

# AIWAV NEWSLETTER

February 2026



SEE YOU ON THE 7TH  
FOR CARNIVAL!

Dress code: cocktail with a mask if possible.

**NB: Tickets are 65€ from 1 February.**

## NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are so pleased to be on our way to Carnival. There is now great excitement over finalising raffle prizes and silent auction items. Sheridan obtained donations from [Harry's Bar](#) and [Pietàerre Venezia](#) while Phoebe and Haylee have worked tirelessly to secure a score of other desirable objets and offers. These items raise money for our charity.

Other highlights this month were the January aperitivo, with Brittany's sensational homemade food and playful masks from Marilisa at [Arlecchino](#), and the Behind the Scenes tour with [Save Venice](#) (more below). It was also quite fun watching the Olympic flame tour the city through the eyes of the Activities Whatsapp group — proving AIWAV city coverage and a great way to stay up-to-date!

## CHARITY STATUS

In [January](#) we began the process of formally incorporating AIWAV as an [Associazione di Promozione Sociale](#).

The current Constitution will be used as the basis for the new organisation. Some translation will be required to fit into the formal structure but any significant modifications will be put to the vote. The [Constitution](#) is online and we welcome your input so don't hesitate to start sending us [your comments, advice and support today](#).

## VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

We need volunteers. For hosting, running events, helping with membership and communications. Get in touch with any one of the Leadership Team or Group Leaders.



WE WILL SOON BE LOOKING  
FOR A 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEMBER...  
WILL IT BE YOU?

*"When you start to walk on the way,  
the way appears." Rumi*

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SAVE VENICE *by Cobi van Tonder*



@saveveniceinc

history of the late Baroque period Venetian female artist, Giulia Lama. Save Venice has numerous restorations underway throughout the city, carried out by carefully selected restorers who are supervised by the Superintendency and Save Venice staff.

On this occasion, we visited two works by Jacopo Tintoretto currently under restoration: The Last Supper and The Israelites in the Desert. Tintoretto painted these two large canvases around 1591 and 1592, just before his death in 1594. (San Giorgio Maggiore is also home to his very last painting, the Entombment of Christ, an altarpiece Save Venice restored in 2020).

We started by the altar, looking at where the paintings usually hang, our guides explained how the entire painting was designed to work in perspective with the altar area. Tintoretto even marked lines on the bottom of the canvas of The Last Supper, corresponding to the actual dimensions of the wall, ensuring the composition extends realistically into the physical space of the basilica. He also considered the light as it comes into the building and how it would affect the painting. Next, we received an in-depth overview of the restoration process, including the complexities of the pigments, materials, and logistics. We learned about removing non-original surface layers and residues, such as brownish varnish and discolored inpainting from previous restorations. Losses are filled using removable paint so that the restoration can be undone if better understanding is discovered in the future.

Next, we moved into the work room where, for more than a year, expert hands have been at work to carefully uncover and restore color, light, and art on canvas for these two paintings. This brought us closer to the artist and the secrets hidden in time within these marvellous artworks. It also uncovered the humanity of the artistic process and raised awareness of the hands working to create and protect such heritage. What a privilege to be so close to such masterworks, and what a joy to share this with a group of women who are, month by month, becoming a strong community here in Venice. Together we pondered, marvelled, posed questions, and shared spontaneous thoughts about the psychological, theological, narrative, and pictorial mysteries of the characters in these paintings—their gestures, expressions, and the choices made by Tintoretto to hide and reveal his perspective on and through these late biblical works.



*Read more about mask making in [Craftsmanship](#) written by the expat American blogger of [I'm not making this up](#).*

**AIWAV will donate money raised during the Carnival raffle and silent auction to support this work.**



## FEATURED MEMBER: IRENE WOODBURY

Originally from Baltimore, Irene has lived in Italy for more than 20 years. She loves art, languages, travelling and a good prosecco. Resident in Cannaregio with her husband and two boys, Irene works as a Foreign Language Assistant at Ca' Foscari university. She joined AIWAV in 2023, is an advisor on the Leadership Team, and has been the representative for FAWCO, our umbrella organisation, since 2025.

