

VOLUME 1 NO. 10 SUMMER 2025 PUBLISHED MONTHLY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH
P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284
CO-PRESIDENT: JAN HARRIS BEVERLY WELTZEIN
BRANCH: venice-fl.aauw.net STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net NATIONAL: aauw.org

Dear Members,

It's summertime, and a lot is going on with Venice AAUW. The great thing is you do not have to be in town!

First, let's check out what Judy Napier and Lydia Russo have planned in and around town. There are some fun activities, and everyone can participate if you are still in the Venice area.

Check out the SIG groups that are still going on. Look at the following schedule of events and find the times and places to join in. Please don't forget to RSVP if a set number of participants is needed for a game or a reservation.

ZOOM! There are ways to stay connected no matter where you are. For sure, the Book Club meets every month. Again, look at the schedule of events for other activities that you may be able to join to stay connected over the summer.

What is really exciting and will take on a new life this summer are the numerous activities the City of Venice is planning for the Centennial. Venice AAUW is also celebrating our 50th, as we learned at the last meeting. The board is looking for ways to coordinate our celebration with the city as well as on our own. If you have any marvelous ideas or even a teeny-weeny idea, share it! No idea is without merit.

It is a great time to have a fun summer, either back up north or basking in the Florida sun. Let's stay active, think up a few significant ideas, and make plans for an outstanding year ahead. Hey, it's "summertime and the livin' is easy." Nothing will hold us back!

Wishing you the best,

Jan and Bev





HERE IS A COMPLETE LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS 2025-26. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LEAD!

PRESIDENT – JOYCE MIKULSKI

VICE PRESIDENT – LYNDA WESTON

SECRETARY – SUSAN DONOVAN

TREASURER – PAULA DULSKI

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – CINDY SPROEHNLE

PROGRAM – ROSEMARY SMITH

SIG DIRECTOR – HILDA DILLMAN

PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR – DEBBIE BLACKWELL

PUBLICITY/MEDIA DIRECTOR – SUSAN HOTZLER/NANCY BREX

EDUCATION DIRECTOR – LESLIE CURLEY

**NOMINATING – JANE FARLEY (CHAIR), JOAN KIERAN, SUSAN HOTZLER,
WENDY SEELEY, DEE GLATZ**

PARLIAMENTARIAN – LESLIE CURLEY

We also have a Development Committee this year that will report to the Board:

Cynthia Bioteau, Jo Rahaim, Patti Warner, Bobbi Amero, Bev Weltzien, Leona Crosskey, and Paula Dulski



NOTHING TO DO?
NOWHERE TO GO?

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

CALLING ALL SUNBIRDS! (as opposed to snowbirds- GET IT?)

Judy Napier and Lydia Russo are busy thinking up some fun and interesting summer activities for us.

Here's the list so far:

June 10 - Spanish Point 10 AM. Lunch at Evies after the tour.

July 9 - Bishop Museum and Plantation 101 10th St. Bradenton

Time and Lunch TBD

August 12 – Wineglass Painting Class at 1150 Tarpon Center Dr

Community Room of the Towers

Cost is \$35 includes 2 wine glasses, paints, materials and instructor

Time is 2 to 4 pm

If you are interested, please contact Judy 630-240-088 judenapier@yahoo.com for **June** or **August** activities or Contact Lydia 914-629-6094 lydia1944@gmail.com for the **July** activity. Carpools will be figured out closer to the event. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested. For the August event Judy needs to know about a month in advance because there is a 6 person minimum.

See you soon!!!

Book Group

The last in person meeting of the VAAUW book group until November was small, but Joyce Mikulski led a lively discussion of *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Summer is the perfect time to read, though, so the group will continue the second Monday of each month via Zoom.

June's book is *Stolen Queen* by Fiona Davis, a historical fiction novel that blends mystery, drama, and emotional depth. The story begins in 1936 when a young Charlotte Cross makes her first trip to Egypt and continues to 1978 when she believes that an Egyptian necklace on loan to the Met may have belonged to a rare female pharaoh. Lynda Weston will lead the discussion on June 9, 2025.

On July 14, 2025 the book will be *Breaking Through: My Life in Science* by Katelin Kariko. This is a powerful memoir by the woman who persevered through decades long research into Messenger RNA which led to the Covid-19 vaccine. She won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2023. Hilda Dillman will lead the discussion.

Dottie Bingman will lead us through the *Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters on August 11, 2025. The novel follows a Mi'kmaq family who travel to Maine to pick blueberries, particularly focusing on the impact of the youngest daughter's disappearance. It explores the intergenerational trauma faced by First Nation communities due to assimilationist policies and cultural loss.

On September 8, 2025 Joyce Mikulski will lead the discussion of *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker, a novel that is a mystery, serial killer thriller, and love story. It offers a deep and honest exploration of what it means to survive, to love, and to heal.

Discussions begin at 1:25pm, but join in any time after 1pm to catch up and share summer reading. There is still time to be part of the summer Zoom; just contact Hilda Dillman.



