

AAUW ASHEVILLE

NEWSLETTER



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

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Rsvp by 2/28 to reserve for 3/6 Branch Meeting: susangrabel2@gmail.com </div>		
2	3  CAB <i>Truth and Beauty</i> , Patchett; 4:30 at home of Renée Levine; rsvp to Renée at renate250525@gmail.com	4	5  Adelante <i>Girls of Atomic City</i> , Keirman; 1:45 at home of Shirley Quisenberry; rsvp to shirleyqberr@yahoo.com or 285-2303	6  Branch Meeting 11:30 1st Baptist Church Topic: Riverfront District ; rsvp to Susan Grabel by 3/1	7	8
9	10 Film Buds , Led by Beth Ellers Film & Location: TBA 5:30 — 7 	11	12  Reservation Deadline for Lunch Bunch Rsvp by noon to Sherry Brown at 357-8455 or sherrysaerie@gmail.com	13 Film Fans Led by Beth Johnson Film : TBA; River Ridge Apt. Club House 12—1:30 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Advocacy Democracy North Carolina Voters' Workshop w/ Robert Dawkins rescheduled for today, YWCA at 2 and 6 pm </div>	14  Lunch Bunch Strada's 27 Broadway Noon RSVP to sherrysaerie@gmail.com	15  Happy Hikers Noon Lunch at Stoney Knob Café to discuss 2014 hiking season Rsvp to Nini Abbott by 3/9 at niniabbott@gmail.com
16	17	18	19	20  Women Who Write (W³) 9:30 — 12 At home of Cathy Battle; rsvp to catherine-battle@earthlink.com	21	22
23	24  Reservation deadline for April 5 International Dining — Tastes of Italy rsvp to J Smolkin, jsmolkin@gmail.com or 254-4789	25  World Affairs Information Storage, Retrieval, & Privacy 1:30, at home of Betsy Kirk; rsvp to kbetsy2@aol.com or 687-1528.	26	27  Tea Time Clara & Mr. Tiffany Vreeland; 4 pm, at home of Janet Graham ; rsvp to Janet at 274-5120 or dickjiang@charter.net	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px;"> Contents Calendar p. 1 Activities & Events p. 2 President's Message p. 3 GEM News p. 4 Member Info p. 5 </div>	

Standing Interest 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 leaders Fran Myers at 274-0976 or fgmyers@bellsouth.net or Shirley Quisenberry, 828-285-2303 or shirleyqberry@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **Advocacy Group:** The Advocacy Group is organized to support and advocate for issues that support the mission of AAUW and will increase awareness and effectiveness in bringing about social change to improve the lives of AAUW members and our community. The Advocacy Group will support only issues that are non-partisan and align with those of the national board of AAUW. For more information, contact Ruth Slawson at ruthslawson@hotmail.com or 545-3397.
- ◆ **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 to 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 reneate250525@gmail.com. Attendance is limited to first 15 participants per session.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Happy Hikers:** This group meets weekly to take easy to moderate hikes at various locations in the area, as determined by the members. Day and time, as well as hike locations, are to be determined by the group. Contact Nini Abbott for more information at niniabbott@gmail.com or 828-658-4195.
- ◆ **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. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. For more information, contact Judy Roach at 828-505-7939 or judyroach2112@yahoo.com or Andriette Kinsella at 828-686-3604 or 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

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

Thursday, March 6

First Baptist Church



"Urban Riverfront District of the French Broad"

Speaker: Karen Cragolin,
Executive Director, Riverlink

Lunch at 11:30

\$12

RSVP to Susan Gabel at susangabel2@gmail.com

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.

