

AIWAV NEWSLETTER

October 2025

NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



*It's been an **incredible month** of activity, with membership continuing to grow and **new energy** flowing through the organization. While we fine-tune a few transitions, **exciting plans** are underway to create more opportunities for members to connect and contribute to both the association and the city. October will be our final gathering at Castello925, and we're now seeking hosts for future monthly aperitivi—a great chance to bring members together in your homes, workplaces, or favourite third spaces. We look forward to seeing you there!*

FAWCO CORNER

*AIWAV was presented by our member **Irene Woodbury** to the worldwide group of FAWCO Reps and Presidents in September. We got a lot of positive feedback about how active and exciting we are. Keep up the enthusiasm and creativity, Ladies!*

*The **Stolpersteine** (“Stumbling Stones”) event will most likely be on **November 10 th** 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. The Stolpersteine is the world’s largest decentralized monument, and through this shared effort, we ensure that those lives are never forgotten.*

Link to the Stopersteine project:

<https://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/>

*For more FAWCO News click **here**.*



FEATURED TOPIC: US CONSTITUTION DAY



On **September 17th**, we celebrated US Constitution Day by holding a **public reading** of the Declaration of Independence and US Constitution. We were a small group of members from AIWAV, Democrats Abroad Italy (Triveneto Section), and a professor from Ca' Foscari, who either read or attended as listeners. It was a meaningful morning of reflection on the USA and the **meaning of freedom and justice** as reflected in its founding documents, as well as their relationship to the world at large. After the reading, we continued our conversations at a cafe in Campo Santa Margherita. This initiative was also done by other FAWCO member clubs in Europe. We thank everyone who supported this event.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

Our **October** association aperitivo is scheduled on the **14th at 6:30 p.m.** at **Castelo925** in **Venice**, an evening venue for members and friends. This month's meeting will include updates and a discussion of the club's needs. From games to galleries, there's something for everyone! Check the calendar [here](#)! Join **Games Night** for board, card, and nerdy fun, or explore Venice's vibrant art scene during **Gallery Hop**. Sharpen your culinary skills with **Let's Cook**,



and don't miss the colorful **Carnival**, celebrating creativity and laughter.

Looking to give back? **Causes** offers chances to support local initiatives with time or donations. For quieter evenings, the **Book Club** brings readers together for cozy, home-hosted discussions. Feeling adventurous? **Day Trips** invite everyone to explore nearby sights – and perhaps cap it off with dinner at that “really great” new restaurant everyone's talking about.

As part of our traditions, we are also organizing **Hot Spa Day** at Albano Terme on Monday, **October 20, from 1:30 p.m.**

Members are warmly encouraged to attend and share their perspectives. For those unable to join in person, questions and input can be shared by email. **Please write** to: americanwomenvenice@gmail.com with your comments or suggestions.

To help us prepare, kindly RSVP using this link: [RSVP Form](#).

FEATURED MEMBER: GINA GIOVANNINI, AIWAV SECRETARY

Originally from Southern California and now living in Preganziol with her Italian husband, Gina has warmly embraced life in the Veneto region. As leader of AIWAV's Let's Cook group, she shares her passion for food, community, and cultural exchange while offering insights into her life in Italy and connection to Venice.

AV: You are married to an Italian and reside in Preganziol, in the Province of Treviso. How would you describe your home in Italy from the perspective of an American?

Wow! There are so many differences in life here compared to Southern California. The first thing, though... NO CLOSETS! Silly as it may seem, this has been a big adjustment. That being said, I'm happy to give up a walk-in closet for a huge garden with fruit trees and chickens. My cats moved with me too – they went from being indoor-only (so many predators in SoCal!) to having a big house and garden where they can chase butterflies and bask in plenty of sunny spots. The biggest difference, though, has been the people. We have the kindest farmer neighbors who, despite speaking no English and only the Venetian dialect, greet me warmly and chat away as if I understand every word – all while placing freshly picked delights from their garden into my arms. In California, I had my first real conversation with my next-door neighbors of three years on the day the movers arrived to pack my container for Italy. Life here is vastly different, but incredibly comfortable.

AV: What motivated you to join AIWAV?

My friend and AIWAV member, Valeria, encouraged me to join. It gave me another reason to visit Venice, and I've enjoyed sharing experiences with so many interesting and lovely women who, like me, have found themselves transplanted into this wonderland.

AV: As the leader of AIWAV's Let's Cook group, what are some of your favorite recipes and culinary traditions?

Cooking is more than food – it's culture, love, and connection. I love spending time in the kitchen and seeing family and friends enjoy what I've made. Sharing a meal is the easiest way to bring people together – food is a universal language.

Some of my favorite dishes are chicken pot pie, ossobuco, chocolate soufflé, carnitas, and barbecued ribs. At our Let's Cook events, I share recipes, tips, and plenty of laughs. I can host in my countryside home (with two kitchens!) or help organize a gathering in Venice – just open the door, and I'll handle the rest.





AIWAV - LET'S GET INVOLVED

*AIWAV is seeking **volunteers** to support **financial oversight, event planning and communication**. 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. Check [here](#).*

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).*



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