

AAUW ASHEVILLE

NEWSLETTER



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

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				31  Advocacy Group 1:30 at home of Ruth Slawson; rsvp to ruthslawson@hotmail.com if not attending	Nov. 1: Reservation deadlines for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/7 Branch Meeting; rsvp to Susan Grabel at skgrabel@yahoo.com 9/9 Internatl. Dining Hungarian Dinner; rsvp to Jan Schwartz at blucottage@bellsouth.net or 350-9533. 	
3	4  CAB <i>Life after Life</i> , Atkinson 4:30— 6 at home of Renée Levine; rsvp to haroldrenee@att.net	5  (by 11/6) Reservation deadline for Lunch Bunch; contact Sherry Brown at 357-8455 or sherrysaerie@gmail.com	6  Adelante <i>Roots of the Olive Tree</i> , Miller, 2 pm, at home of Leah Karpen, rsvp to shirleyqberry@yahoo.com or	7  Branch Meeting: GEM Scholars & Legacy 11:30 — 1st Baptist Church; rsvp by 9/1 to skgrabel@yahoo.com	8  Lunch Bunch 12:00 Rezaz , 28 Hendersonville Road in Biltmore Village; rsvp to Sherry Brown by 11/6	9  Internatl. Dining: Hungarian Dinner at home of Jan Schwartz; 5:30; rsvp by 9/1
10	11 Film Buds Film & Location: TBA 5:30—7 	12	13  Happy Hikers Meets each Wednesday at 9:30 Contact Nini Abbott for location at niniabbot@gmail.com	14 Film Fans Film : TBA River Ridge Apt. Club House 12—1:30 	15	16
17	18	19	Contact Nini Abbott for location at niniabbot@gmail.com	21  Women Who Write 10—12 at home of Meredith Norwood	22	23
24	25	26  World Affairs Inequality in America 1:30 pm at home of Lynn Hill, rsvp to LaDeanJune@charter.net	27 	28  Tea Time:  No meeting in November	<div> Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calendar & Activities pp.1-2 President's Message p. 3 GEM News p. 3 National Branch p.4 New Members p. 5 Member Birthdays p. 5 GEM Tributes p. 5 </div>	

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 leaders Fran Myers at 274-0976 or fjgmyers@bellsouth.net or Shirley Quisenberry, 828-285-2303 or shirleyqberry@yahoo.com.
- ◆ **Advocacy Group:** This group meets periodically, with meetings called by group leader Ruth Slawson; the group decides on a non-partisan issue, aligned with the mission of AAUW, for which to advocate; 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 haroldrenee@att.net. Attendance is limited to 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. The group currently meets at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings, but the day is subject to change, based on the schedules of the members. 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 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 (formerly "Evening") 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:** This group is for women who write short stories and/or memoir. They meet the third Thursday 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 currently closed, but, if you are interested in starting a second group or want more information, contact group leader Betty Paine at bettyjpaine@yahoo.com or 277-0542.
- ◆ **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

November Branch Meeting



Thursday, November 7

Come meet some of our GEM Scholars and learn about GEM's legacy program.

Guest Speaker: Sarah Thornburg

*1st Baptist Church
11:30 Lunch Meeting*

**Contact Susan Gabel at skgrabel@yahoo.com by
November 1 to make a lunch reservation!**



FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

Dear AAUW Friends:

If you missed our first branch meeting of the new year, you missed meeting and hearing three strong and powerful women of Asheville talk about what they do to make our community a better place.

Celeste Collins from OnTrack Financial, a nonprofit serving low income people, especially women, helps with financial counseling such as home buying, tax preparation, budgeting for goals, and avoiding foreclosure, among other services. Celeste wrote to say how much she enjoyed meeting some of our members and shared her website information: <http://www.ontrackwnc.org> and, for specific Women's Financial Empowerment Center information, http://www.ontrackwnc.org/Womens_Financial_Center.html.

Jane Hatley, the Western NC Regional Director of Self-Help Credit Union, graduated from Vanderbilt with a full scholarship from AAUW! Her organization provides services to low income and rural families and women, from loans and banking services with low rates, child care training, loans to women who own businesses, and energy efficiency lending, among other services. Jenny Eblen, whose family goes back for generations in our community, discussed five different organizations that she finds worthy of her support:

- ♦ *Women for Women*: pools their resources and disperses security grants.

- ♦ *Smart Start*: provides money for child care across North Carolina
- ♦ *YWCA*: supporting women with child care and other services
- ♦ *Mt. Airy*: Early learning center
- ♦ *Girl Scouts*: Leadership development

I am also happy to report that we have two newly formed groups: an advocacy group, led by Ruth Slawson, and a writing group, led by Betty Paine. Ruth's group has decided to focus on support for voting for all and Betty's group, made up of six members, will share and critique their short stories and memoirs.