- ◆ **Tea Time Book Group:** This book discussion group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 4 pm at the homes of various members; all are welcome; for this month's book and location or to obtain more information, contact group leader Juanita Spanogle at 258-0096 or jspanogle@aol.com.
- ◆ **Women Who Write (W³):** This group is for women who write short stories and/or memoir. They meet the third Thursday morning of each month at the homes of different members to share their creative prose and to give and receive constructive feed-back in a non-threatening positive atmosphere. Group membership is limited to six persons and **there is currently an opening for one new member**. If interested, contact new group leader Helen McClintock at homclintock@gmail.com or 484-9211.
- ◆ **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 evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com. or LaDean Peterson, 828-650-3005 or LaDeanJune@charter.net.



FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

Dear AAUW Friends:

I hope that everyone has been staying safe and warm during this very cold winter season. While the snow is beautiful to look at, it can be an inconvenience if you need to be somewhere. Fortunately, our February branch meeting had no weather issues to keep us in. There were about fifty members at our meeting with about five new members in attendance. We are now up to 170 members!

Our speaker for our meeting was Linda LaBelle, from Hand-made in America in Asheville. She covers 25 counties in North Carolina, helping with the AWE (Appalachian Women Entrepreneurs), assisting women who practice a craft to market their work and become more business savvy. With five paid staff members, they are also helping both men and women craft artists through lectures, workshops, training, and advocacy.

After the meeting, our new members got a chance to meet with representatives from all the Special Interest Groups and hear more details about what each one does. If you missed the meeting and you have questions, please email the interest group leader.

Ann Snell, Executive V.P., and I will be representing our branch at the annual NC-AAUW meeting in Burlington, NC on March 28 and 29. I look forward to sharing good ideas and to “brag a little” on our great Asheville branch.

Speaking of “bragging,” please check out the new “Member News” on the last page of the newsletter. New this month, this

section will be a standing item in each newsletter. We want all our members to know how important they are.

And one final “brag”: GEM Board treasurer Jeanne Smolkin tells us that, so far, the new GEM “Birthday Dollars for Scholars” program she started has brought in over \$2,600! Thanks to all you amazing women! Be sure to contact Jeanne if you’re not getting her e-mail with the link to the birthday list.

Hope to see you all at the next branch meeting on March 6. Our speaker will be Karen Cragnolin, Executive Director of RiverLink. Below you can find out more about Karen and her organization.

*Take care,
Cathy Battle*

catherinebattle@earthlink.net
828-348-0505

MARCH BRANCH MEETING TO FEATURE TALK BY RIVERLINK DIRECTOR

In our March branch meeting, the executive director of RiverLink, Karen

Cragnolin, will discuss the “Urban Riverfront District of the French Broad.”

RiverLink is a regional non-profit organization, spearheading the economic and

environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a destination for everyone to work, live, and play.

- RiverLink accomplishes its mission by
- providing permanent public access to the river through conservation and recreation easements;
 - reclaiming contaminated lands for public use and enjoyment;
 - developing greenways;
 - creating public no-fee, no-

reservation overnight camping sites along the river, protected by conservation and recreation easements;

- utilizing adaptive reuse of historic structures;
- educating 5,000 student K-12 annually, as well as the public-at-large, about the French Broad River watershed’s importance;
- and empowering over 1,700 volunteers each year.

RiverLink was established in 1987 and is the only French Broad River watershed non-profit organization exclusively focused on the French Broad. You will find more information on the organization’s website at riverlink.org.

As usual, the meeting will start at 11:30 for a little conversation, with lunch at 11:45, at the First Baptist Church. Please rsvp the prior week to susangrabel2@gmail.com.

—from Susan Grabel, Program Chair



GEM Birthday Dollars for Scholars

Jeanne Smolkin has e-mailed a link to Survey Monkey where you can designate your birthday honorees for March and April. If you did not receive Jeanne’s message on 2/24, please notify her right away at jsmolkin@gmail.com.