2025 BOARD RETREAT -- CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The annual board retreat was held on Monday, April 7, at the Gulf Coast Foundation. Below is a graphic provided to us by the facilitator of the event that captures key themes from the event.



WHEN DO I PAY MY DUES?

Annual Dues are \$105. AAUW National dues are \$74 and will be fully tax deductible this year. State dues are \$12, and branch dues are \$19. Renewing your dues is a simple process. There are two versions:

1. Just visit <https://www.aauw.org/membership> and follow the instructions. You may be asked to change your password, but don't worry, it's just a security measure to protect your account.

OR

2. You may also pay your dues by sending a check payable to the AAUW Venice Branch.
Mail to P.O. Box 515, Venice, FL 34284.

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Ehik

Betty became a member in 2021 and volunteered immediately. She helped with the Holiday luncheon and was an idea contributor for programs as she was highly educated with several degrees and a PHD in Education from Columbia University. Her last involvement was being on the Ruth Bader Ginsberg fundraiser committee. The Development Chair, Cynthia Bioteau, described her in this way: "Dear Betty was SO kind, helpful, and generous in her work!" A Memorial service will be at the Venice Presbyterian Church on July 16 at 11:00 as she was a member of the church choir.

Meeting Assistant Needed

We need a volunteer to bring a computer to the branch meetings so it can be available to the program speakers. It will also be used to display the branch meeting agenda. You can contact Paula Dulski who will train you to use the audio-visual at the fall meeting.

AAUW Venice Branch Minutes – May 8, 2025

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

Jan Harris introduced Kathleen Pickering who presented speakers from the Venice Museum. The program described the city's plans for celebrating the Centennial November 2025-May 2027.

Bev Weltzien called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM and presented the Moment of Civility video.

Minutes from April 10, 2025, branch meeting were posted on website.

Bobbi Amero, Finance Director, announced a total of approximately \$55,000.

Vice President Joyce Mikulski thanked those who attended the Miss Venice Fastpitch Softball game. Wendy Seeley will manage ordering polo shirts.

Wendy Seeley, Education Director, discussed plans for two new scholarships of \$5,000 each at two local colleges. Two girls are attending Tech Trek this year. Wendy suggested looking into other STEM activities in the state.

Public Policy Director, Debbie Blackwell, suggested encouraging young people to vote: three seats on school board will be up for election in '26. County libraries are providing lunch to children attending library functions.

SIG chair, Hilda Dillman, mentioned the variety of SIGs. Judy Napier stated several activities will be offered during the summer months.

Old Business

Consult the Website venice-fl.AAUW.net for news and activities. The Holiday luncheon will be December 4, 2025, at Pelican Pointe.

New Business

Kay Olsen announced Betty Ehik has died. A memorial service will be held July 17, at Venice Presbyterian Church.

Plans are underway to offer "Patriotic Bridge" in January 2026.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Donovan

Note: The minutes of the monthly meetings can be found at <https://venice-fl.aauw.net/>

Under the Members Only area.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH SUMMER CALENDAR

JUNE 2025					
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Mon	9	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	<i>Stolen Queen by Fiona David</i> 1:00 - Zoom opens
Tues	10	10:00	Spanish Point Tour and Lunch	Judy Napier	401 N Tamiami Trail Osprey
Tues	10	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering	Farfilu Wine & Cheese Café 266 S. Tamiami Trail
Fri	13	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
Thurs	26	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	MarineMax in Venice RSVP
Fri	27	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP

JULY 2025					
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Thurs	9	TBD	Bishop Museum & Plantation	Lydia Russo	101—10th St Bradenton
Fri	10	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
Mon	14	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	<i>Breaking Through : My Life in Science by Katelin Kariko</i> 1:00 - Zoom opens
Fri	24	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
TBD	TBD	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Contact Paula for details.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH SUMMER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025					
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Mon	11	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	<i>Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters</i> 1:00 - Zoom opens
Tues	12	2:00	Wineglass Painting Class	Judy Napier	Community Room of the Towers—1150 Tarpon Center Dr.
Fri	14	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
Tues	12	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering	Farfilu Wine & Cheese Café 266 S. Tamiami Trail
Fri	28	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
TBD	TBD	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Contact Paula for details.

SEPTEMBER 2025					
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Mon	8	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	<i>All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker</i> 1:00—Zoom opens
Tues	9	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Judy Houston Kathleen Pickering	Farfilu Wine & Cheese Café 266 S. Tamiami Trail
Fri	11	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP
Sun	15		Deadline for September Venice Views		Send WORD formatted articles and/or JPG photos to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com
Fri	25	11:30	Bridge For Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP



Venice Views Editor for Summer: Susan Hotzler

Venice Views Editor for October: 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

[Text in Word Formatted File](#)

[Pictures in JPG Format Only!](#)

Deadline for the **October issue of Venice Views is **9/15/2025****

MAKING VENICE VIEWS BETTER FOR YOU!

The Venice Views Editorial team continually tries to make our newsletter more informative and easier to read and may be edited. 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. 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.
- (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**.