

VOLUME LI NO. 3

December 2025

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, VENICE, FLORIDA BRANCH

P.O. Box 515, VENICE, FL 34284

PRESIDENT- JOYCE MIKULSKI

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STATE: aauw-fl.aauw.net

NATION

President's Messag



Many thanks to Kathy Black for arranging our November program. Thanks to Rosemary Smith, our program chair, for her follow-through and organization. The turnout (both AAUW members and the general public) was excellent. Troy Quinn and Christine Kasten did not disappoint: they were informative, charismatic, and generous with their time. We look forward to another excellent program in January with Terry Connor, Sarasota Superintendent of Schools.

I would also like to thank Kathleen Pickering and her committee for organizing the holiday party. Thank you to Jan Harris for securing

Pelican Point. I imagine that by the time this newsletter is published, the event may be over. If so, I hope you had a wonderful time. Please support Patriotic Bridge on January 29. It will be held at Pinebrook Club House, 1343 Featherbed Lane, Venice, at 1:00pm. The Development Committee is working hard on other fundraisers. Please support them in any way you can.

Also, as I prepare this article, I would like to acknowledge Jeri Jaminet who worked so hard on this newsletter for many years. We wish her the best of luck on her move and new beginning. She will be missed!

Please remember to ENGAGE in Venice AAUW in any way you can. Join a committee, work on a fundraiser, attend meetings, read the newsletter, check out our website, like us on Facebook, etc.

I wish you very Happy Holidays. Let's continue to be WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN!



SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

Wendy Seeley

A big thank you to all of you who brought food to our AAUW Meeting. As you can see from the photos, it was a big haul! I transported 18 large bags to the food pantry the morning after the meeting, because the Democratic Party which meets at Naar Hall on the second Saturday of the month was asking for food donations. The pantry volunteers, who come out to move the food to carts, are always very appreciative. When I asked the gentleman if they were getting too much food. He said no, the food goes out as quickly as it comes in. Just a few suggestions:

- Check “best by” dates. The pantry will not accept outdated food.
- Only donate food that you would like to eat.
- Shelf milk, hygiene products, baby products, pet food are needed.

Thank you!



Development Committee News

Leona Crosskey

Champagne Tea Fundraiser

BA Shapiro

Thursday February 26, 2025

Plantation Golf and Country Club at 500 Rockley Blvd.

Menu: tea sandwiches, mini quiche, fruit, pastries and champagne

Cost for the fundraiser Author/Tea \$50

Shapiro will discuss and autograph her latest book ***The Lost Masterpiece*** (available for purchase at the Tea). Tickets for members to sell (2 to 5 recommended or even a table for 8) will be available at the Holiday party and the January branch meeting! Tickets will also be available through a QR code on line. There is no house tour this year so this is our best opportunity to raise scholarship money. At the tea there will be a Silent Auction. Items (jewelry, art work, handmade items, etc.) and experiences (lodging, theater tickets, adventures, etc.) are being sought from members and vendors. We are also seeking vendor sponsorships for the event. Please contact a committee member with item and vendor information.

Members are encouraged to read other titles by Shapiro including: “The Art Forger”, “The Muralist”, “The Collector’s Apprentice”, “The Safe Room”, “Blind Spot” etc. Please plan to attend, to sell tickets, and enjoy a wonderful afternoon supporting a great cause.

Members on the Development Committee are: Leona Crosskey, chair, Bobbi Amero, PaulaDulski, Jo Rahaim, Patti Warner, Bev Weltzein, Susan Hotzler, Lynda Weston. The Committee needs your help connecting with vendors and community donors

AAUW Membership “Mentor” Guidelines

Cindy Sproehnle

Rationale:

Mentoring seems to be a beneficial role to play in the critical early stages of AAUW Venice membership. This would be a volunteer, one on one relationship with a “seasoned” AAUW member and a new AAUW member. This volunteer role would closely align with the major goal of the Venice AAUW Chapter which is to “engage” all members, new and seasoned.

Role Description and suggested guidelines:

A mentor in this role would be paired with a new member by the Membership Chair, unless the member requests a specific member with whom to be paired.

- Members who volunteer to serve as a Mentor to a new member would take on this role for the 1st year of the new member’s membership.
- Mentors would begin their role by contacting the new member prior to the monthly meetings. Contact can be via phone, text, email, or in person.
- Mentors should engage the new member in conversation if possible regarding highlights of the upcoming season, year, and answer questions the new member may have.
- If at all possible, mentors should volunteer to sit with or accompany the new member to meetings, especially early in the season.
- Mentors should highlight for the new members SIG activities, in particular ones with which they are familiar and in which they participate.

- Mentors should keep in touch with the Membership Chair to let her know any issue, concerns, or just to let her know all is well with the Mentoring.
- Mentors and Mentees will be recognized in some manner by the Membership chair at the end of the season.

AAUW Membership Dues

Paula Dulski

Everything you wanted to know about dues but were afraid to ask:

- Dues are entirely tax deductible. You are paying a combination of the National, Florida, and Venice Branch dues.
- Beginning April 1, 2025 the dues are \$105. The price combines the National [\$74], State [\$12], and Branch [\$19] dues.
- Beginning April 1, 2026 the dues will be \$107.
- The due dates are variable. You should get reminders from National and quite possibly a nudge from Paula Dulski.
- The national database lists your membership status as 'Current', 'Grace', and 'Expired'. Please try to stay current. Paula has your due date.
- Credit Card payments: You can go online to the National Website at my.aauw.org. The National organization will send the \$19 branch dues to bank account.
- Or Pay by Check: Send your payment to P.O.Box 515, Venice, FL 34284. The payee is AAUW Venice. National collects their dues and the Florida dues from our bank account.
- Paula Dulski is happy to answer your questions.