GEM NEWS

The GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville will kick off its annual fund drive in April, culminating in the fundraiser party on June 1, which will take place at the historic nineteenth-century mansion Fernihurst again this year. It's always a great party, with good food, wine, music, opportunities to win or bid on items, and great conversation. Most important is the fact that each year the fund drive season raises substantial funds to provide undergraduate scholarships for women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed. This spring GEM will celebrate its twelfth anniversary. Beginning with seed money from our Asheville branch in 2002, GEM awarded a single scholarship of \$500 the first year. Since that time, contributions to the permanent endowment and to the active scholarship fund have allowed us to award 58 scholarships for a total of \$54,500. This year GEM awarded 12 \$1000 scholarships to A-B Tech and two \$2,000 scholarships to UNCA. Such success is entirely due to the deep generosity of our branch members and friends.

There will be numerous ways to participate in the fund drive: not only attending the event but also opportunities to make contributions to GEM by becoming a 12th Anniversary Sponsor or through other direct contributions and/or by participating in the event planning, the Members' Boutique, or helping find business partners. In April you'll receive electronic and snail-mail regarding events and opportunities, but, in the mean time, following is some "pre-fund-drive" information and call for assistance. It's for a great cause and always great fun. Please consider ways you can participate. LaDean Peterson, GEM 1st Vice-President, is heading up the planning committee this year and can be reached at LaDeanJune@charter.net.

*GEM Spring Fund
Drive Season to
Start Soon!*



GEM Fund Drive Party

Sunday, June 1

4 — 6

Fernihurst Mansion

A-B Tech Campus

*Mark your
calendar!*



Help Us Find Raffle Items & GEM Business Partners

Karen Mauro is heading up the Business Outreach and Raffle this year for the GEM Fund Drive. She is beginning to reach out to local businesses to solicit participation — in the form of business partner sponsorships, other direct contributions, and/or contribution of gift cards and items for the raffle. Last year 14 businesses and artists contributed over 25 items, bringing in almost \$900. Items included such offerings as gift cards to hair salons, cafés and bakeries, yoga classes, a bottle of wine, cooking classes, hand designed jewelry, theatre tickets, etc.

Not only does the participation of these businesses help raise money for a worthy cause — providing college scholarships for women — it also helps get the names of our branch and GEM out into the public eye. If you know of a business or individual who might contribute — either an item and/or become a GEM Business Sponsor (ie., contribute funds), please contact Karen Mauro at 891-5963 or Biggy47@att.net.

Karen would like to know the following:

- The name of the business or entrepreneur
- The name of the contact person, if you have it
- Whether or not she can use your name when contacting them
- Whether you would like her to contact them or you are willing to do it yourself.

Contribute an Item or Service to the Members' Boutique



For the third year the Fund Drive Party will include a **Members' Boutique**, featuring the hand-made fine arts and crafts and/or offer of services by you, our members, offered in a silent auction. This part of the event has brought in over \$1500 each year.

Please be thinking about how you might participate, showing off your talents and skills, and for a great cause. In the past the auction has included such items as paintings, hand-made jewelry, photography, ceramics, textiles, and other works of fine art or crafts. New last year was the addition of **members services**. These were particularly successful and included such items as a wonderful English tea, a gumbo dinner, a bird walk, a house portrait and other great services. Other offerings might include such activities as hosting a card party (or, better still, hosting a game party where you teach participants how to play); a guided history, garden, or art walk; planting a flower box; hosting a game of golf; providing a one-on-one cooking lesson or lesson on how to use Facebook; house or pet sitting; providing music for a party; etc. All of you have a talent that you can share with other members and guests. It's fun and it's for a great cause.

In April there will be further branch and GEM communications where you will find more information about the Members' Boutique, the GEM Spring Fund Drive Season, the raffle, and other ways to participate. This year we really want to publicize our boutique and raffle items ahead of the event, so the sooner you commit the better. If you have questions or want to go ahead and pledge an item or service, contact Alice Doner at adoner@frontier.com.



