

VOLUME I No. 3

DECEMBER 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)

## A Message from your Presidents



Dear Venice AAUW Members,

As we approach the close of another incredible year, we want to reflect and share some thoughts filled with warmth and optimism as we enter this holiday season.

December is a special time for joy, connection, and gratitude. It offers us the perfect opportunity to reconnect with loved ones, embrace our communities, and nourish the bonds we've formed within our organization. And we are continually inspired by your spirit of collaboration and support. As we celebrate the accomplishments of this past year, we are also looking ahead.

We are filled with excitement for what 2025 will bring: our signature Home Tour scholarship fundraiser, the Wine Tasting gala, the reception for our 2024 scholarship recipients, meaningful monthly programs, ongoing gatherings for our SIGs, the election in April for four Branch leadership positions; and the biennial

retreat for past and new Board members. The upcoming months are ambitious and achievable. They promise new opportunities for learning, networking, and giving back. Together, we will continue to empower each other and pave the way for future generations of women.

As we gather for this season of festivities, we encourage you to take time for yourself— whether that’s unwinding with a good book, pursuing a hobby, or simply enjoying the beauty of the season. Let's carry the spirit of joy and kindness into our gatherings and every interaction we have. Thank you for being an invaluable part of our VAAUW. Each of you brings a unique light to our collective journey.

We wish you all a warm and wonderful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. May the new year bring you peace, health, and renewed inspiration.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Jan and Bev  
Co-Presidents 2023-2025



## **SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION JANUARY 15, 2025**

Join us for our Scholarship Reception on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025** from 4 to 6 pm at Hotel Venezia. Our recipients will share their stories and tell how our scholarship helped them along their educational journeys. A glass of wine or beer and a selection of hors d'oeuvres will be provided for a cost of \$20 for AAUW Members and scholarship recipients will be our guests.



## Holiday Luncheon - Hotel Venezia, 425 US 41 Bypass N

Our holiday event will be on **WEDNESDAY, December 11.**

**11:00 AM** - Gathering and cash bar

**11:30 AM** - A choice of lovely luncheon plates will be served

**1:15 PM** - Holiday entertainment by the phenomenal “Silver Foxes”

Indicate your choice on the check for the luncheon:

1. A trio of salads (chicken, tuna, and egg)
2. Chicken salad croissant
3. Chef’s salad with: *A.* grilled chicken or *B.* vegetarian

***\$27.50*** - send checks by **DECEMBER 5**

**AAUW Venice Branch**

**PO Box 515**

**Venice, FL 34284**

## WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON CLOTHING DRIVE



Clean out those stuffed closets and drawers and help the Women's Resource Center Career Closet. As we did last year, we will be holding a clothing drive at our Holiday Luncheon on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The WRC accepts women's clothing, shoes, and accessories in good condition. This includes scrubs, formal wear, coats, hats, scarves, purses, and jewelry. Work attire is welcome, but slacks, sweaters, blouses, etc. are all gratefully accepted. The WRC also uses donations to supply their Unique Boutique in Bradenton. The Unique Boutique is an upscale resale boutique offering gently worn, brand-name women's clothing and accessories at reasonable prices. Sales at the boutique are used to help fund programs offered at the WRC.

**Bring your donations to the Holiday Luncheon in a festive bag to facilitate transporting to the WRC Sarasota location.**

\*If donation receipts are desired, include an index card with your name, email, and number of items.



## Dr. Aly Busse, Education Director of the Mote Marine Laboratory, speaks at the November Branch Meeting



At the November Branch meeting members were treated to a presentation by Dr. Aly Busse about the Mote Marine Laboratory education programs and new aquarium. As an education director, Dr. Busse has been at Mote since 2011, developing an extensive program reaching all ages nicknamed SEA for Science Education Aquarium. She outlined many of the programs for all ages beginning with kindergarten, including high school volunteers from 3 Sarasota high schools, internships at the undergrad and graduate university levels, post-doc research and lifelong learning programs for adults. Of special interest to many is their work with girls encouraging careers in STEM. Dr. Busse ended her presentation with an overview of the new Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA) located just off I 75 in Sarasota slated to open early 2025. She quoted Leila Janah: “Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not.”

From Pamela Siderski, Philanthropic Engagement Officer  
Office (941-388-4441 “press” 2 X 618. Cell: 941-451-0106

[Here is the link to our website for our Mote-Invational Monday's lecture series.](#) We will be updating it to reflect this year's line up soon, but you can see last year's featured scientists and watch their presentations.

