

VOLUME L No. 8

May 2025

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

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BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net

STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net

NATIONAL: aauw.org



A Message from the Co-Presidents

Dear Members:

Another term is coming to a close, and at our last meeting, we celebrated our many accomplishments while showcasing our wonderful board. We're very proud to have most of the board returning and a few "fresh" members joining them.

We are pleased to introduce Joyce Mikulski as the new President, Lynda Weston as Vice President, Susan Donovan as Secretary, and Cindy

Sproehnle as Membership Director. Joan Kieran and Susan Hotzler are joining the nominating committee.

The new year presents numerous opportunities for Venice AAUW, especially our 50th anniversary. This coincides perfectly with the City of Venice celebrating its Centennial. Keep your ears perked, your eyes focused, and your phones ready for all the news coming your way starting in July, when the new board will begin its magic.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Co-Presidents. We are proud of all that we have accomplished during our two-year term, and it all came about thanks to the involvement and support of our members.

Keep the faith, and remember to be a “DIVA.” Embrace diversity, be inclusive, promote visibility for our organization, and accept all that is good.

We extend our sincerest gratitude,

Jan & Bev



New VAAUW Officers Installed

At the April 10th AAUW Branch meeting, new officers were installed by past president Kathy Black. Installed for the position of President is Joyce Mikulski. Joyce has been serving as the Vice president of the organization and now will lead the organization from July 2025 to June 2027. Also elected this year to serve the organization are: Susan Hotzler, nominating committee, Cindy Sproenhle, membership, and Susan Donovan, Secretary. Mikulski, Sproenhle, and Donovan will serve on the board of the organization. Hotzler will serve on the board by virtue of her position in communications. The membership congratulates and welcomes these women to their new leadership roles. Other members on the board will be serving the second year of terms and others will be chosen to fill appointed positions.

AAUW Venice Branch Minutes – April 10, 2025

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

Bev Weltzien called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Jan Harris presented a video on “Stop Hate” as our moment of Civility.

Branch meeting minutes of March 13, 2025 and the March treasurer’s report were previously approved.

Marge Collin Membership Director, reported the new members reception was successful with many new and old members in attendance.

Cynthia Bioteau, Development Director, thanked Leona Crosskey for opening her beautiful home for the Wine Tasting fundraiser on April 9. The net profit is anticipated to be \$2,500.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski encouraged members to attend the Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball game on April 29, 2025 at Wellfield Park. Members can enjoy a pre-game meal at 6:00 PM at Assaro’s Restaurant. Wear your VAAUW polo shirt.

Wendy Seeley will order new polo shirts when 6 orders are received.

The October branch meeting’s focus is using technology to access VAAUW’s website. Our membership directory is updated regularly at venice-fl.aauw.net, “Members Only” tab, Password: VeniceViews.

SIG Director, Hilda Dillman mentioned signing up at the meeting for upcoming events. Movie Mavens is now called Movie/Theatre Mavens

and will offer both movie and theatre performances. Cooks Corner will meet on April 16 at the home of Debbie Blackwell. RSVP to Joan Kieran.

Debbie Blackwell, Public Policy Director, stated our role as AAUW members is to discuss policies, not politics in a public forum. Our focus is on lobbying.

Attendance is encouraged at “Stop the Attack on our Public Education”, April 26, 2025, 9:00-3:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalists Church, 3975 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota.

Old Business

Kathy Black conducted the installation of the 2025-27 board members:

Joyce Mikulski – President

Cindy Sproehnle – Membership

Susan Donovan – Secretary

Nominating Committee – Susan Hotzler and Joan Kieran

Outgoing board Jan Harris, Bev Weltzien, Marge Collin, Bobbi Amero, and Jo Rahaim, were thanked for their service. Bev and Jan made a special presentation to honor our outgoing board members.

New Business

The attending members took a vote to continue the Holiday Luncheon. It is December 4, 2025 at Pelican Pointe Golf and Country Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Rahaim Secretary

May 8th Branch Meeting

“The City of Venice Gets Ready to Celebrate 100 Year

The last branch meeting of the 24-25 year will be held on Thursday, May 8th at the Venice United Church of Christ at 620 Shamrock Blvd. Social gathering begins at 10:00 with the program for the morning beginning at 10:30. This month's program will be presented by the city of Venice which is celebrating its centennial. Henry Klinkhamer, the city of Venice Historical Resources Manager, will speak about the major milestones of the city. The celebration kicks off officially on November 29th and will continue over the next 18 months. This is an opportunity to get in on the celebration right at the beginning.