GEM Birthday "Dollars for Scholars" Contributions in the Last Month

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ♥ Jeanne Smolkin | ♥ Deb Fulton-Helmer | ♥ LaDean Peterson |
| ♥ Alice Doner | ♥ Emily Quinn | ♥ Melinda Brown |
| ♥ Betsy Kirk | ♥ Eve Miller | ♥ Nini Abbott |
| ♥ Emily Quinn | ♥ Helen McClintock | ♥ Pat Argue |
| ♥ Barbara Griswold | ♥ Jansen McCreary | ♥ Peg Steiner |
| ♥ Barbara Robinson | ♥ Jill Preyer | ♥ Reneé Levine |
| ♥ Cathy Battle | ♥ Karen O'Hara | ♥ Ann Snell |

AAUW ASHEVILLE

Branch Board

President	Catherine Battle
Vice-President	Ann Clarke-Snell
Secretary	Deb Fulton-Helmer
Treasurer	Laurie Powell
V-P, Programs	Susan Grabel
Co-VP, Programs	Judy Colella
V-P, Membership	Emily Quinn
Co-VP, Membership	Joyce Boehlen
Public Policy	Ruth Slawson
Interest Groups	Eleanor Johnson
Newsletter	Alice Doner
Webmaster	Eleanor Johnson
GEM Representative	Pat Argue
Past President	Molly Keeney

And thanks to Barbara Robinson, for her help with organizing the information for the newsletter!

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!

Sandy Blankenbaker	3/21
Roberta Carney	3/31
Janet Graham	3/11
Marilyn Kolton	3/26
Sharon Kopstein	3/31
Carol McLimans	3/1
Lynette Miller	3/17
Wendy Owen	3/17
Judith Rhodes	3/23
Jo Ann Setzer	3/25
Michael Siegendorf	3/30
Peg Steiner	3/3
Eleanor Walther	3/25



MEMBER NEWS

A note from the newsletter editor — Having had the good fortune to find AAUW Asheville within a year of moving here, I have come very much to value, not only the work we do and the causes we support; but, equally, the friendship, wisdom, and laughter provided by so many talented, intelligent, and great women. Our members have come together, it seems to me, not only to support the national mission of AAUW, but also to forge a true community of women with whom to celebrate the best days in life and to provide support in life's more challenging moments. Accordingly, and after discussion with our president Cathy, we begin this month devoting all or most of the last page of the newsletter to member information. In addition to information about new members and member birthdays, this is also a space to let our members know about important events in the lives of other members — members who are celebrating weddings or new grandchildren, members who have something to brag about, members who need our good thoughts and vibes. If you know of something regarding one of our members that is appropriate to share, please send that information to Barbara Robinson (robarb@charter.net) and me, Alice Doner (adoner@frontier.com) — by the usual newsletter deadline, the 20th of each month.

Member News This Month:

- Meredith Norwood is showing her photographs in a show entitled **"Sacred Spaces, Special Faces — Photographs of India and Bhutan."** Meredith writes that "each photo represents an experience I had during my six weeks in India and Bhutan in 2012." Be sure to check out Meredith's show, on display from February 28 through March at the Blower Gallery in the Ramsey Library on the UNCA campus.
- Karen Mauro tells us that new member Joyce Boehlen is busy nursing her sister, stricken with meningitis.
- Former GEM Board member, Linda Brown, has been in the hospital with major surgery. She is recuperating at home.

Please send good thoughts and support to these friends and colleagues.

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. **Please add their contact information to the Members' Directory. We are now at 170 members, the largest branch in the state!**

◆ Maureen Fitzgerald —

Maureen earned a BA in Sociology/ Psychology from the University of Evansville and then an MA in Counseling/ Education from Catholic University in Washington, DC. Maureen joined AAUW National first and then joined our branch.

Some of you were able to meet her at the February branch meeting. Following is her contact information:

114 Petunia Lane; Asheville, 28803
 (H) 828-681-1973
mpainefitz@gmail.com