



VENICE VIEWS



VOLUME LI No. 1 OCTOBER 2025 PUBLISHED MONTHLY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH
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President's Message



Welcome back to our 50th AAUW Venice year! My husband and I spent a wonderful summer in Connecticut, enjoying life on our beautiful marsh and spending precious time with our children and four grandsons. Your wonderful new Board has also been organizing and planning this year's activities throughout the summer. Our goal this year is **ENGAGEMENT** of our members in our organization's activities: that includes general meetings, as well as fundraising, community, and SIGS events. We have been a vital part of community involvement in Venice since 1975. We

need all your help to make the 2025-2026 year our best year ever!

Here are some updates:

- We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at our October 9th meeting with cake and a recap of our history in Venice by our historian, Kathy Black. Paula and I will also be giving a presentation on how to access our website and Facebook page. Please bring your iPhone, iPad, or laptop with you to the meeting. We will ask our "techy" members to assist us.
- Also, in recognition of our 50th Anniversary, we will receive a proclamation from the mayor at the city council meeting on Tuesday, October 28, at 9am. We would love to have as many members as possible attend.

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- We have made direct contact with the superintendent of schools and the director of secondary education to facilitate our Tech Trek process. AAUW Venice has also established scholarships at both USF and SCF.
- We no longer have a Development Chair on the Board. The Development Committee will be determining and organizing all fundraising events. Members of the committee are Beverly Weltzien, Cynthia Bioteau, Patti Warner, Jo Rahaim, Bobbi Amero, Paula Dulski, and Leona Crosskey. Please support them any way you can.
- We are still looking for a volunteer to chair the Centennial Celebration. Please let me know if you're interested.
- We thank Lydia Russo, Judy Napier, and Sue Lang for organizing our summer activities.
- We have exciting new programs to look forward to. Also, you will learn a little more about the goals of our organization at each meeting.
- On a more somber note, we will greatly miss two of our treasured members who passed away this summer: Judith Houston and Mary Lou Thetford. They both made so many contributions to our organization. Our thoughts and sympathies are with their friends and families.

We are looking forward to beginning this new year with all of you! Let's make a pact to **engage** and move forward!!!!!!

Joyce

President

Celebration of Venice AAUW 50th Anniversary

Monthly meeting on October 9th at 10:30 at the United Church of Christ on Shamrock Avenue. Learn about the history of our association, join in the celebration of the founding of Venice AAUW fifty years ago and sign up for SIG events in October.

2025 Scholarships and Tech Trek Camperships

The Venice Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) continues to provide financial assistance, through a scholarship fund, to women residents of Sarasota County.

A non-traditional student is one whose family or other obligations required an interruption in studies prior to resuming higher education (*Re-entry*), or one who waited until later in life to start higher education (*Delayed Entry*).

The scholarships are funded through proceeds raised by an AAUW Home Tour held each February administered in a partnership with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Other fund-raising events are held during the calendar year. This year we awarded scholarships totaling \$13,000 to four deserving women: Paige Kinney, Karla King, Bianna Whaley and Natasha Kozel. Each of them will be attending a FL college or technical program.

UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIPS (USF)

The partnership with USF continues to grow. Female students receive monies from the **Pat Weber Scholarship Fund**, which AAUW Venice established in 2022 after her death. The Venice branch wanted to honor Pat for her STEM contributions throughout the years. This past year, AAUW Venice set up an additional scholarship at USF. Recipients who fit the criteria are chosen by the college faculty.

STATE COLLEGE of FLORIDA

This year the AAUW Venice branch set up an additional scholarship at SCF, which is in South Venice. Recipients who fit the criteria are chosen by the college faculty.

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TECH TREK 2025

Through hands-on problem solving and experiences with women role models in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), AAUW Tech Trek encourages girls to explore possible careers in these fields. This summer two very successful Tech Trek camps were held for girls entering 8th grade in the fall. The first camp was held at Stetson University in Deland FL and the second camp was held at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, FL. The girls lived in campus dorms, ate their meals in the student cafeteria, and utilized the University classrooms and labs for their core classes and workshops. The camps were similar, but not identical. Core Courses included Qualcomm Wearable Tech, Structural Engineering, Neuroscience, Environmental Science, Forensic and Environmental Science and Marine Biology.

This year AAUW Venice Chapter sponsored two young women, paying \$1300 for room, board and tuition for each of them. In her thank you note, Payton wrote, "Thank you for selecting me for Tech Trek 2025. This was a great experience. My favorite part was meeting new friends who are so much like me. Some of my favorite classes were Structural Engineering, Bullet Journals, Bridge Building and Archery." Kaylianna wrote, "Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek Camp at Stetson University. I liked when I dissected a sheep eye."