### *How did you come to live in Venice?*

I first came to Venice as an intern for five months at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection just after graduation, way back in 1997. My background is actually fine art. After a few years, including several moves back across the ocean and experiences in other Italian cities like Bologna, and iterations of boyfriends, I met my future husband — who's from Venice. Fast forward: we'd been living in Padua for almost a decade, but wanted to be closer to family once our first son was born. So we moved to the lagoon city in 2014.

### *What does a typical day look like?*

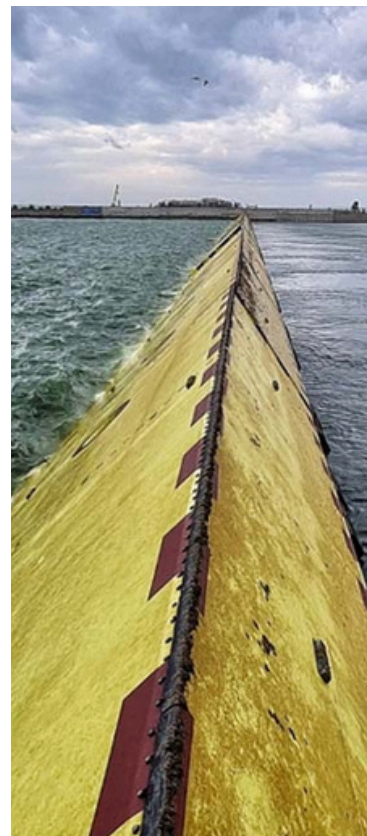
I workout at home first thing in the morning, get my youngest ready for school, and take a long walk to my university classes or start work on the computer, planning lectures, marking or writing emails. In the afternoon I race back to welcome my youngest back home after school. Then it's time for managing both boys' sports practices and prepping dinner. In the evening, I am often attending online FAWCO meetings or writing up something related to the organization or AIWAV. I catch up on American news with a quick read of a US newspaper before bed. On the weekend, I get time for a prosecco or two and a cicchetto.

### *What does AIWAV represent for you personally?*

It's a fun way to get to know fellow expats in Venice and experience the city through the organized activities or ones shared in the chat. It's also a way to do charity and get more involved in the community. I also strive to evolve as a person. AIWAV is helping me do just that.

### *What insights would you share about your role with FAWCO?*

FAWCO provides resources in so many ways. Interesting online workshops are scheduled regularly on a whole host of topics; advice and information about filing US tax and voting abroad; special focus projects on human rights, women's rights, health issues, and the environment; book clubs; United Nations representation; support for member writers; and grants for education and non-profit organizations. It may take a little time to become familiar with it all, but it's well worth discovering. FAWCO even has an upcoming conference in March in Malta where we'll do a deep dive into all their initiatives, meet other like-minded women from around Europe and the globe, and learn something new through their many conference workshops. I'd love for one of you to join me as I attend for the first time!



### **VENICE TRIVIA**

How many sections do the four Mose barriers have?

### *Favourite place in Venice?*

The vista from the bell tower on San Giorgio at sunset. I go annually in the winter for the view over the city and its waterways. I also love walking home through the calle on a foggy night and hearing Saint Mark's distinct bells tolling midnight. I guess I have a thing for bells and towers.

# FAWCO CORNER

A bumper month for FAWCO with administrative updates from the start of the year.

## **Board Open Town Hall — virtual meeting.**

FAWCO will celebrate 95 years in 2026; kicking off with a chance to connect in an informal online meeting. Two dates to connect:

- Wednesday, 28 January at 7pm CET. [Please register](#); and
- Thursday, 29 January at 1 pm CET. [Please register](#).

Come meet us, ask questions and get to know more about FAWCO and FAWCO's future.

