

AAUW ASHEVILLE NEWSLETTER



AAUW: Breaking down educational and economic barriers for women and girls



FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  Reservation Deadline for Branch Meeting: rsvp to andriettek@bellsouth.net	2 International Dining 6 pm 
3	4 CAB  Remains of the Day , Ishiguro 4:30 at home of Renée Levine; rsvp to Renée at haroldrenee@att.net .	5	6 Adelante  Warmth of Other Suns , Wilkerson 2 pm at home of Jayne Gallinger; rsvp to jgallinger@charter.net  Reservation Deadline for Lunch Bunch	7  Branch Meeting 11:30 1st Baptist Church Speaker: Conductor & Music Director, Asheville Symphony	8  Lunch Bunch Chestnut's 48 Biltmore Ave. RSVP to sherrysaerie@gmail.com	9
10	11 Film Buds , Led by Beth Ellers Film & Location: TBA 5:30 —7 	12 Begin bringing items for Bling, Bling Bash! See p. 4 for details.	13	14 Film Fans Led by Beth Johnson Film : TBA River Ridge Apt. Club House 12—1:30 	15	16
17	18 	19	20	21		26
24	25	26 World Affairs  Topic: Vanishing Languages 1:30, at home of Eleanor Johnson; rsvp to Johnson@buncombe.main.nc.us	27	28 Evening  Tiger's Wife , Obreht, 7 pm, at home of Ro Biley ; rsvp to robily@att.net	1	

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Standing Study Groups and Activities

☞ Remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month's meeting so that they can predict attendance and so that you can be apprised of any last-minute changes.

- ◆ **Adelante Book Group:** The book study group meets the first Wednesday of every month at homes of members; for this month's location and more information, contact group leader Fran Myers at 274-0976 or fjgmyers@bellsouth.net.
- ◆ **CAB Book Group:** The "Cocktails and Books" discussion group meets downtown the first Monday of each month, from 4:30 to 6 pm for wine and conversation. To get more information or add your name to the list of members, contact group leader Peg Steiner at galaxpeg@hotmail.com. If you plan to attend, rsvp to co-chair Renée Levine at haroldrenee@att.net. Attendance is limited to 15 participants per session.
- ◆ **Evening Book Group:** The book discussion group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the homes of various members; all are welcome; for this month's location or to obtain more information, contact group leader Juanita Spanogle at jspanogle@aol.com or 258-0096 .
- ◆ **Film Buds:** This film discussion group meets the second Monday of each month from 5:30 to 7 to discuss first-run films; attendance is limited to the first 20 current group members who make a **reservation** with the group leader, Beth Ellers; because of the large size of the group, new membership is closed, but note that the Film Fans group discusses the same film and is open to new members; to obtain this month's film selection, location, and other information, contact Beth Ellers at slark1@att.net. Participants bring pot-luck supper.
- ◆ **Film Fans:** This film discussion group meets the first Thursday after the second Monday of each month from noon to 1:30 at the River Ridge Apartments Club House; film is the same as that discussed by the Monday Film Buds group; members bring their own lunch; open to new members; for the film selection of this month's meeting or to get more information, contact group leader Beth Johnson at JOHNSON1ea@earthlink.net.
- ◆ **International Dining Group:** The International Dining group enjoys great food and wonderful company. Participants learn more about the food and customs of different countries as they prepare and then savor meals from around the world. The group will meet 7 times this year. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net or 692-3620 or Debra Benjamin at debrabenjamin100@gmail.com or 650-0311.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Thursday, February 7

First Baptist Church



"Moments with the Maestro":

Daniel Meyer,

Music Director & Conductor,
Asheville Symphony

Lunch at 11:30

\$12

RSVP to Andriette Kinsella at andriettek@bellsouth.net

- ◆ **Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch is an informal gathering for lunch on the second Friday of each month at noon at a different area restaurant. The Lunch Bunch is open to all AAUW members who wish to be added to the **reservation list**. Be sure to contact Sherry Brown by the **deadline date** at sherrysaerie@gmail.com or 357-8455 and to get directions to the restaurant.
- ◆ **World Affairs Study Group:** The study group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss selected topics in world affairs; participants meet at the homes of different members. Anyone interested in the wider world and how it affects all of us is invited to attend meetings. For more information, contact Eve Miller at 299-8107 or evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com.



FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

Dear AAUW Friends:

We're off to a great start to the new year. Our membership is at 151, our finances are in good shape and GEM is raising more money than ever for scholarships. The sad news is that Bobby Carney had to resign as our board treasurer due to health issues. She has done a wonderful job keeping up with the books and getting our finances in order and we owe her a debt of gratitude. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Luckily, Laurie Powell, a fairly new AAUW member and a CPA, has agreed to step in to the treasurer position.