Letters will be e-mailed to school principals, math, science, and technology teachers by November 1, 2025, encouraging them to nominate current seventh grade girls with interest in STEM activities, to attend an all expense paid camp experience. This year (2025) all camp attendees were students who attended charter schools. No public school students completed the application process.

Wendy Seeley

Education Director for 2024-2025

Judy Houston's Celebration Of Life

The celebration is scheduled for October 18, at 2:00 pm.

The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Venice, located on 1971 Pinebook Rd.



New Member - Julie Cimet

Julie earned her BA from the Univ. of Iowa, and later an MLS and JD from Rutgers. She had a fun career as a union organizer, a librarian, an editor, a lawyer, a judicial law clerk, and a teacher. Now in retirement she enjoys happy hours and the opportunity to continue working and fighting for the rights and educational opportunities of women. She looks forward to advocating for these rights with the AAUW, and looks forward to meeting the Venice area members.

New Member - Marie Bartolotta

Marie was born and raised in Western New York. She earned a BS from Buffalo State College, an MBA from Canisius College, and an MS in Education from the University of Buffalo. She was employed as an administrator in city and county government before taking a position as the Vice President for Finance at SUNY Erie Community College. After retiring in 2008, she served for six years as an officer on the board of Deaf Access Services, a non-profit that provided services to the hearing impaired. She has a large family in the Buffalo area including a son and four grown grandchildren. When not spending time with them, she enjoys traveling, yoga, nature walks, and the wide array of cultural activities available in Sarasota.





The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from an equity-focused, nonpartisan viewpoint? Then be sure to attend as many AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums this year as you can. All sessions start at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evenings. They are open to AAUW members and guests. All sessions require pre-registration.

Florida Legislative Preview	Tuesday November 18, 2025	Come learn about AAUW Florida's work in Tallahassee this year. Dr. Pat DeWitt, AAUW Public Policy Director will share the upcoming AAUW Florida legislative agenda. This session will help ensure you are prepared for Lobby Days and provide you with an overview of our advocacy work.	Click here to register for this session
Women in STEM	Tuesday January 20, 2026	Increasing the number of women in STEM requires more than interventions designed for women. Camila Torres Rivera, M.A., M.Ed. (CUNY, Teacher's College, Columbia University) explores how students' own interpretations of academic challenges offer a more precise way to understand and allocate support. This talk presents a new, evidence-based approach that moves beyond demographics to ensure the right interventions reach the right students—advancing both equity and impact.	Click here to register for this session
Women's Economic Security	March 31, 2026	Come hear Dr. Mary Gatta, Former AAUW FL Co- Public Policy Director share her latest research on the gender pay gap, care-giving and economic security . She will share the experiences of women in Florida and the US and policies that can help support economic security.	Click here to register for this session

You will need to RSVP for each session individually. Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session via email. If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forum Organizer at gatta.mary@gmail.com

There is over \$140 million in the National AAUW Endowment Funds at our headquarters in Washington D. C.

Wow. The funds have been growing for over 138 years. It was initiated in 1888 to promote access to higher education for women. It currently funds post-graduate individuals here and abroad in fields related to STEM and gender-oriented studies. There are Dissertation Fellowships, Research Publication Grants, and International Fellowships and Project Grants. Additionally, it finances Community Action grants to promote STEM programs for K-12 girls. Each year about \$5 million is issued from these Funds.

Did the Venice Branch contribute to these National Endowment Funds? Yes! We created three funds between 2003 and 2014 that now encompass \$190,000. These are maintained at National headquarters. The Venice branch also created the Local Reentry Scholarship Endowment in 2017 at Gulf Coast Community Foundation for Sarasota County women.

We know one of the recipients. This year a Post-Doctoral Research Leave Fellowship was awarded to Diana Aldrete Ph.D. at Trinity College in Hartford Ct. Diana will use her \$50,000 stipend to write a book on the literature of gender violence in Mexico. The Venice branch president Joyce Mikulski knew her personally when they were both in the Spanish department at Goodwin University. Joyce describes Diana as a women's rights activist, a poet, an artist, and a writer.

To learn more about Diana follow this link: <https://www.trincoll.edu/news/aauf-fellowship-grant-will-support-trinity-professors-first-book-project/>

Paula Dulski, Finance Director



Diana Aldrete, Ph. D.

POLO SHIRTS

Polo shirts ordered in the spring will be handed out at our first AAUW meeting. If you wish to order a shirt, a sign-up form will be available at that meeting. Cash or check made out to Venice AAUW.