[Link to Mote's Education Pages](#)

# HOME TOUR: BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR TICKETS



While at the Christmas Luncheon be sure to pick up your packet of 5 tickets. Tickets are also an ideal present for the holidays, birthday, and even Valentine's Day. Enclose your gift in one of our decorative envelopes. Ticket pick-up will also be available at the January meeting.

## THANK OUR VENDORS

When out Holiday shopping, don't forget our loyal vendors who have supported us by selling our tickets every year. All have unique gift items that just might be some of the perfect presents for you this season. Happy Shopping!

Also, this small poster is available for members to take and place in their neighborhood clubhouses or a favorite business of theirs. Please note that the vendors will not have the tickets available until the first of the year. Please do not hand out until they have the tickets.



## **MAKE A VENICE AAUW FASHION STATEMENT!**

Join your fellow Venice AAUW members and order your polo shirt now. Think of how wonderful we will all look at the Home Tour! Contact Joyce Mikulski ASAP if interested.



Sizes S, M, L, XL \$30; XXL \$32; XXXL \$33  
Check made out to Venice AAUW





## MISS VENICE FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

It was a tough fall season for our 8U (eight years and under) softball team. Helene and Milton caused damage to the softball fields in Venice and in the entire Sarasota area. Luckily, games were rescheduled, and our team was able to finish its season. Joyce and Lynda attended the Halloween Bash in Port Charlotte on October 19 which consisted of teams throughout the Sarasota area. Team members, coaches, and parents all dressed in costumes. It was wonderful to see everyone having such fun after the stress of the hurricanes.

We are looking forward to the spring softball season and some enjoyable softball social events for our members.



## A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY

Our country faces a critical issue, and Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy Director, asks us to send a letter to the President. Let's see how we can make a difference.

*The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.*

The AAUW Public Policy Priorities, voted on by members every two years, guide all AAUW public policy actions. Below is a sample letter you might consider sending.

*President Biden at the Whitehouse*

*1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.*

*Washington, DC 20500.*

*Dear President Biden,*

*I urge you to direct the US Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), adding sex and gender equality to the Constitution once and for all. The final publication of the ERA is within your power, and it is time to secure your legacy.*

*I appreciate your years of commitment to the fight for gender equality, including your legacy of authoring the Violence Against Women Act, as well as your Administration's work to address gender-based violence and defend and expand reproductive rights and healthcare access. In recent years, we have seen how quickly our rights can be stripped away and our nation's progress overturned. We cannot take a single liberty for granted and cannot wait to take this vital step.*

*Your White House has repeatedly spoken about enshrining the principle of gender equality in our Constitution. Mr. President, you have that power. In your remaining time in office, I implore you to instruct the Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment and unequivocally define your legacy as a lifelong champion for equal rights.*

*The future of our democracy depends on it.*

*Sincerely yours,*

***Don't forget to sign it!***

## Study/Interest Groups

### BRIDGE FOR FUN



There is a new time and new dates for Bridge for Fun: the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 12:15PM at the Venezia Restaurant on Route 41 (Ramada Inn).

### MAHJONG



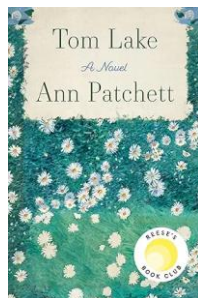
Would you like to play Mahjong? Would you like to learn to play Mahjong? Barbara Swartz has volunteered to be the Mahjong SIG leader. Please contact her for more information and to sign up.

## COOKS CORNER



Our annual holiday tradition (this year on December 18 at noon) is a salad buffet and cookie exchange at the host's home to be announced. Newcomers are welcome...send an email to Joan Kiernan.

## BOOK CLUB



Remember the pandemic when you may have been bored and isolated with your family? *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett is the story of 3 sisters using that time to find out about their mother's youthful relationship, and it is the VAAUW book group subject for December. Jean Norman will lead the discussion on December 9 at the Jacaranda Library. Join the meeting any time after 1pm; the discussion will begin at 1:25.

## HUNGER GAMES



Welcome to Hunger Games! A New SIG! Gail DeVet has secured the smaller conference room at Jervey Library for Saturday, December 14, 11:30-2:30. It has an attached kitchenette with a sink and a fridge. Bring your own lunch or snacks or beverage. The group can eat and visit before playing. Please bring your favorite games with you. Gail will bring some as well. If you have a regular deck of cards, please bring it as Gail learned a game all can play together that takes a lot of cards. Saturday is our only bet for a consistent time slot. We will talk about your preferences on Dec 14. Thanks. We will have fun playing our faves and learning some new games.

