

AIWAV NEWSLETTER

November 2025



NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

*This **second month** of our new Association year has been a busy and rewarding one. We've taken on exciting commitments – hosting events, leading groups, launching new projects, and sustaining our much-loved Carnival event. For a small organization, we're achieving so much together! Our **new leadership team** is settling in well, and with it come a few positive changes. We're focused on streamlining membership*

sign-ups and strengthening communication – always top priorities for us. As always, we warmly encourage you to bring a friend or colleague to the next aperitivo. Welcoming new members and hearing fresh ideas from all of you is one of the great joys of our community. See you soon!

FAWCO CORNER

*AIWAV The Stolpersteine (“Stumbling Stones”) event will be on **November 10th at 10 AM** to connect with the commemoration of Kristallnacht. This cleaning and memorial will occur in conjunction with the **FAWCO club AWC The Hague** and **Pietre d’Inciampo Venezia**. We will meet at the **Sant’Angelo vaporetto stop**.*

*The Stolpersteine is the world’s largest decentralized monument in memory of the expulsions during WWII, and through this shared effort, we ensure that those lives are never forgotten. AIWAV is officially adopting a stone or two, which we will periodically clean and maintain on an ongoing basis. The second scheduled cleaning will be in **January** as part of the city’s memorial events. **Please RSVP [here](#)**. Link to the Stopersteine project: <https://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/> For more **FAWCO News** click [here](#).*



***"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." -
Elie Wiesel, a Romanian-American writer, political
activist, and Holocaust survivor***



FEATURED TOPIC: AIWAV TOUR OF JEWISH HISTORY

To support the **Stumbling Stone cleaning initiative** adopted as part of our FAWCO activities, Tal Bassali, Founder of the Zehud School, is offering to host a personal tour of Jewish history and city sites for our members on **Sunday, 16 November at 10am** and **RSVP [here](#)**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

Our **November** monthly aperitivo will be held on **Tuesday, the 11th at 6:30 PM**, graciously hosted by Diahann Hawkins at her beautiful home on the **Grand Canal near the Fortuny Museum in San Marco**.

We warmly encourage you to bring a friend or colleague to the next aperitivo.

To help us prepare, **please RSVP [here](#)**. We look forward to another lovely evening together!



FEATURED MEMBER: DIAHANN HUGHES HAWKINS

From the **ancient myths** of the world to the **cutting edge of technology**, Diahann has always been driven by curiosity and a passion for understanding how things work.

With a **background in economics, international relations**, and a lifelong fascination with sacred geometry and global history, she has explored ideas that cross disciplines and defy boundaries.



AV: How did you end up living in Venice?

Born on Long Island, NY, I grew up in (now infamous!) Springfield, Ohio. Twenty-six years later I emigrated to work for the first private ISP (internet service provider) in the UK, and loved being on the cutting edge of technology. Ten years later, I met my husband and settled down to raise a family for nearly two decades in the rural Herefordshire countryside in his (dusty & eccentric!) family-owned historic castle on the Welsh border. We always loved visiting Venice, and came often as a family over the years...then I discovered

H-Farm! We all knew it was the ideal, educational solution for our teenage children, which gave us the 'big push' to finally move to Italy.

We arrived in Venice only this past February, though spent five months on the mainland settling into school and finding a Venetian home suitable for a family of four...not an easy task!

AV: What does life look like for you at the moment?

*Now that I'm no longer home educating my children (now 15 and 16) which I did for six years, I'm getting my teeth into various projects here in Venice and beyond. I now help manage their environmental NGO **Hidden Plastic**, which they started while doing project-based learning five years ago by making educational videos. We're currently **partnering** with other local organisations on a grant project to **help clean microplastics from the lagoon**, and reduce reliance on single-use plastics by tourists. Another project I'm initiating is to organise an art exhibition in Venice (still working on a venue!) to show the scale of global plastic pollution, and raise awareness about the urgency of the problem. I've been part of a geometry research group for 25 years, which is a story too long for here. Most recently, I had a trial day with Bucintoro Rowing Club, and will be joining soon with other family members so we can experience Venice from the lagoon.*

What's your favourite place in Venice?

The top floor of our home! Spending time on our beautiful terrazza alone or with family - whether enjoying morning coffee, lunch in the sun or an evening aperitivo with fairy lights - is my delight. It's magical to watch the morning pastel colours of Venice change to golden tones by moonlight, hear the symphony of church bells, watch gulls & swifts swirl through the sky to the backdrop of waves lapping against the buildings of the Grand Canal. I'm still pinching myself to make sure this isn't a dream.

How often do you go to the mainland?

Usually for H-Farm school meetings or to travel abroad for events. It's a novelty for us to live so close to such a convenient airport just at the time we're all doing more international activities. Last weekend, my children & I attended a seaweed conference in Berlin, where we filmed videos about non-plastic substitutes for Hidden Plastic. In December, we're heading to our second UN event this year UNEA-7 in Nairobi, as a part of actively supporting an ambitious Global Plastics Treaty at four international negotiations.

Do you feel Venetian?

Getting there, but honestly not yet. I have felt incredibly welcomed by locals, and love the international community that is by its essence open-minded and adventurous... Venice has always been home to explorers of lands & new ideas. But, I feel like becoming Venetian is more of a gradual process that requires knowing the local language (working on Italian!), and connecting into the city through giving back to it in some way. That sense of belonging will only grow over time, and right now I'm really enjoying the journey.

SUMMARY OF THE LAST MONTH'S MEETING



*Our **October meetup** at Castello925 Art Gallery was full of smiles, great energy, and new faces! We started with some relaxed socializing and then shared updates on upcoming activities, including the Stolpersteine Initiative, **Carnival**, and **Go Crab Go Sagra**. More fun gatherings are on the way, so check the website calendar and WhatsApp for what's next. And remember – if you'd like to join, organize, or host something, **we'd love to have you involved!***

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**.*




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