The January branch meeting was held at Brooks-Howell Home with about 40 people attending, including several residents as well as five of our scholarship recipients. Their comments were interesting and heartwarming and reinforced that AAUW is making a real difference in their education. The iPads from the technology grant were a real bonus for them and several mentioned how winning the scholarship increased their self esteem and gave them confidence to continue in school.

Susan Grabel, Alice Doner and Jill Preyer talked about GEM and how it operates as the fund raising arm of our local AAUW branch. It is unique to Asheville and increased the number and amount of scholarships many fold since its inception 10 years ago. Jill developed a useful handout on legacy giving to GEM and it will be available on the website.

Barbara Campbell, a Brooks-Howell resident and AAUW member, told us that the home was started in 1951 as a

residence for single women who had worked with the United Methodist Church as missionaries or deaconesses. The population has since changed and includes some married couples among the 115 residents.

In December we received a kind thank you note from the Women's Correctional Center for our donation of books expressing appreciation for our generosity and thoughtful selection of appropriate books. And Beth Maczka sent a thank you letter from the YWCA saying, "I want you to know how very grateful I am to you for your support of our New Choices program. The staff are thrilled with the new sink, and are so grateful for your volunteer efforts as well." Our branch is definitely making a difference in the community!

*Take care,
Molly Keeney*

mollykeeney@charter.net
828-337-5044

ENGAGING IN OUR COMMUNITY: AAUW ASHEVILLE – YWCA CONNECTION



YWCA Asheville Helping Parents Lessen their Barriers to Success:

The New Choices Program at the YWCA of Asheville is a vital resource to help parents, especially mothers, reach their goals of economic self-sufficiency. By providing free drop-in childcare to parents who are experiencing financial instability, New Choices enables participants to continue to earn an education and attend job interviews.

Program Director, Katherine Hensley, also offers an empowerment series, Mother2Mother, which invites participants and leaders from our community to share

information and resources on topics such as advancing education, self esteem, career planning, budgeting, and parenting. Four AAUW members have donated their time to the Mother2Mother class, helping women identify education goals, write resumes, and become career ready.

In the Fall of 2012, New Choices served 69 parents with 34 children, 33% of which have reached their goals and 47% of which are continuing to work towards their goals. **Most New Choices participants are parents who have a great desire to go to school, but cannot access childcare to do so.** The free drop-in child-

care piece of New Choices enables parents to pursue those educational dreams. The drop-in childcare is greatly sustained by volunteer workers, many of which are AAUW members.

New Choices receives some funding from grants, but it is greatly supported by Club W, the fitness center at the YWCA. By having a Club W membership and using Drop-in Childcare, Club W members are making it possible for the New Choices participants to utilize drop-in childcare.

— from Ruth Slawson



GEM NEWS

GEM Fund to Award 12 Scholarships for 2013-14 Academic Year

If you are a new branch member, please know that “GEM” stands for “Gaining Educational Momentum” and pertains to the GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville, our branch’s unique philanthropic arm, whose sole purpose is to raise funds to support undergraduate scholarships for women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed.

2012 marked our tenth anniversary. In 2002 we began with a single \$500 scholarship and it is through the amazing generosity of AAUW/GEM members and friends that GEM, in its tenth anniversary year, was able to award 12 undergraduate scholarships — ten \$1000 scholarships to Asheville-Buncombe County Technical College (A-B Tech) and two \$1500 scholarships to the University of North Carolina Asheville (UNCA). **In January of this year the GEM Board voted to again award ten \$1000 scholarships next year to A-B Tech and raised the amount of the two UNCA scholarships to \$2000 each.**

The GEM Fund does wonderful work on behalf of AAUW Asheville and women undergraduates. If you might be interested in joining the board, beginning in July, please contact Alice Doner (adoner@frontier.com) or Molly Keeney (mollykeeney@charter.net).

February Branch Meeting Features the GEM Fund

The February branch meeting included a dessert social at Brooks Howell and featured the GEM Fund. GEM Board members Alice Doner, president, Susan Grabel, Vice-President, and Jill Preyer, Legacy Coordinator, spoke to the group. Jill is a member of the Beatrice Rice Wells Legacy Society which comprises a special group of donors who have graciously designated a contribution to the GEM Fund in their wills. This is an especially powerful way to support GEM and future GEM scholars. At the branch meeting, Jill explained the benefits of making a gift to GEM in one’s will and brought a handout offering advice on this option. The handout can be found on the branch website.

Best of all, five of our 2012-13 GEM Scholars attended the meeting and told inspiring stories of what the GEM scholarships have meant to them. We have also just learned that one of the attendees, Christina Spetz, has recently been named “Student of the Month” at A-B Tech. Christina writes,

Hi there, ladies, I just wanted to share some good news with you. This month at AB Tech I was awarded with student of the month.... This is one of my top 5 proudest moments of my life (receiving the GEM scholarship is also in my top 5.) I just figured you all would like to hear about it. Plus, I don't have much family to share the good news with so I wanted to share with you lovely ladies.