The short sleeve shirt is made of a soft polyester sporty material and has no buttons. The $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve shirt has 4 buttons and is made of a cotton pique material.

The prices are the same:

Short sleeve shirts S, M, L, XL \$30 XXL \$32 XXXL \$33

$\frac{3}{4}$ Sleeve shirts S, M, L, XL \$40 XXL \$42 XXXL \$43

Public Education Network (PEN) Workshop by Lynda Weston

PEN is a consortium of more than 20 organizations of which Venice AAUW is a member. The purpose of the organization is to support public schools which is also a position our national AAUW holds. On November 8th, PEN is sponsoring a half day “Investing in our Students” workshop which will focus on the reasons for choosing public schools. When vouchers were first voted on in various states, they were to help parents of students in lower performing schools choose a different school. That purpose has changed drastically and we are finding property tax money being used in a broad variety of ways which redefines public funding requiring little to no accountability. We are hoping that many VAAUW members will attend this morning workshop from 9 to 12:30 and held at the Venice United Church of Christ where our monthly branch meetings are held. Please help spread the word to friends and neighbors who care about the future of public education.

See draft agenda for program on next page.

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS: THE PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES OF SARASOTA'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

9:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

** by name means has agreed to present*

8:30 Registration

9:00 WELCOME - (Jill)

9:10 KEYNOTE: Liz Barker *

9:40 PANEL: PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION: THEIR EVOLUTION IN FLORIDA

MODERATOR: Christy Karwatt*

Who Gets Educated & For What Purpose? Children's Education in Early Florida

The Beginning and Early Promises of Florida's Public Education System

Two Centuries of Evolution of Florida's Public Schools (James Shaw)*

Current Challenges to the Promise of Florida's Public Education System (Sebastian Martinez)*

10:15 COFFEE BREAK (location)

10:35-11:15 Breakout Sessions 1 – PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES OF SARASOTA'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS

FOR Exceptional Students (ESE)

FOR English Language Learners (ELL/ESOL).

FOR High Quality Teachers and Standards-Based Curriculum (Theoni)*

FOR Fiscal & Academic Accountability and Transparency (Jane Goodwin)*

(ROOM

FOR Extensive Arts Programs/Experiences

11:20- 12:00 Breakout Sessions 2 - PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES OF SARASOTA'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS

FOR The benefit of all of Sarasota's Community (Harriet Moore)*

FOR High Academic Achievement & Accelerated Programs

FOR Separation of Church & State (SERENA & RICH will get speaker)*

FOR Career and Technical Education Programs (Tom Edwards)*

12:05 WRAP UP (Jill & Speakers)

Attendee Q & A

Suggestions for Advocating for Sarasota's District Schools

Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate with your AAUW Venice friends!



Thursday, December 4th

Pelican Pointe Country Club

Social Hour Begins 11:30

**Entertainment by
Venice Musicale**

***Menu and More Details
Coming Soon***

Patriot's Bridge Fund Raiser

Mark your calendars! Keep January 29, 2026 open for Patriot's Bridge. Enjoy a friendly afternoon playing cards with your fellow members and friends. No previous card knowledge is needed. Prizes, 50-50 raffle, fun and some snacks are waiting for you. Sign-up sheets will be at the November meeting along with time, location and cost (it's a fundraiser).



LET'S HELP FEED OUR NEIGHBORS

One of our community goals this year is to assist our neighbors who are unable to provide enough healthy food for themselves and their families. Please help, if you can, by bringing a food item(s) to our monthly meetings. The food collection area is at the entrance of the church hall. Your generosity will be appreciated by many.

Below are the items that are needed:

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Canned Meat: Tuna, Chicken, Hash, Stew

Peanut Butter, Jam, Jelly

Cereal: Oatmeal, Grits

Pasta: Dry and Canned

Pasta Sauce

Mac & Cheese

Soup

Dry Foods: Beans, Rice, Instant Potatoes

Milk: Canned, Dry or Shelf Stable Carton

Personal items: Soap, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Deodorant

Please do not donate expired items or opened containers.

Wendy Seely





14/16U Coach Chad Hunter
Sponsored by **AAUW Venice Florida**

It's Venice Fast Pitch Softball season again! We have a 14/16U team this season. Let's try to get to some of their games! Identify yourself as being a member of AAUW Venice and take some pictures! Our team began their games at the end of August, but here are the games that remain and their locations. Tournament games will be announced later. If you have any questions or if you're interested in joining me, contact Joyce Mikulski.