Please let Gail know if you plan to attend. The group will meet in the lobby.



**November Coastal Cruisers had a beautiful day.**

## **AAUW Venice Branch Minutes - November 14, 2024**

Location: The United Church of Christ - 620 Shamrock Rd, Venice, FL

The meeting was called to order following a welcome back greeting by the co-president, Beverly Weltzien. A program by Dr. Aly Busse, education director of Mote Marine and Aquarium, was introduced by Lynda Weston, our newly appointed Program Director.

Jan Harris, Co-President, offered a Civility Moment, which will become a staple of our meetings going forward.

Debbie Blackwell encouraged members to write a brief note to President Biden to instruct the Archivist to certify the Equal Rights Amendment. Forty cards were signed and posted.

The meeting was called to order with the announcement of the minutes and Treasurer's reports being posted and approved on our website. There is \$51,657.82 in the VAAUW account and approximately \$24,000 in the Gulf Coast Foundation Account.

Judy Napier of the Membership Committee introduced new members and guests. She presented Trena Kelly with a 50-Year Award as an AAUW member.

Patti Warner gave an update on the Home Tour, scheduled for February 14, 2025. Four homes have been secured. The posters and tickets are designed and ready for distribution. Members are asked to sell tickets and sign up for jobs for the event day. 1000 tickets are available for sale.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, announced the Wine Tasting has been rescheduled for early April due to hurricane damage. Leona Crosskey will still host it at her home with her co-host Cindy Sproehle.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski spoke about our youth softball sponsorship. A new team will be announced for the Spring season. She also encouraged members to purchase VAAUW shirts. 3/4 length sleeve shirts are available. Call her to buy.

Wendy Seeley, Education Director, announced Tech Trek, a STEM camp, is now starting to offer applications to the schools. January 15, 2025, is the scholarship reception to honor the recipients at Hotel Venezia at 6 PM. Ticket sales will begin at the Holiday Luncheon.

Our new SIG Director, Hilda Dillman, gave updates on Study/Interest Groups (SIG). Considerations for new activities will be announced in the future.

Nancy Brex, Co-Media Director, announced that the Directory will be available on the Venice AAUW website starting this year. Printed books will no longer be passed out to the

membership. It can be printed directly from the website under the Members Only section. Any board member can assist a member to access the Directory.

Public Policy Director Debbie Blackwell also urged members to advocate for Clean Water in our state.

Old Business: The membership unanimously approved the changes to the by-laws that show the description of our officers.

New Business: Kathy Black, our Historian, requested members to send photos with captions so that she could retain the history of VAAUW.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Lynda Weston, seconded by Leona Crosskey.

## Kind Thoughts



A sympathy card was sent to Bea Holt as her sister, Carol passed away.

A sympathy card was sent to Ellen Kempf as her mother-in-law passed.

A get well card was sent to Patti Warner as she broke her ankle in a car accident.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Carol Shabo.

A “thinking of you” was sent to Cynthia Bioteau while caring for her ill daughter.

Please contact Bonnee Hagen and leave a message if not reached.

## AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/ NOTES
Wed	4	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemy	Venezia Restaurant
Fri	6	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn and Jeri Jaminet	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Mon	9	1:30	Book Group	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library <i>Tom Lake</i>
Mon	9		Mix and Mingle		No meeting this month
Tues	10	11:30	Exploring with Your Camera	Val Dwek and Linda Friedman	Starting in January
Tues	10		Movie Mavens		TBD
Sat	14	11:30	Hunger Games	Jervey Library	Gail DeVet
Sun	15		<b style="color: red;">Deadline for January Venice Views</b> Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com" style="color: red;">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a>		
Tues	17	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Stump Pass Marina, Englewood RSVP to Paula
Wed	18	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	RSVP to Joan
Wed	18		Evening Out	Melanie Odom	No meeting this month
Wed	18	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemy	Venezia Restaurant
Thurs	19	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
Fri	20	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn and Jeri Jaminet	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Mon	23	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Starting in January
Wed	25		Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	No meeting this month





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

**Text in Word Formatted File Pictures in JPG Format Only!**

**Deadline for the January issue of Venice Views is 12/15/2024**

### **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, 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**.

