

VOLUME I No. 5

FEBRUARY 2025

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

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## TAKE NOTE!

February's meeting is one week earlier.

Thursday, February 6  
10:30 AM

Dear VAAUW members,

February is all about the Home Tour! It's not surprising that we outdo ourselves year after year. This year is no exception. Our ticket holders will *definitely* get their money's worth. They will be treated to fabulous, unique homes, exceptional artisans selling their wares, and over-the-top raffle prizes to take a chance on.

Come to the February 6th meeting to hear from one of our homeowners. They have a fabulous story to tell. Remember to bring your change (or dollars), as the basket will be passed to fill the money and lottery ticket tree.

The business meeting will be short, so stay and meet with your selected Home Tour groups for last-minute training. Patti Warner and her committees have a well-oiled machine in place,

Warm thoughts after this chilly spell! *Jan and Bev.*

## Virtual Reality Supports Youth Inquiry at USF

Our January AAUW program was presented by Dr. Cheryl Ellerbrock, University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee College of Education Dean. Dr. Ellerbrock shared videos of the University's new innovative program called "World of Wonder" and wonder is what those in attendance felt as the professor of middle grades and general secondary education explained the new STEM focused program the pre-service and graduate students are experiencing. We saw drones and robots that are available in a few schools in Sarasota. Ellerbrock described ways Virtual Reality, and games in general, require students to be curious, move and collaborate. Enrollment in the department of education is however down. The Dean spoke of community outreach finding willing partners to fund many of these new programs and scholarships to support enrollees financially and to attract college students into education. We hope to connect again with Dr. Ellerbrock.





## Home Tour Update

In Love with Venice Home Tour and a very important general meeting about the tour are both coming up next on our AAUW calendars. The tickets are out to members and vendors and the advertising has started also. Note that the tickets cost \$35.00 in advance and \$40.00 at the door. We have most of our volunteers just a few more needed for ticket takers and parking. You can still help us out.

We will be having one of our couple owners at the next meeting. Chris and Karen Weihs will be talking with us about their home in Aria as well as their careers as restaurateur and accomplished artist respectively. You will find out our owners are just as interesting as the houses they live in. You will also be meeting with your house manager who will be giving you some important details about your job as a hostess or ticket taker.

Right now two important details are the morning shift is 9:30 to 1:00 and the afternoon is 12:30-4:00.

The attire for the day is your AAUW polo shirt or a red top for Valentine's Day and light colored pants. Otherwise your house manager will have some more important information to share after the program.

See you there,  
Patti Warner  
Home Tour Chair

# MEMBERSHIP

## *important information about our directory*

Your Venice Branch AAUW directory is available online under the Members Only Section of our web page. You will find two versions. One is a printable format and is updated on a monthly basis. The other is in the scroll format. It is not printable. Yet, it is updated as soon as we receive the changes. We recognize that this is new and different. We are available to help you. Should you have any questions, please contact Marge Collin.

## **NEW MEMBER - SUZANNE “SUE” LANG**



Sue worked nearly thirty-five years at various non-profit and government agencies. She retired after a career of twenty-two years at the City of Hartford Ct. where she was the Senior Project Manager for Affordable Home Ownership Programs. Sue has been a full-time resident of Venice since 2003. Her accomplishments include Venice Vice Mayor and City Council member from 2007 to 2010. She was president of the Venice Neighborhoods Coalition 2004 - 2007. She has also served on and shared her considerable talents with the VADC Board, the CONA Board and is currently active in a variety of local communities and working on various local issues. Sue and her husband Steve enjoy traveling and have visited countries all around the world. They love walking their little dog “Leonardo” every day in their Golden Beach neighborhood and especially at Maxine Barritt Park. Sue was very involved with the planning, construction, and naming of this landmark while she was on City Council. We welcome her and her talents back as she was a member of our Venice Branch in the early 2000’s.

## **AAUW VENICE SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION**

Members of the AAUW came to the Venezia Hotel on January 15<sup>th</sup> to honor the 2024 Scholarship Recipients. Four women were awarded the branch's Nontraditional Scholarship, and each received \$3000 towards tuition expenses. To qualify for this unique scholarship, the woman must be a resident of Sarasota County, at least 21 years old, provide proof of application enrollment of higher education in a certificate or undergraduate degree program, and most importantly, have had an interruption of 12 months or more in her continuing education.