Hope to see you at our next branch meeting, the first Thursday of the month on November 7, **and don't forget to mark the evening of Tuesday, December 10, as the date for this year's Friendraiser at the Western Governor's Mansion.**

*Take care,
Cathy Battle*

catherinebattle@earthlink.net or 828-348-0505



GEM NEWS

The fall edition of "GEM Chips," the newsletter of the GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville, is out! Please take the time to note the list of tributes, sponsors, business partners, and contributors. It is only through the amazing generosity of AAUW/GEM members and friends that GEM, in its eleventh year, was able to award 12 undergraduate scholarships. For next year — the academic year of 2014-15, the Board has approved the awarding of a record 14 scholarships, 12 for A-B Tech students and two for the selected scholars attending UNCA.

If you are a new branch member, please know that "GEM" stands for "Gaining Educational Momentum" and pertains to 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. There are numerous ways to contribute to GEM to support women undergraduates: making a direct donation, making a donation as a tribute, participating in the spring fund drive season's many giving and helping opportunities, or making GEM a part of your will. The November branch meeting will focus on GEM, including hearing from some of our new GEM scholars, as well as learning about GEM's legacy program.

For the rest of the academic year, this newsletter will shine a light on one or more of our GEM scholars, letting you see the real face of GEM and what your generosity supports. See below:

Markia Brooks

Markia is currently enrolled in the College Transfer Degree program at A-B Tech and plans to graduate in 2014. In a thank you letter, Markia writes,



"Receiving this scholarship gives me a sense of confidence and accomplishment in my scholastic journey. These funds will allow me to attend school with less financial stress, giving me the freedom to concentrate on my education by paying for my tuition and books."

"This is my third semester at A-B Tech," she goes on to say. [After graduating from A-B Tech], "I intend to transfer to UNCA to obtain a major in Creative Writing. From then I will obtain a masters in Library Science. It has always been my dream to be a writer and a librarian. The two careers would allow me to gain knowledge and stretch my creative mind."

THE LATEST WORD FROM OUR NATIONAL BRANCH:

We're Mad about Unfair Pay, and We're Not Taking It Anymore!

Recently, America learned that women are still paid 23 cents less than men are — the same pay gap we were facing a decade ago. Check out your state's rank in the 2012 census data. Use this information as a springboard to engage in conversation with friends, colleagues, and potential AAUW members. You can also use your social media outlets to share AAUW messaging on the issue of unequal pay. Making connections through critical issues is a great recruitment and retention tool, helping us all build a community that empowers women and girls. Be a membership ambassador: Engage new and potential members so that we create a lasting AAUW legacy.

Your branch can continue the conversation by hosting a Cocktails and Convos event. Invite friends, community leaders, and anyone else interested in or affected by this issue. Not familiar with Cocktails and Convos? It's a social event where you can engage members and nonmembers alike on a topic of your choice. Branch leaders should remember to offer half off national dues at public events using the Shape the Future campaign. Remember, membership is everyone's business, so do your part by showcasing your local and national activities.

For more information, visit www.aauw.org, e-mail connect@aaupw.org, or call 800.326.2289 (Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Eastern).

The Gender Pay Gap: North Carolina

Median earnings for men in North Carolina were \$41,859 compared to women's median earnings of \$34,421 — an earnings ratio of just 82 percent.



Member of Congress	District	Men	Women	Earnings Ratio	Ranking in State
Butterfield (D)	NC-1	\$34,692	\$31,432	91%	1
Ellmers (R)	NC-2	\$43,108	\$34,952	81%	7
Jones (R)	NC-3	\$37,044	\$31,722	86%	4
Price (D)	NC-4	\$43,351	\$38,069	88%	2
Foxx (R)	NC-5	\$41,394	\$33,394	81%	7
Coble (R)	NC-6	\$43,488	\$36,354	84%	5
McIntyre (D)	NC-7	\$41,806	\$33,240	80%	9
Hudson (R)	NC-8	\$40,765	\$32,266	79%	10
Pittenger (R)	NC-9	\$61,757	\$42,263	68%	13
McHenry (R)	NC-10	\$40,085	\$31,485	79%	10
Meadows (R)	NC-11	\$37,004	\$31,039	84%	5
Watt (D)	NC-12	\$35,550	\$30,852	87%	3
Holding (R)	NC-13	\$52,444	\$39,514	75%	12

Please note that the pay gap figures above are from 2012, the most recently available data. Also note that the above congressional districts represent the 113th Congress.

