

VOLUME LI No. 2 NOVEMBER 2025 PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. BOX 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT JOYCE MIKULSKI

Branch: [venice-fl.aauw.net](http://venice-fl.aauw.net) State: [aauw-fl.aauw.net](http://aauw-fl.aauw.net) National: [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

## President's Message



Our first meeting of the year on October 9 was a celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> year as an AAUW branch in Venice. We enjoyed conversation, fellowship, and, best of all, cake. Kathy Black, our historian, presented a short history of our organization, including memorabilia.

This was followed by a short business meeting and a hands-on technology workshop about our website and Facebook page. Thanks to Paula Dulski for putting the Power Point together and helping me present the content. Thanks also to our members who assisted others. If you missed the presentation and would

like to learn more about our website and Facebook page, Paula Dulski can provide you with a link to the Power Point. Don't forget to like and share our Facebook posts!

At our November meeting, we are looking forward to an exciting program presentation by Troy Quinn, the Venice Symphony Director and Chris Kasten, President/CEO. This will be a great opportunity to bring a guest to our meeting to learn more about our organization.

Of course, the hard work of our members continues. The development committee is in the process of organizing some fundraisers for this year. There will be more information at the November meeting. Patriotic Card Game (previously known as Patriotic Bridge) is already on the schedule for January 29. Please ENGAGE IN and SUPPORT our fundraisers. They are our means of providing scholarships to deserving young women.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the November meeting.

Joyce

### **50<sup>th</sup> Celebration**



## **Development Committee News**

The Development Committee members are Leona Crosskey (chair), Bobbi Amero, Paula Dulski, Jo Rahaim, Patti Warner, and Bev Weltzien.

We are working to set up the following fundraisers:

**Patriotic Card Game**

**Author Luncheon**

**Sheryl Faye - actor to portray Amelia Earhart**

**Wine Tasting**

We will need the help of our members to coordinate these events.

We plan to provide raffles at these events. We will need you, our members, to connect with vendors or community donors for gifts we can use to create the raffles where attendees could purchase tickets to secure the opportunity to win the donated prizes. Please contact Leona Crosskey to support this fundraising initiative.

### **Patriot Card Game**



The Patriot Card Game is fast approaching. It will be held at Plantation/Wexley Clubhouse on January 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 PM. The cost is \$25 per person. Remember, this is an AAUW fundraiser! Have fun playing cards, eating treats, winning prizes and a raffle! Sign up and pay at the November meeting. Bring a friend! See you at the November meeting. Lydia Russo & Kay Olsen

# Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate with your AAUW Venice friends!



**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Pelican Pointe Country Club**

**Social Hour Begins 11:30**

**Entertainment by Venice Musicale**

## ***Menu***

*Garden Salad*

*Choice of entrée:*

*Chicken Wellington or Salmon*

*Roasted Rosemary Potatoes*

*Green Beans Almondine*

*Chocolate Dessert*

**Price is \$40 per person**

Please mail checks, payable to **AAUW Venice Branch**, to AAUW Venice Branch, P.O. Box 515, Venice FL 34284.

Include a note with your entrée preference (chicken or salmon), or if you have a special diet.

You can also bring your checks to our next general meeting.

## From Debbie Blackwell:

**KEY WEST ADVENTURE**  
**JUNE 10 - 12, 2026**



<https://www.duvalinn.com/room-keywest.htm>





[https://www.keywestexpress.net/?utm\\_source=Listing&utm\\_medium=KW&utm\\_campaign=GMB](https://www.keywestexpress.net/?utm_source=Listing&utm_medium=KW&utm_campaign=GMB)

Kathy, Joan and Debbie say let's stay longer at the Duval Inn B & B.  
Ride down on the Key West Express to relax-dine, -shop and explore off season  
Key West ! Use the links to make your reservations !

## Food for the Hungry

Don't forget to stick a can or box of food stuff in your purse to bring to the next branch meeting to help stock the South Venice Food Pantry. Drop your donation off on the right when you enter Naar Hall for our November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.