## **“The Brand Called You” workshop.**

Personal Branding Workshop — virtual meeting. Please register. Maximum: 25 attendees. First come, first served. Two dates:

- Thursday, 5 February, 7:00pm CET
- Thursday, 12 February, 7:00 pm CET

## **Foundation Fundraising.**

Founded in 1931, FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations with a similar mission to AIWAV.

FAWCO recognizes outstanding service and has numerous ways for you to support their vision.

To help support future grant programs offered by the FAWCO Foundation, including the Education Awards that just closed for 2026, you can bid on silent auction items that will be announced in March 2026. They range from holiday destinations to charms and even a full-size handmade quilt. See the full story [here](#).

## **2025 US tax filing & reporting deadlines:**

15 April – US Tax Payment Deadline

15 June – US Tax Filing Deadline for Expats

15 October – FBAR deadline and Extended US Tax Filing Deadline. You MUST file for this extension by using Form 4868

15 December – Last Day to File US Taxes for the season. You MUST file for this extension by using Form 4868 and also mail in a letter of request.

## **US elections November 2026**

US voters living abroad face increasing barriers to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Find out how to ensure you can vote within the restricted timelines. See: [New Threats and the Need for Speed: Make a plan to ensure that you can vote in 2026](#)

## **Stay updated on ever-changing travel regulations**

US citizens are unable to travel as “visa free” as in the past, and these regulations are changing rapidly. The United Kingdom now requires US citizens to register their trip in advance, and the EU will soon be implementing a similar program. Always check the [Department of State international travel checklist](#) for travel advisories, entry and vaccination requirements, local laws and more.

## FAWCO CONFERENCE

[FAWCO interim conference](#) 20-22 March, 2026, Malta. AIWAV's FAWCO representative will be present.

The program agenda includes a Reception and Opening Night dinner, plenary sessions, workshops, and the Foundation Night Gala. The conference concludes late Sunday afternoon with the recipients of Education Awards and Development Grants being announced, as well as the location of the 2027 Biennial Conference. Also announced at the Interim Meeting will be the new 2026-2028 FAWCO Target Project for Human Rights.

**FAWCO**  
**FOUNDATION**



**FAWCO**  
Inspiring Women Worldwide

## BI-MONTHLY DAY TRIP CERAMICS IN NOVE



This month we propose to visit Nove and Bassano del Grappa. Nove is famous for its ancient ceramics, an art that still lives on through the town's artisans. And Bassano, famous for grappa, has been attracting expat residents for its great vibe. The itinerary could include other sights in the region, like Canova's gypsotheca or Scarpa's Tomba Brion, depending on who RSVPs and how much time we have. Tentatively we'll leave at 9am and lunch in Marostica, famous for their human chess spectacle every even year in September. Traveling by car, we'll split transport costs.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

- **Leadership Team** first Wednesday of the month, 4 February, time and location TBC.
- **Carnival Prosecco Brunch**, from 11am on Saturday, 7 February at Palazzo dei Dogi, Cannaregio 3500.
- Second Tuesday of the month, **Social Aperitivo**, 10 February, 6.30pm, location TBC
- **Book Club** suspended for February.
- **Day trip to Bassano & Nove**, Friday 27 February, 9am to 5pm. Split costs for car sharing.
- A range of **FAWCO** events (see above).



## THE MONTHLY APERITIVO

### WE NEED HOSTS

You can host anywhere: your favourite bar, around your campo well, or at home.

### WE SUPPLY THE WINE

You provide a location and act as the evening's host – with help from us – and everyone who can brings something to eat.

## GET INVOLVED

Join a group to help make decisions, or:

MAKE A SUGGESTION.

OFFER AN EVENT.

BE INTERVIEWED.

WRITE THE NEWSLETTER.

SEND US A PHOTO OR TAG US!

American &  
International  
Women's  
Association  
Venice

AIWAV.ORG

New members always welcome. Bring someone to an aperitivo or ask them to first making an enquiry, and then RSVP.

P.S. We do not reply to RSVPs — unless there is limited capacity..



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