

AIWAV NEWSLETTER

September 2025



NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We're thrilled to kick off the club's next two years together!

Our mission: *to enhance our social life, strengthen connections, and make our community thrive. Exciting updates – a redesigned website, new activities, and fresh opportunities to get involved.*

*We're launching new teams: a **Book Club** for curious minds, a **Games Night** for fun,*

Let's Cook for food lovers, and a group for Italian Practice.

FAWCO CORNER

This month, AIWAV takes the spotlight as the featured club at FAWCO's global meeting, where members from 58 clubs across 29 countries will connect.

AIWAV is also co-hosting two FAWCO-related events this fall:

- **Constitution Day** - Sept. 17, 10 AM (location TBA), featuring public readings of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence with students, faculty, and Democrats Abroad.
- **Stolpersteine Memorial** - around Nov. 19. We plan to participate by cleaning brass plates and honoring those who lost their lives in Venice as victims of Nazi extermination or persecution.

Other FAWCO highlights include:

- **Book Club** - *The Offing* by Benjamin Myers, Sept. 17 at 1 PM (online).
- **Human Rights Discussion** - Sept. 15 at 5 PM CET: experts will examine CEDAW and the crisis for women in Afghanistan.
- **Environment Festival** - Oct. 28-31 at Scotland's Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, with tree planting, wildlife walks, and cultural workshops. More info [here](#).





FEATURED TOPIC: REGATA STORICA & HERMIONE'S OPEN HOUSE

On the 7th of September, the famous Regata Storica will take place in Venice. This traditional event fills the Grand Canal with history, color, and festivity. We are fortunate to watch it from a truly special location.

*Hermione has kindly opened her beautiful home by the **Rialto Bridge**. From her windows, we will have a front-row view of the regatta. It is a unique opportunity to celebrate together in the*

*of Venice. Guests are encouraged to bring food, drinks, and of course, plenty of good cheer. Please remember to **RSVP** and secure your spot for this unforgettable experience!*

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

*The next **AIWAV meeting** will take place on Tuesday, **September 9th, at 6:30 p.m.** This will be one of our last gatherings at the **Castello925** venue in Venice.*

*The evening will focus on building connections through lighthearted activities. Highlights of this meeting include **Salt & Pepper**, a playful matching game featuring famous pairs.*

*In the coming months, members can look forward to activities such as **Guess Who?**, where childhood photos and memories spark fun discoveries; **Two Truths and a Lie**, a favorite icebreaker; and **Member Trivia**, where participants match unique facts with fellow attendees.*

*Kindly **RSVP [here](#)**. Members are warmly encouraged to **attend and share their perspectives**. For those unable to be present, questions and input can be shared via email at **americanwomenvenice@gmail.com**. We look forward to seeing you and starting the year together!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*AIWAV is seeking volunteers to support **financial oversight and event planning**. If you'd like to contribute your skills and energy, we'd love to hear from you!*

*We are also in search of a **new clubhouse**. If you know of a free space available at least once a month—able to host 20-30 people on the second Tuesday—please let us know. Your help will make a big difference as we continue to grow and strengthen our community.*

FEATURED MEMBER: LAURA PRITCHARD, AIWAV TREASURER

Laura Pritchard, a Brit living in Venice who's proud of her half-English, half-Welsh roots, describes herself as a creative problem solver, post-menopausal and happy to talk about it.

AV: What motivated you to join AIWAV?

LP: I was originally invited and liked the idea of meeting new people in various different, new locations around the city.

AV: Among the many places in Venice, do you have a favorite spot?

LP: Almost too difficult to say but maybe sitting at the Melograno bar on the Riva Sette Martiri, on a sunny and bright Winter's day, looking across the Bacino at the trio of landmarks, San Giorgio Maggiore, La Salute and San Marco, Burano comes a close second however.

AV: Could you walk us through what an ordinary day in Venice looks like for you?

LP: There is no ordinary day for me, because I do many different things, including my work. My favorite day would include being on a rowing boat, working with my hands on a craft project, reading a script whilst sitting in the sun at some point and having a spritz with friends at a rooftop bart. If I'm lucky I might also spot a few lagoon birds during the day and do a bit of work in my cortile garden.

AV: Having grown up in London, how would you compare your birthplace with Venice?

LP: In fact I was born in the countryside north of London but I did live in the capital for most of my adult life. London is sooooo much bigger, noisier and more hectic. It's also way more expensive. It has the river Thames but there is nothing like the light on the water in Venice. Both cities are full of history and culture. Both cities are equally international. Both cities are full of tourists. Venice doesn't have as good music but it's a much easier place to live and I have sooooo many more friends here. And at night, it is much quieter which I love.

AV: If you had to choose: London or Venice – which city feels closer to your heart, and why?

LP: Impossible to say, but Venice ticks a great deal of boxes. It's endlessly beautiful and varied. It's on the water. It's always got secrets to reveal. It's full of magical people and places. It also has nature on its doorstep and when you know, it's not hard to get away from the crowds to a peaceful corner. And then back into the excitement of an international festival.

AV: Finally, what are your thoughts on the future of Venice?

LP: I think my thoughts are often contrary to other people because I am very positive. I think Venice experienced its nadir at the end of the Republic in 1797 and has been through a positive transformation since my first visit in 1986. It probably all really started to get better after the catastrophic Acqua Alta of 1966, coincidentally the year of my birth! Venice has always been a meeting point of people from all over the world. I hope it always remains that way.





BUSINESS DASHBOARD - SHARE YOUR BUSINESS WITH AIWAV MEMBERS

*This space is dedicated to showcasing and supporting **our members' businesses**.*

We invite you to participate by sending us the following:

- *Your logo*
- *A short description of your business*
- *Your website link (if available)*

Let's celebrate and promote each other's work within our community!

REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have a subject you want to talk about at our monthly aperitivo, or someone you'd like to recommend to speak, please email: americanwomenvenice@gmail.com

If you would like to be interviewed or have something to feature in this newsletter, please email: aiwavpublicrelations@gmail.com or use the enquiry forms in the members area, password AIWAVmembers (Do not share with non-members).



CONTACT US

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