# You're Invited

## Scholarship Reception

The Scholarship Reception will be held at Hotel Venezia, located at 425 US 41 Bypass North in Venice FL on November 3, 2025 from 4 to 6 pm. Drinks and a selection of hors d'oeuvres will be provided. AAUW members will pay \$20 which will include one glass of wine, beer or soda and unlimited snacks.

Last year Caitlin, the Catering Manager, put out a wonderful spread. This year we will be honoring seven recipients. Four women received the Non-Traditional Reentry Scholarship using the Gulf Coast Community Foundation Scholarship site. University of South Florida awarded two women in their STEM program the Pat Weber Scholarship as well as one awardee of the AAUW Venice Scholarship established this past summer. Our AAUW branch set up a scholarship at State College of Florida, but that site does not open until December.

Please join us to honor these incredibly talented group of women and learn their stories.

Please mail checks, payable to AAUW Venice Branch, to AAUW Venice Branch, P.O. Box 515, Venice FL 34284





# Venice AAUW Budget July 1,2025 to June 30, 2026

from Paula Dulski

Venice AAUW Budget July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026	
<b>OPERATING INCOME 2025-6</b>	
Branch dues	\$ 2,500
Operating Funds carryover from FY2024-5	\$ 9,450
24 Hour Giving Challenge in April 2026	\$ 10,000
Member donations	\$ 100
CD at Achieva Credit Union	\$ 200
<b>SUM</b>	<b>\$ 22,250</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDRAISING INCOME</b>	
Re-entry Scholarships funds carryover from FY2024-5	\$ 9,380
Non-restricted Scholarship funds carryover from FY2024-5	\$ 14,150
Tech Trek funds carryover from FY2024-5	\$ 280
Scholarships fundraising	\$ 12,000
Tech Trek fundraising	\$ 2,600
Member Donations	\$ 5,000
GCCF Endowment Fund	\$ 1,000
<b>SUM</b>	<b>\$ 44,410</b>
<b>SUM OF OPERATING AND FUNDRAISING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 66,660</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Officer and Chair Allocations	\$ 8,730
Routine: ExtraSpace, Aplos, USPS, Reports, Promo, Insurance	\$ 5,015
4 Member events: Luncheons & receptions	\$ 2,600
Contingency per policies and procedures	\$ 5,905
<b>SUM</b>	<b>\$ 22,250</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS DISPERSEMENTS</b>	
Reentry Scholarship	\$ 13,000
Non-restricted Scholarship	\$ 10,000
Florida Tech Trek	\$ 2,600
Fundraising expenses	\$ 3,000
Contingency per policies and procedures	\$ 15,810
<b>SUM</b>	<b>\$ 44,410</b>
<b>SUM OF OPERATING AND FUNDRAISING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 66,660</b>

## **General Meeting Minutes 10/9/25**

Held at the United Church of Christ Hall, Approximately 30 attendees  
Meeting called to order by the President at 10:45 am.

**President's report:** More help needed from the membership. Hoping for members to volunteer for committees.

**Vice president's report:** Strategic plan will be published in the Venice Views.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from general and board meetings are on the website under "members only."

**Treasurer's report:** Finances are in good shape and a reminder for dues will be sent to members.

**Membership:** Marie Bartolotta was introduced as a new member.

**Public Affairs:** Education Conference "Promises and Possibilities" will be held in this hall. Also, our group has a relationship with League of Women Voters and Women's Resource Center as well as PEN Public Education Network.

**SIG report:** sign- ups are at general meetings. New SIGs can be formed if a member has a different interest than what is listed. "Lunch Bunch" is the SIG of the month. A new SIG will be highlighted each month. January 29 will be a fundraiser named "Patriotic Card Game. \$25/player.

**Program director report:** Venice Symphony Maestro Troy Quinn-November 13  
Holiday Party-December 4, Superintendent of Sarasota County County Schools-January 8,  
Woman attorney-February 12.

**Education report:** Scholarship reception November 3, 4-6 pm at Hotel Venezia \$20.

Two scholarships added: \$5000 each at FSU and State College of Florida.