Home Games

10/21 7:30pm Field 2, 1300 Ridgewood Ave, Venice

Away Games

9/24@Miss Englewood 7:30 Field 7, 1300 S. River Rd. Englewood

9/30 @Miss North Port 7:30 Field 2, 7508 Glenallen Blvd.

10/7@Miss Englewood 7:30 Field 7, 1300 S. River Rd., Englewood

10/16@Miss Punta Gorda 7:30 Field 5, 670 Cooper St., Punta Gorda



SUMMER ACTIVITY—WINE GLASS PAINTING CLASS

Pictured at the activity are
Judy Napier, Jane Metcalf,
Patti Warner, & Hilda Dillman

Hot Topics (AKA Banned Books) SIG chaired by Lynda Weston

Many of us have spent time the past 2 years reading and discussing book challenges in Florida with the Banned Books SIG. These discussions have led to broader discussions on topics affecting life as it now is presenting itself. We are changing the name of this SIG to Hot Topics beginning Monday, October 27th at 1:30 in the Jacaranda Library Activity room. Please join us if you are feeling the need to have friends with whom you can discuss the news articles, podcasts, TV news reports, books, etc. What help could you use to digest all this information and all the changes that seem to be coming our way? Sign up for this SIG at the branch meeting or e mail Lynda Weston to be on the mailing list. The November meeting is the 24th at the Jacaranda Library, 1:30.

EVENING OUT SIG

The Evening Out group dines at local restaurants on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from October through April except December.

Our first outing for this year will be at the British Open Pub 367 Jacaranda Blvd. by the roundabout on Wednesday October 15 at 6pm. Email or call Melanie Odom by Monday October 13. Hope to see you there.

EUCHRE SIG

Venice AAUW Euchre will meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 11:30am to 3:00pm. You must be signed up ahead of time, by either registering at the previous playing session or by emailing the organizer, Jeri Jaminet.

We welcome everyone. There will be a learning session for those members who want to learn how to play or need review. Any questions, email Jeri Jaminet. (Email address can be found in the Members Directory on the AAUW Venice website.)

BOOK GROUP SIG

The AAUW book group will continue to Zoom in October. Our book will be *The Keeper of Hidden Books* by Madeline Martin, a story of Warsaw's librarians and book-lovers who risked their lives to preserve Polish culture and literature during the Nazi occupation in World War II. Paula Dulski will lead the discussion October 13th beginning at 1:25pm, but join anytime after 1pm to catch up and share what you've been reading.

LUNCH BUNCH SIG

Lunch Bunch is on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Come join us for a great lunch this October 22nd at Deep Lagoon restaurant. Sign up at the October meeting or contact Lydia Russo.

COOK'S CORNER SIG

Our first Cooks Corner of the season will be held on October 15 at the home of Joan Kieran at noon. The theme is "Your Favorite Summertime Dish". Newcomers are welcome - just send your email to me to confirm your interest for further Information.

COASTAL CRUISING SIG

Coastal cruising will normally plan pontoon trips during the last week of the month. November and December are the exceptions because of the holidays. Pontooning will run on different days of the week to give our busy members who have conflicting obligations a chance to participate. Note that the trip can be on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Contact Paula Dulski.

MOVIES MAVENS SIG

If you haven't already, please send Sue Lang (suelang99@hotmail.com) your email address if you want to be notified of upcoming movies, plays, opera live or HD streams on screen, etc. that we will go to this year.

EXPLORING WITH YOUR CARMERA

We have found some interesting places to visit in January.

Lynda Friedman 401-714-1585

Val Dwek 917-969-1014

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES—OCTOBER 2024 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	3	11:30	Euchre	Jeri Jaminet	Hotel Venezia
Thurs	9	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location and time.
Fri	10	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP to Bernadette
Mon	14	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	ZOOM Call. Book: <i>The Keeper of Hidden Books</i> by Madeline Martin 1:25 Social before meeting
Tues	14	4:00	Mix and Mingle	Jane Metcalf	Bella Vino
Tues	14	Deadline for November Venice Views		Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com	
Wed	15	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Theme: Your Favorite Summertime Dish
Wed	15	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	British Open Pub 326 Jacaranda, email Melanie by October 13.
Fri	19	11:30	Euchre	Jeri Jaminet	Hotel Venezia
Wed	22	11:30	Lunch Bunch	Lydia Russo	Deep Lagoon in Osprey. RSVP to Lydia
Fri	24	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP to Bernadette
Mon	27	1:30	Hot Topics	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library
Thurs	30	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Venice MarineMax

Venice Views Editor for October: Susan Hotzler

Venice Views Editor for November: Nancy Brex

E-copy Circulation: Kathy Doucette

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 November issue of Venice Views is 10/15/2025

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**.