- Paige Kinney attends Galen College of Nursing and hopes to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She is married with two children and lives in North Port.
- Ashlee Komor is enrolled in the Nursing Program at Capella University and hopes to become an ER nurse. As a teenage mom, Ashlee put her education on hold and worked for 20 years in a pediatric office. When the doctor retired, she knew it was time for her to pursue her goals.
- AnnMarie Medico, also a 2023 scholarship recipient, is enrolled in the Nursing Program at Rasmussen College, and hopes to become a pediatric nurse.
- Angela Miller, who attends the University of South Florida, is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. She will graduate this spring and has been offered a Research Assistant position for the coming year.

In 2022, our Venice branch partnered with the University of South Florida to establish the AAUW Venice Scholarship, named for Pat Weber, a "STEM" pioneer for young girls. Venice AAUW decided to honor Pat, who died in 2021, for all her efforts. This scholarship is awarded annually to a female student, attending USF with the intent of pursuing a degree in the STEM field. This year the award went to two young women, Phoebe Almero and Yasmin Mezroub.

- Phoebe Almero is a senior with a major in Biomedical Studies. She plans to attend an optometry school with hopes of specializing in pediatric primary eye care.
- Yasmin Mezroub is a sophomore with a major in Health Sciences. She is deeply appreciative of the financial assistance.

The “In Love with Venice Home Tour” is scheduled for February 14, 2025 . Proceeds from this event will fund our scholarships!



## POLO SHIRT UPDATE

Polo shirts have been ordered and will be here before the Home Tour. Hopefully, they will be handed out at our February General Meeting on February 6. Joyce Mikulski will inform everyone when they are ready for distribution. Thank you for your patience.

## STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

The Committee met on Monday, January 13, and reviewed our goals for the year 2024-2025. We are already making great progress with our plan. Our Strategic Plan is available to view on our website [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net) under Members Only. All members should be aware of the exciting and inclusive goals for our organization. Please contact Joyce Mikulski with any questions or comments.

## Study/Interest Groups

### Exploring with you Camera



Join us for a walk and lunch at Snook Haven before it closes, Thursday February 20th at 11:30 am. Please email me if you plan on joining us.

Save the date for a back stage tour of the Sarasota Opera House, Wednesday, March 26th at 10:30 am, \$15.00, bring your cell phones and cameras. Lynda Friedman

### COASTAL CRUISING

**February 25 at 10 am from MarineMax in Venice. RSVP to PAULA DULSKI**

## **LUNCH BRUNCH**

Lunch brunch will be held on Wednesday 26 at 11:30 at Eggs-extraordinary Cafe on 2282 Tamiami Trail, Nokomis. Please RSVP to Lydia Russo.

## **EVENING OUT**

Evening Out will be Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 6:00 pm at TJ Carney's on West Venice Ave. Call or email Melanie Odom by Monday, Feb 17

## **MIX AND MINGLE**

**Hotel Venezia 4 to 6 pm**



Please wear your name badge To help newer members get to know you. To help us in our count, r.s.v.p. to Kathleen Pickering (941) 387-6088 or Judy Houston (941) 375-9856

Hope to see you there!



## BOOK CLUB

*The First Ladies* is the story of a partnership between two disparate women: First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, a child of former slaves. The novel, written by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, is the VAAUW book group selection for February. Lydia Russo will lead the discussion at the Jacaranda Library on February 10. The meeting will begin at 1:25, but come any time after 1:00 to share what you have been reading.

General meeting minutes and Treasury report can be found on our website:

[venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net)

## AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES – FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/ NOTES
Fri	7	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Fri	14	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemey	<b>CANCELED FOR HOME TOUR</b>
Mon	10	1:30	Book Group	Lynda Weston Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library The First Ladies
Mon	10		Mix and Mingle	K. Pickering Judy Houston	Hotel Venezia
Tues	19	9:30	Exploring With Your Camera	Val Dwek and Linda Friedman	Snook Haven Restaurant
			Movie Mavens		TBD

Wed	19	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	RSVP to Joan
Sat	15		<b>Deadline for February Venice Views</b> Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a>		
Thurs	20	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
Thurs	20	11:30	Mahjongg	Barbara Swartz	Moulin Blanc
Fri	21	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Wed	26	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	TJ Carney's, W. Venice Ave., Venice
Wed	26	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	Eggs-traordinary Cafe, 2288 Tamiani Trail Naomis
Fri	28	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnermey	Venezia Restaurant
Mon	24	1:30	Banned Books	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library
Tues	25	2:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Marine Max, Venice



Venice Views Editor for February: Ann Saller

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 March issue of Venice Views is 2/15/2025**

### **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**.