Tech Trek: President spoke directly to the School Superintendent of Sarasota County School District who was very receptive to making applications available in all the schools and Director of Secondary Schools will make sure materials are distributed.

Development is now a committee. They have only met once; nothing to report at this time.

The president reported that the soft ball team we support this year is the 14-16 year old girls. Games start at 7:30 pm. First game is 10/21.

Kathy Black gave an informative talk on the history of the Venice AAUW founded 50 years ago. In 1975 6 women came together and formed the AAUW of Venice. In 1976 there were 32 charter members.

The President and Treasurer gave a power point presentation on navigating the web site.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.



## Study/ Interest Groups

\*Sue Lang requests that members please remember to include their email address when they sign up for a SIG or anything else going on. It makes it much easier to communicate with members.

### Lunch Bunch

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be a Lunch Bunch for November. Check out next month's issue for December **Lunch Bunch**. Lydia Russo

### Hot Topics

Hot Topics SIG (formerly Banned Books) will meet on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 for an hour at the Jacaranda Library in the Activity Room. If you're looking for a group to discuss issues currently happening in our county, state and national levels, this may be the group for you. Bring any articles that have recently been in the news that you'd like to discuss further. Lynda Weston is the leader of this group and the person you may contact for further details.

### Book Group

The AAUW book group will begin meeting in person again at the Jacaranda Library on November 10th, and we are looking forward to being together. Paula Dulski will lead us in a discussion of The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club: A Novel by Helen Simonson. If you've enjoyed anything by this author before, you know you are in for a treat. Book talk begins at 1:25pm, but come any time after 1 to catch up with everyone.

### **Cooks' Corner**



The November 19 Cooks Corner will be held at Debbie Blackwell's home at noon. Debbie's theme is Pennsylvania Dutch-an interesting pre-Thanksgiving theme! Any interested new members who wish to join us, please send me your email address. Joan Kieran

### **Mix and Mingle**

Mix and Mingle meets on Monday 11/10, 4-6 Bello Vino, 128 W Venice Ave  
RSVP Jane Metcalf

### **Coastal Cruising**

Coastal Cruising is November 11 at 10 am from the Venice MarineMax marina.

### **Movie Mavens**

Please send Sue Lang 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.

## Evening Out

Evening Out will be Wednesday Nov. 19 at 6pm at Cafe Venice, 101 W. Venice Ave.

Call or email Melanie Odom by Monday Nov. 17.

## Euchre



GOOD hand/ BAD hand – Euchre is always fun! Let us know if you would like to learn how to play! Contact Patti Warner

Pictured above: Bev Weltzien and Bernie McEnerney

## AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES—NOVEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/NOTES
Fri	7	11:30	Euchre	Patty Warner	Hotel Venetia
Mon	10	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson
Mon	10	4-6	Mix and Mingle	Jane Metcalf	Bello Vino, 128 W Venice Ave
Tues	11	10:00	Coastal Cruising	Paula Dulski	Venice MarineMax marina
Thur	13	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location and time.
Fri	14	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP to Bernadette
Fri	14		Deadline for <b>December</b> Venice Views	Send Word formatted articles and/or jpg	formatted photos by email to <a href="mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com">aauwveniceviews@gmail.com</a>
Wed	19	6:00	Evening Out	Melanie Odom	Café Venice, 101 West Venice Ave. contact by 11/17
Wed	19	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kieran	Host:Debbie Blackwell, Theme: Pennsylvania Dutch
Fri	21	11:30	Euchre	Patty Warner	Hotel Venetia
Mon	24	1:30	Hot Topics	Lynda Weston	Jacaranda Library Activity Room
Fri	28	11:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnerney	Paradise Grill, Nokomis RSVP to Bernadette



**Venice Views Editor for November:** Nancy Brex

**Venice Views Editor for December:** Ann Saller

**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](mailto:aauwveniceviews@gmail.com)**

Text in Word Formatted File

Pictures in JPG Format Only!

**Deadline for the December issue of Venice Views is 10/15/2025**

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

**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](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. 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

