIG Director.

### **Banned Books SIG**

*The Banned Book SIG has finished meeting for the season, but it has not finished following the issues surrounding the banning of books.* Our Venice Branch needs to observe the effects of the court ruling recently passed, which removes some of the issues regarding the removal of books and the ability of students and teachers to discuss issues of race and LGBTQ characters in books and society. The summer election of Sarasota School Board members is crucial to the community. Also, all taxpayers should follow the state voucher awarding policy. It has a major impact on public education and its funding.

Lynda Weston recently attended a meeting of PEN (Public Education Network) of Sarasota. Their mission is to provide a unified advocacy network for educational excellence in the county. They are looking for partners in this endeavor.

## Whee! School's Out - SUMMER SOCIALS 2024

Rev up for what we hope will be a cooler summer from the last two years, and come up with places **you** want to go. VAAUW will supply the companionship and drivers (members) for interesting things to do.

### **WHERE would you like to visit?**

Jeri Jeminet is researching the following. If possible, there will be carpooling.

**The Imagine Museum: Contemporary Glass Art** - St. Petersburg

**The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art** - St. Petersburg. (It's the best museum ever!)

**Military Heritage Museum**, history, virtual reality, flight simulator - Punta Gorda

**Six Mile Cypress Slough**—easy walking 1-1/2 miles on a boardwalk - Fort Myers

**Sarasota Ski-A Rees Waterskiing Show** - at the Mote, Sarasota

**Babcock Ranch Eco Tour** (open-air bus) - Punta Gorda

**Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College of Art and Design**, contemporary art museum - Sarasota

**C'est La Vie Restaurant** (a favorite!) - downtown Sarasota

Or, perhaps some other ethnic restaurant you haven't been to yet

*Email Jeri Jeminet with YOUR SUGGESTIONS before May 10!*

## Kind Thoughts...

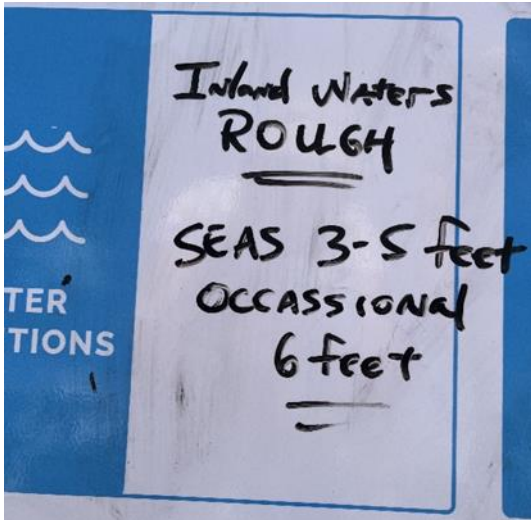
A get-well card was sent to Barbara Wysner, and good thoughts were also sent to Cynthia Bioteau, who had shoulder surgery on 3/18. Speedy recovery message was sent to Jan Harris for her knee surgery on 4/24.

Sympathy cards were sent to two of our members: Melanie Odom, whose mother, Lois Odom, died. Lois was a life member of AAUW and was active in our branch for many years. Additionally, condolences were sent to Barbara Constanz, whose father passed away suddenly.

If you know anyone who could use a kind thought, please pass the information on to Bonnee Hagen.



# COASTAL CRUISING



The March Coastal Cruising in Sarasota was almost a no-go! Pat Coelho, Paula Dulski, Kay Olson, Jeri Jaminet, and Joan Kieran were cautioned that it would be rough but decided to be daring or, as we call it, "foolhardy!" The conditions on the chart should have been a giveaway. However, their only comment was that "occasional" was misspelled

Coastal Cruising will continue throughout the summer. Mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The Freedom Boat Club locations will vary. In inclement weather, we may have lunch at a waterside restaurant instead. Reservations must be made by the 3rd Tuesday of the month to reserve a seat on the pontoon. Contact Paula Dulski.

## Coastal Cruising on April 16 and lunch at Dockside.



Susan Talbott, Dotty Bingman, Kathleen Economides, Kay Olson, Pat Coelho, Susan Hotzler, Paula Dulski and Gail DeVet.

## Cooks Corner

Our closing Cooks Corner gathering will be a traditional picnic at Maxine Barritt Park on May 15 near Sharkey's and Lake Venice Golf Club. If you would like to join us and are not on our email list, please let me know and we'll include you with all the details. Come and enjoy the sunshine, good food, good company and, if you wish, a lovely walk around the path.



The French Conversation SIG met for lunch and French conversation at the Venice Art Center in April. Present were: Rosario Morgan, Judy Weber, Sybil Hoffmeyer, Jane Metcalf, Melissa Stofko and photographer Lynda Weston. The wait staff even spoke French which added to the fun of the gathering. The group

graciously spoke more English than French to accommodate one limited French speaking guest! Sometimes the group meets in parks to converse, sometimes in homes and sometimes at a restaurant as they did in April. Chair Jane Metcalf is traveling to Paris in the near future which sparked conversation and reminiscences of past trips of others. Bon chance to this active SIG!

## Cooks Corner— April Event

April's theme by Beth Gamel, "Sauces," was a unique way to approach our monthly gathering of Cook's Corner. Never before did we have 4 of the same selections! Four Pound Cakes, but all with different sauces. And...we welcomed our newest honorary member to Cook's Corner, Isla. She didn't miss a morsel that hit the floor!





## *Mix and Mingle*

*We're moving on  
Join us on Monday, May 6*

*Hotel Venezia  
(Ramada Inn)  
421 US 41 North*

*Monday  
May 6  
4 to 6 pm*

*This location has plenty of easy, free parking*

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

## AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES — MAY 2024 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	3	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Mon	6	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering	Hotel Venezia (Ramada Inn) 421 US 41 North
Thurs	9	10:30	Monthly Meeting	Beverly Weltzien Jan Harris	William Jervey Library
Thurs	9	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for more information.
Fri	10	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. <b>RSVP</b> – Sign up in advance.
Mon	13	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library. Book: <i>Next Year in Havana</i> by Chanel Cleeton 1:00 - Social before mtg.
Tues	14	10:00	Exploring with your Camera	Val Dwek Lynda Friedman	Contact Lynda for location
Tues	14	TBD	Matinee Movie Mavins	Lynda Weston	Movie Title TBD
Wed	15	12:00	Cooks Corner	Joan Kieran	Picnic at Maxine Barritt Park 1800 Harbor Dr. S. Venice
Wed	15	Deadline for <b>SUMMER Venice Views</b>		Send <b>Word</b> formatted articles and/or <b>jpg</b> formatted photos by email to <b><a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a></b>	
Fri	17	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Wed	22	11:30	Lunch Bunch, Etc.	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	Le Petite Jardin Café 1500 E. Venice Avenue. <b>RSVP</b> .to Lydia
Fri	24	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Bridge & lunch. Venetian Golf & River Club. <b>RSVP</b> -Sign up in advance.
Tues	28	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Contact Paula for location



Venice Views Editor for May: 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](mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com)

[Text in Word Formatted File](#)

[Pictures in JPG Format Only!](#)

Deadline for the **Summer** issue of Venice Views is **5/15/2024**

### 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](mailto: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**.