2025 AAUW Venice Scholarship Awards

Wendy Seeley

Working with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation the Venice branch was able to award scholarships to four Sarasota County women: Karla King, Paige Kinney, Natasha Kozel, and Brianna Whaley.

Karla King, a full-time psychology student at University of South Florida is pursuing a bachelor's degree with a focus on children's behavioral health. As a single mother, balancing her education has required resilience and creativity.

Paige Kinney is a second-year recipient of the Venice Scholarship and graduated on October 27th as a Registered Nurse from Galen College of Nursing. She is continuing her education to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and her goal is to become a Certified Register Nurse Anesthetist. She is a mother of two who has lived with cystic fibrosis, a lifelong genetic disorder. When a life-changing medication became available a few years ago, she enrolled in the nursing program and is achieving her lifetime dream.

Natasha Kozel, who was born and raised in Thailand, attends State College of Florida, and is pursuing a nursing degree. She believes her compassion for others, her commitment to helping people, and her drive to make a difference makes nursing a perfect fit for her.

Brianna Whaley, who works full time as a vet tech, enrolled in the surgical technology program at Southern Technical College. Her dream is to be part of a surgical team which will give her the chance to directly impact people's lives and help them during some of their most vulnerable moments.

A few years ago, Venice AAUW established a scholarship at University of Southern Florida to honor Pat Weber. Pat, a longtime member had a significant impact encouraging young women to pursue STEM careers. Each year, USF personnel choose deserving women for this scholarship. This year's recipients are Katarzyna Goralczk and Sophia Dolamanet. Katarzyna, born in Poland, emigrated to the US as a child, when her father won the Green Card lottery. She is a first-year student pursuing a nursing degree. Sophia is a biomedical science major, who is studying to become a doctor.

This past summer, our branch established an additional scholarship at University of South Florida, and Gia Goldflam received this award. She is pursuing a degree in psychology, with a minor in criminology, and plans to become a criminal psychologist.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. Our Venice branch has provided these women a second chance and the opportunity to achieve their career goals.



The Patriotic Card Party

The Patriotic Card Party is fast approaching. It will be held at Pinebrook South Clubhouse (1343 Featherbed Ln., Venice) on January 29th 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 Holiday Party or the January meeting. Lydia Russo and Kay Olsen

Study/Interest Groups

Add A Little SIG To Your Life

Cooks Corner

The theme last month was Pennsylvania Dutch recipes hosted by Debbie Blackwell. Great stories about the chosen recipes were shared along with good laughs.



The traditional holiday salad buffet and cookie exchange of Cooks Corner will be held on December 17, at the home of Beth Gamel. We invite new participants...just send your email to jekieran@msn.com

Travel Group

Debbie Blackwell

You are more than welcome to join our trips by clicking on the links and following directions for self registration. Please let Kathy Black or Debbie Blackwell know that you have registered so we look for you on the days of the adventures!

Saturday, December 13 Cracker Country Christmas

<https://allaroundbus.com/itinerary/cracker-country-christmas-dec-13-2025-tampa-fl/>

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 Bok Tower Gardens

<https://allaroundbus.com/itinerary/bok-tower-gardens-march-7-2022-lake-wales-fl/>

Key West June 10 - 12



[**Get Your Key West Express \\$119 Travel Vouchers while they last!**](#)

Duval Inn

[Key West Bed and Breakfast, Duval Inn Guesthouse and B&B, Inn, in Key West Florida and the FL Keys](#)

Book Club

Hilda Dillman

The November book for the AAUW Book Club was the Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson. Paula Dulski led a lively discussion of the story and of women's lives in the years at the end of WWI. The selection for December, "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawton, will take us back to the 18th century for another view of women's lives. It is a mystery based on the life of a midwife, Martha Ballard, who is called to investigate a body pulled from the ice. Jean Norman will lead the discussion on December 8, 2025 at the Jacaranda Library. The book talk begins at 1:25pm, but come anytime after 1 to catch up with other readers.

Evening Out

Melanie Odom

There will be no Evening Out in December. We will pick up again in January and remember spouses and guests are welcome.

Kind Thoughts

Joan Marsh

Christine Cairn, a longtime member of AAUW Venice, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 14th. Service details will be announced when available. Chris will be missed greatly by many of us.

Cards were mailed to Leslie Curley and Lynda Weston who are recovering. If you are aware of member needing thoughts, please contact Joan Marsh.

AAUW VENICE BRANCH ACTIVITIES – DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT	LOCATION/ NOTES
Fri	5	11:30	Euchre	Patty Warner	Hotel Venetia
Mon	8	1:30	Book Group	Hilda Dillman	Jacaranda Library The Frozen River by Arial Lawton
Thur	10	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
Fri	11	12:15	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnemey	Paradise Grill Nokomis
Wed	16	11;30	Lunch Bunch	Lydia Russo	Crow's Nest
Wed	17	12:00	Cook's Corner	Joan Kiernan	TBD
Mon	15		Deadline for January Venice Views Send Word formatted articles and/or JGP formatted photos by email to aauwveniceviews@gmail.com		
Thur	18	TBD	French Conversation	Jane Metcalf	Contact Jane for location
Fri	19	11:30	Euchre	Patty Warner	Hotel Venetia
Fri	28	12:30	Bridge for Fun	Bernadette McEnermey	Paradise Grill Nokomis

General meeting minutes and Treasury report can be found on our website:

venice-fl.aauw.net



Venice Views Editor for January: 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 January issue of Venice Views is 12/15/2025

MAKING VENICE VIEWS BETTER FOR YOU!

The Venice Views Editorial team continually tries to make our newsletter more informative and easier to read. 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**.