When Christina graduates from the transfer



Five GEM Scholars attended the January branch meeting: Julia Consadine-Heck, Christina Spetz, Kirsten Cloutier, Kristin Kahl, and Guenever Seastrom.

program at A-B Tech, she plans to study education at Mars Hill College.

GEM Contributions

Tributes

- ☞ In honor of Pat Argue — Edward A. Argue
- ☞ In memory of Bill Brittain — Bev Briedis

Other Contributors

- ☞ Juanita and Howard Spanogle
- ☞ The Kathryn Conway Preyer Charitable Lead Trust
- ☞ Terry Van Duyn



CALL FOR ITEMS

Please start gathering your gently used jewelry, scarves, gloves, handbags, belts, and hats to offer for sale in the

Bling, Bling Bash!—

the kickoff event for this spring’s GEM Fund Drive season, to be held **Saturday, April 6**, at the Beaver Dam Road Fire Station. If you want to bring items right away, you can drop them off at Susan Grabel’s house in central Asheville at 115 Gracelyn, off Merrimon, in North Asheville at Helen McClintock’s house at 2 Nichols Hill Drive Extension, or at the home of Deborah Fulton-Helmer, 8 Creekside Court, in South Asheville.



MEMBERS’ BOUTIQUE

Again this year the early June GEM fundraiser party will feature a “Members’ Boutique,” made up of original works of fine art and crafts, created by our members, and offered for sale in a silent auction. Last year fourteen members contributed wonderful items. Please begin thinking about work that you want to contribute. If you have questions, contact Cathy Battle, who is in charge of this year’s boutique, at catherinebattle@earthlink.net.

Branch Board

President	Molly Keeney
Vice-President	Catherine Battle
Secretary	Deb Fulton-Helmer
Treasurer	Laurie Powell
Co-Vice Presidents, Programs	Andriette Kinsella Susan Gabel
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership	Barbara Robinson Emily Quinn
Public Policy	Karen Rubin
Newsletter	Alice Doner
Webmaster	Eleanor Johnson
GEM President	Alice Doner
Study Group Chair	Eleanor Johnson
Past President	Jeanne Smolkin

Find us on the Web at

<http://asheville-nc.aauw.net>



This Month's Member Birthdays —

Tell your friends "Happy Birthday" and honor them with a gift to GEM!

Nini Abbott	2/16
Holly Jones	2/25
Molly Keeney	2/24
Betty Legzig	2/18
Millie Massey	2/9
Marion Mayfield-Johnson	2/25
Arlene Merritt	2/25
Betty Paine	2/10
Maria Roloff	2/5
Fran Meyers	2/7
Susan Reynolds	2/28
Karen Rubin	2/8
Harriet Wasserman	2/9

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome these new members who joined since the publication of the last newsletter; they will be great new assets to our organization.



◆ Nini Abbott —

Nini moved to Asheville from Florida about three years ago and loves to read and travel. She graduated from Barry University with a degree in pre-law.

◆ Margaret Coopey —

Margaret comes to us with a BS in sociology from the University of Maryland, a MPS in Policy Science from UMBC, and a MGA in Health Administration from the University of Maryland.

◆ Judith Hoy DuBrul —

Judith earned a BA in English and Speech from the University of Minnesota, an MA in Communication from Queens College of New York, and EdD in Adult Learning from Columbia.

◆ Ellen James —

Ellen graduated from Emory University with a BA in English and Education and from Columbia with a MA in Early Childhood Education and Special Education.

◆ Lynette Miller —

Lynette earned an MFA and a BFA in Photography from SUNY Buffalo.

◆ Anna Sagel —

Anna graduated from the University of Bristol in England with a BA in Spanish and Latin American Studies.

◆ Terry Van Duyn —

Terry earned a BA in Economics and Sociology from the University of Illinois and an MA in Business from the University of Connecticut.

2013 AAUW National Convention

Breaking through Barriers: Leading across Generations • June 9–12, 2013 • Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

From the national AAUW desk:

Never been to a convention before? You'll love the feeling of being among so many others, all dedicated to making a difference in their communities.

Perhaps you have attended past AAUW national conventions. Well, we can guarantee you haven't seen one like this. Our new format is all about empowering you to be the best leader you can be, allowing you to empower others in turn.

So join us now and take advantage of the best-value rates before they expire on February 3. Attending the convention is a great way to grow together while enjoying one another's company in one of America's loveliest cities:

New Orleans, June 9–12.

Save the Date

Stand Against Racism

April 26

Watch for details in next month's newsletter.



Thursday Branch Meeting Date

Note that February's branch meeting will meet a week earlier than usual and on a Thursday. Please let Andriette Kinsella know if you plan to attend. We hope to see you all there.