

# VENICE VIEWS

VOLUME L No. 6 March 2025 PUBLISHED MONTHLY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284  
CO-PRESIDENTS: JAN HARRIS AND BEVERLY WELTZIEN  
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## *President's Message*



Dear Members,

An old proverb says, “March comes in like a lion”. As we go to print for our March Venice News, we certainly roar with pride over the success of our fantastic February Home Tour “In Love with Venice”. The homes were beautiful, the homeowners were delightful and welcoming; and, again, we hosted a successful, worthy event.

In praising our home tour, we thank many of you who dedicated your time, energy, and stamina. Most importantly, we first acknowledge our Chair, Patti Warner! Patti’s leadership, insights, creativity, communication skills, and collaborative spirit fulfilled our goals. We also want to applaud you, our members, your friends, spouses and family who contributed.

In addition to the nine artisans who donated 15% of their proceeds, the Venice Branch members contributed gifts to our Raffle. We want to extend a very special thanks to these generous individuals:

- Cynthia Bioteau’s husband, Frank, offered a half-day boat charter.
- Rosemary Smith’s husband, Dennis, provided a private plane ride.

- Kathy Black donated over \$200 worth of fine wines.
- Each of you who contributed cash at February's meeting played a role in creating the \$230 Money Lottery Tree!

Please take a deep breath, enjoy the moment, and pat yourself on the back. Be proud of your hard work and dedication. This accomplishment is meaningful, and we are thrilled by the number of you who have been “**onboard**.” Your commitment and passion inspire us.

Now, we can all sit back, relax, and enjoy our March 13th speaker, Carrie Siedman. Siedman is a renowned speaker, journalist, and author who has contributed to various publications, including her role as a former columnist for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. You won't want to miss this meeting.

Peace and gratitude,

*Jan & Bev*

## MARCH 13TH PROGRAM



Carrie Seidman, a graduate of Columbia University School of Journalism, has been an award-winning newspaper reporter, critic and columnist for more than 45 years. Most recently, she was the lead opinion columnist and a dance critic for the Sarasota Herald Tribune; she previously worked for the New York Times, Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Albuquerque Journal and Albuquerque Tribune. Carrie is also the creator, writer and host of the FACEing Mental Illness newsletter, podcast and project, which features stories from and performances by people with lived mental health experience. Her books include “A Place at the Table: Memories of a Life Well-Fed” and “FACEing Mental Illness: The Art of Acceptance.” She is currently at work on a memoir.

## Home Tour Update

The day was PERFECT! The 18th Venice Home Tour was a SUCCESS! Again, we have raised substantial money to fund the scholarships for women and Tech Trek.

The selection of houses could not have been better, the weather was warmer than usual, but no rain, our guests were thrilled with the beautiful and amazing houses, the artists, and the raffle items, and no one fell on the steps or stairs!

Thank you to our members who sold tickets, house managers, hostesses, ticket takers, and parking attendants. Also, kudos to my fantastic, hardworking committee, which made the day go so well.

Anita Kunkle-House Coordinator

Sybil Hoffmeyer-Tickets

Susan Hotzler-Publicity

Dee Collins-Parking

Bobbi Amero-Finance

Jan Harris-Artisans

Bev Weltzien-Raffle

Cynthia Bioteau-Development

Degen Sayer, Judy Napier, and Charlene Turczyn-Home Finders

A special thank you to our co-presidents doing double duty, and Bev, who became my co-chair.

I enjoyed being the Home Tour Chairwoman. After months of planning, it was rewarding to see the tour come to its rewarding conclusion (\$\$\$).

Thank you all again,

Patti Warner

Home Tour Chair

## **It's Time to Play Ball for Our Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball Team.**

### **Please support our team!**

Our 12U team (12 years old and under) participated in the Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, February 22, at Wellfield Park. A schedule of games will be available at the March General Meeting. Also, at the meeting, look for a signup sheet for a Venice AAUW pregame pizza social at Asaro's Restaurant on Laurel. From there we will head to Wellfield Park to cheer on our team.



