

AIWAV NEWSLETTER

December 2025



NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

*The last month's aperitivo reminded us once again that, although Venice is full of international women, it can still be difficult to meet one another. AIWAV provides a vital social link through its events and is the **only organisation offering monthly networking gatherings in English.***

We need more members to ensure a strong base of volunteers and to maintain a lively calendar—whether

through hosting a one-off event, running a group, or joining the events team.

*Please contact the **WhatsApp** group admins, **email us**, or use the suggestion form **to get in touch.***

FAWCO CORNER

This month in short for the FAWCO world:

*Learn about **Orange the World**, community activism to eradicate violence against women, as **FAWCO** clubs participate in the **UN project**. You should be aware that **FAWCO** Foundation's **Education Award grant** applications are open now through **January**. Virtual meetings on other interesting topics are being hosted, too.*

More news [here](#).



***“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world
in a conspiracy of love.”***

***— Hamilton Wright Mabie, an American essayist,
editor, critic, and lecturer.***



FEATURED TOPIC: CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

*There's still time to join a small group of members for a day trip to one of Italy's best Christmas markets. On the morning of **Saturday, 13 December**, we'll take the train to **Verona**, home of the **Italian Christmas cake pandoro**. The market features over 100 stalls offering a wide variety of German and Italian food, gifts, and artisanal products. This year, organisations have been encouraged to "**adopt**" a square, so the festivities spread further out from the city centre. Beyond the stalls, you'll find Santa's House, ice skating, and a Nativity exhibition, and we'll be visiting on the feast of Santa Lucia – the blind saint who rides a donkey and distributes sweets. Incidentally, Santa Lucia's relics are kept in the Church of San Geremia (near Ponte delle Guglie) in Cannaregio. **RSVP [here](#)**.*

*For those **staying in Venice**, we recommend the following **Christmas activities**: visit the Murano chandeliers in the western portico of San Marco; take a trip to Murano to explore the annual mercatini, now open, where you can buy glassware at heavily discounted prices from major furnaces (all the Morettis, Cenedese, Barbini and—by appointment—Tagliapietra); and visit C'era una Volta the best toy shop in town, on Campo San Pantalone, for this year's special treasure and an ornament from the shop's previous incarnation as the wonderful Officina Veneziana.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

***November** was our first **home hosting** event and provided a completely different context in which to meet. Not far from **the Fortuny Museum**, we met in a different part of town and saw Venice from another perspective. We also welcomed new members from **California (Julia & Eileen), New Jersey (Nell), Cobi (South Africa), Scotland (Fiona), Australia (Benedetta), Ukraine (Lara) and Italy (Valentina)**. Let us know if you would like to show us your part of town by hosting next year – we need hosts*

*for **February** through to **June**. As we approach **Christmas** and **the New Year**, we warmly invite you to join us for the final monthly aperitivo of the year on **Tuesday, 9 December at 6:30 PM**. This festive gathering will be hosted by our President, **Hermione Bushong** in her beautiful home on the Grand Canal near **the Rialto Bridge**.*

*To help us prepare, please remember to **RSVP [here](#)**.*

We look forward to celebrating the season with you and raising a toast to a joyful Christmas and a bright New Year ahead!



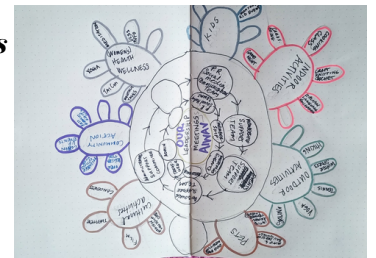


FEATURED MEMBER: OLIVERA JOVANOVSKA - VICEPRESIDENT

Olivera Jovanovska, AIWAV Vice President, brings a rich international background to our community. Born and raised in **Skopje, North Macedonia**, she arrived in Italy twenty years ago for a master's in international cooperation—and stayed for love. Today, she is a proud mother of two boys, a devoted wife and the founder of **MamaRent - Baby Gear Rental in Venice**.

AV: Why did you choose AIWAV?

I had two main reasons: **to meet new international women in the city and to practice my English**. Over time, conversations about MamaRent also began to come up naturally whenever people asked who I am and what I do. Most importantly, during my two years as an active member, I met wonderful women and built strong, meaningful relationships. At the **heart of AIWAV** is a simple value: **women support women**. That is what truly inspires me. Despite our many differences, we share three important characteristics: **we left our home countries, we all found ourselves in Venice, and we are all unique women**. Together, **we are AIWAV** – and **AIWAV needs each of us**. Supporting the club feels essential to me, and I believe that if every one of us contributes, we can build something truly beautiful. I'm also happy to share a drawing by our member, **Amy Burke**, which beautifully expresses **what AIWAV is**.



AV: What does working in Venice mean to you, and what are its advantages and disadvantages?

I truly love working in Venice, though I can admit it often comes with challenges. When I need to deliver or pick up MamaRent's baby gear, I walk everywhere—regardless of the weather. *Acqua alta*, rain, humidity, heat, even extreme heat... I face it all. But the advantages are many. I meet people from all over the world, and I have the chance to step inside beautifully restored luxury apartments—old Venetian residences adorned with painted beams and frescoed walls. These moments remind me how unique and inspiring working in this city can be.

AV: Is there a place in the city that you consider special?

Absolutely! One of the most meaningful spots for me is the area around the Rialto Market, facing the Grand Canal and the Rialto Bridge—this is where my husband asked me to marry him, and where I joyfully said **yes!** There are many other places I cherish for different reasons. I adore Cannaregio, the Ghetto, Sant'Alvise, and Fondamenta della Misericordia, as well as Santa Maria Formosa and Ruga Giuffa. Each corner holds a special memory and a unique charm.

AV: Which Venetian festival are you most attached to?

Definitely the Carnival. I've been living here for 20 years, and each Carnival feels unique. I highly recommend that new AIWAV members, as well as ladies who are new to the city, make sure not to miss this event next year.

SUMMARY OF THE LAST MONTH'S MEETING & EVENTS



*We were warmly welcomed into the cozy home of Diahann, one of our lovely members for a delightful evening together – full of laughter, fascinating conversation, and a few new faces! We also took a moment to share what's been “cooking” in our club – exciting things are coming, such as **Carnival party, Go Crab Go** and the ongoing **Stolpersteine Initiative**. Let's keep the warmth and friendship going!*

*On **November 10th**, several AIWAV members gathered together to **clean our two newly adopted Stumbling Stones (Pietre d'inciampo)** that are located in the Sant'Angelo area of Venice dedicated to Aldo Salom (**address: S. Marco 3877**) and Vittorio Guastalla (**S. Marco 3870**). One of the stones was badly tarnished and slightly corroded from the frequent high waters that cover it this time of year. It was a solemn occasion to remember the devastation of the Kristallnacht (Night of Crystal) in 1938 when approximately 1400 synagogues were damaged and 26,000 people arrested in a single night in Germany as part of a Nazi initiative. This event was organized simultaneously by several FAWCO member clubs across Europe. Our next cleaning of the Stumbling Stones is scheduled for **January 27th**.*

***Tal Elhyani-Bassali of the Zehud School** gave a fascinating lecture for AIWAV on the **16th of November**. She intertwined the history and significance of the Venetian ghetto with thoughtful discussion about identity and cultural life.*

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 AIWAVmembers26 (Do not share with non-members). Always remember to refer to the **FAQ's**. If you know anyone who **might like to become a member**, please ask them to fill in the form at **Join Us**.*



CONTACT US

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