Remember many of us enjoy lunch and conversation after the branch meeting at the Shamrock Café, across the street from the meeting venue. We take reservations at the beginning of the meeting so you don't need to phone anyone and you don't need to know if you're going to attend until that morning!

POLO SHIRTS

Good news! There are now six members interested in polo shirts. Just in case other members want to be included, the order will be submitted right after the May meeting.

Thank you to Wendy Seeley for taking over this task. If you ordered a shirt, please bring a check, made out to Venice AAUW, to the May meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please mail your check after May 8 to Wendy Seeley. Below is a reminder of the prices:

SHORT SLEEVE: S, M, L/ XL \$30

XXL \$32

XXL \$33

$\frac{3}{4}$ SLEEVE: S, M, L/ XL \$40

XXL \$42

XXXL \$43



PUBLIC POLICY - DIRECTOR DEBBIE BLACKWELL

Here's a 2 minute Informative webpage on AAUW Lobby Corp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGrcvMxbm-Q>



Calling on future Generations

“To whom shall we look more confidently for leadership in constructive work, for social and national betterment, than to the professionally and technically trained women now coming onto the stage?”

Ellen Swallow Richards in 1907 reflecting on her life's work

AHEAD OF HER TIME

Ellen Swallow Richards co-founded AAUW when she was nearly 40 years old, along with Marion Talbot who was a generation younger. At a time when women were largely barred from higher education, Richards earned a chemistry degree, worked on clean water treatment and pollution, and even founded the first home economics and school lunch program

KIND THOUGHTS

A card was sent to Mary Louise Thetford who is in rehab.
Please send any members' names to Bonnee Hagen if there is a need.

Study/ Interest Groups

EVENING OUT

Evening Out will be at Waterfrontoo Restaurant at 2205 Tamiani Trail in Nokomis at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 21st. The group decided to add one more dinner. Please call or email Melanie Odom by Monday, May 19th.

BOOK CLUB

The last In person meeting of the VAAUW book group until November will be May 12, but will continue on the second Monday of the month during the summer via Zoom. Please email Lynda Weston or Hilda Dillman if you wish to be included on the Zoom list and have not signed up already.

The May book is *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. It tells the story of four very close Italian sisters who are split apart by circumstances, Joyce Mikulski will lead the discussion at the Jacaranda Library on May 12 at 1:25, but come anytime after 1:00 to share what you have been reading.

EXPLORING WITH YOUR CAMERA

The camera club will not be meeting in May. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Lynda Friedman

COASTAL CRUISING

In May, Coastal Cruising will meet at 10am at Venice MarineMax during the last week in May. A reservation has not yet been made. Please text Paula Duliski if you are interested and she will contact you as soon as she makes the reservation.

MOVIE MAVENS

If you are interested in movies and plays, please send your name, email address and phone number to Sue Lang:

suelang99@hotmail.com.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR MAY 2025

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION / NOTES
Fri	May 2	11:30	Euchre	Patti Warren	Hotel Venezia
Fri	May 9	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerrney	Venezia Restaurant
Mon	May 12	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dilman	Hello Beautiful Jacaranda Library
Fri	May 16	11:30	Euchre	Patti Warren	Hotel Venezia
Thurs	May 15			Deadline for June Venice Views submissions	
Wed	May 21	5:30	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	Waterfrontoo Steak House 2205 Tamiani Trail, Nakomis
Wed	May 23	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemey	Venezia Restaurant
Wed	May 28	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Anita Kunkle Lydia Russo	Deep Lagoon Seafood & Oyster House 482 Blackburn Point Rd Osprey, 34229
Thurs	May 29		French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
	TBD	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Meet at Marine Max.
	TBD		Movie Mavens	Sue Lang	TBD
	TBD		Mix & Mingle		TBD



Venice Views Editor for MAY: Ann Saller

Venice Views Editor for June: Susan Hotzler

-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 June issue of Venice Views is 5/15/25

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**.