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## **ADD A LITTLE SIG's TO YOUR LIFE! *Join a group!***

Do you ever think about trying something new? Would you like to get to know AAUW members in a different setting? How about cooking with friends? Or, if you like eating but cooking isn't your thing, maybe lunch or dinner out is more appealing.

Check out the SIG activities in Venice Views and see if something catches your eye. Remember, it won't be like walking into a room full of strangers; the other attendees will be your fellow Venice AAUW members.

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*Raise a glass and toast to our successful 2025 Home Tour!*

*Join us for “Mix and Mingle“ \* Monday, March 10, 4-6 PM*



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

***Hope to see you there!***

## **Cook's Corner**

March 19, 12 noon. Cindy Sproehnle will be our host for the March Cooks Corner at noon. Her theme is ***“Artful Appetizers Bound to Please the Eye and the Appetite!”***  
We look forward to it and invite you to join us, RSVP to Joan Kieran.



**Exploring with Your Camera**



***SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, March 26th***

**Join us for a “Private Backstage Tour “of the elegant and historic Sarasota Opera House.**

We will meet at 10:30 am in the lobby. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please don't forget your cameras and cell phones. We need an accurate count, so please contact Lynda Friedman if you plan to come. Carpooling will be available.

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch brunch will be held on Wednesday, 26 at 11:30 AM at Mon Ami Cafe., 1740 E. Venice Ave., Suite 19, Venice. Please RSVP to Lydia Russo.

## EVENING OUT

The next Evening Out will be Wednesday, March 19, at 6 p.m. at Shogun Japanese Steakhouse, 1219 US 41 Bypass S. Please call or email Melanie Odom by Monday, March 17. We hope to see you there!

## BOOK CLUB

Have you read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, Barnes and Noble's 2024 Book of the Year? It is the March selection for the VAAUW SIG book group. Joan Cash will lead the discussion on March 10 at the Jacaranda Library. The book discussion will begin at 1:25 pm, but come any time after one. You will have an opportunity to explain why your favorite book of the past year should be on the list for next season.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Debbie Blackwell has provided us with A data link to Annie E. Casey & Florida Kids Well Being. <https://www.aecf.org/interactive/databook?l=12>

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**General meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's report can be found on our website: [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net)**

### AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES – MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/ NOTES
Fri	7	11:30	Euchre	Charlene Turczyn	Paradise Grill, Nokomis
Mon	10	1:30	Book Group	Joan Cash Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library Heaven & Earth Grocery Store
Fri	14	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemey	Venezia Restaurant

<b>Tues</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Evening Out</b>	<b>Val Dwek and Linda Friedman</b>	<b>Shogun Japanese Rest. 1219 US 41 Bypass S.</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Cook's Corner</b>	<b>Cindy Sproehnie JoanKieran</b>	<b>RSVP to Joan</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>		<p><b>Deadline for February Venice Views</b>  <b>Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg  formatted photos by email to  aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</b></p>		
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>French Conversation</b>	<b>Jane Metcalf</b>	<b>Contact Jane for location</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11:30</b>	<b>Mahjongg</b>	<b>Barbara Swartz</b>	<b>Moulin Blanc</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11:30</b>	<b>Euchre</b>	<b>Charlene Turczyn</b>	<b>Paradise Grill, Nokomis</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1:30</b>	<b>Banned Books</b>	<b>Lynda Weston</b>	<b>Jacaranda Library</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11:30</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch Anita Kunkle</b>	<b>Lydia Russo</b>	<b>Mon Ami Cafe 1740 E. Venice Ave, #19 Venice</b>

<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Exploring With Your Camera</b>	<b>Linda Friedman</b>	<b>Sarasota Opera House</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12:30</b>	<b>Bridge for Fun</b>	<b>Bernadette McEnermey</b>	<b>Venezia Restaurant</b>



Venice Views Editor for March: 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 April issue of Venice Views is 3/15/2025**

## **MAKING VENICE VIEWS BETTER FOR YOU!**

The Venice Views Editorial team continually tries to make our newsletter more informative and easier to read. To do so, we came up with the following requests:

Everything 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 each member who submits a notice to please keep the article down to a reasonable size, and 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 online, personal contact information should **not** be included. Personal info is located in our Annual Directory. Contact the 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**.