Branch Board

President	Catherine Battle
Vice-President	Ann Clarke-Snell
Secretary	Deb Fulton-Helmer
Treasurer	Laurie Powell
V-P, Programs	Susan Gabel
Co-VP, Programs	Judy Colella
V-P, Membership	Emily Quinn
Co V-P, Membership	Mary Ellen Lewis
Public Policy	Ruth Slawson
Study 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 Bernard	11/10
Edith Bryan	11/30
Lynda Feldman	11/29
Shelley Freeman	11/15
Joel Goodman	11/30
Rebecca Hartz	11/11
Elizabeth Johnson	11/15
Sandy Kaplan	11/6
Karen Mauro	11/17
Roberta Madden	11/9
Mara Pasternak	11/5
Rudi Simko	11/25
Kay Stockdale	11/3

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 names and contact information to your branch directory. We are currently at 159 members and growing!

◆ Portia Alexander —

Portia graduated from Marjorie Webster Junior College with a degree in art and from Long Island University with a BA in Business Art. She is currently splitting her time between Long Island and Asheville. She loves the mountains and looks forward to the next branch meeting and learning about AAUW and its goals. You can reach her at 285 Midland Drive, Asheville, 28804; (H) 828-505-4174, [C] 631-827-0359; portiaalex@yahoo.com.

◆ Diane Fuller —

Diane became an RN at the Mountain Sanitarium Hospital School of Nursing and earned a CMR Medical/Pharmaceutical from the Certified Representative Medical Representatives Institute. She has retired to Hendersonville but heard good things about our chapter and looks forward to finding out

more about us and checking out our book groups. She can be reached at 207 Allen Paul Drive, Hendersonville, 28791; [H] 828-694-3910, [C] 828-702-1636; bunnyfuller@yahoo.com.

◆ Pam King —

Pam is the new Director of Advancement at the YWCA and an eighth-generation North Carolinian. She graduated from the University of Florida with a BA in Political Science and from Loyola University with an MRE in Religious Education. You may reach her at 185 S. French Broad Avenue, Asheville, 28801; (C) 772-569-2113; pam.king@ywcaofasheville.org.

Correction: Recent new member Carol Smith's e-mail address was printed incorrectly in last month's newsletter. Her correct e-mail address is carolasmith49@gmail.com.

Additional Member News

- ◆ AAUW Asheville mourns the passing of Betsy Ewing, long-time branch member. Betsy lived at Brooks Howell and passed away September 16. Sue Reynolds fondly remembers Betsy who once helped her in mailing out the newsletter when Sue was editor. Betsy will be missed.
- ◆ Eleanor Johnson reports that Mary Lloyd Frank, a long-time member, is currently in hospice care.
- ◆ Long-time member Leah Karpen was recently recognized by the YWCA as one of three "Women of Influence" in the Asheville Community.
- ◆ Eleanor Johnson, our current webmaster and Study Group chair, is one of seven people named to the newly-formed Culture and Recreation Authority.

Congratulations to Leah and Eleanor!

GEM TRIBUTES



- ☞ In honor of Leah Karpen, on being named a "Woman of Influence" in the Asheville community — Jayne Gallinger
- ☞ In memory of her mother Polly Cody — Harriett M. Cody, "on behalf of the estate of Polly Cody. We are so grateful for the work of AAUW and for the members able to share our final North Carolina 'farewell'

to our mother in Black Mountain on July 12. Best wishes on behalf of my mom's five children."

- ☞ In memory of her mother, Ellen Hull Keever — Cynthia Keever

Note: copies of the GEM giving sheet can be found on the branch website, under "GEM": <http://asheville-nc.aauw.net>.

NEW ADVOCACY GROUP TO FOCUS ON VOTING



Ruth Slawson has organized a new activity group dedicated to advocacy. The group held its first meeting on October 17 and Ruth writes,

"We brainstormed, made decisions, and assigned tasks to be completed by the next meeting on October 31. We have unanimously and enthusiastically decided that we are going to put our energies into a three-prong VOTING process:

- Voter Registration — which we have already started
- Help to obtain Voter ID for those who do not have one. This cannot begin until January 1, 2014.
- Get Out the VOTE (GOTV)

We will be focusing on three segments of the population that have been identified and targeted by the new North

Carolina voting bill:

- Minorities
- College Students
- Elderly

We are seeking alliances, finding venues, becoming educated regarding the new rules, looking for ways to use the media, promote AAUW, etc., in order to obtain our goal, which is to increase voter participation in North Carolina.

If you are interested, please join us at the next meeting

10/31 at 3 PM

11 Craftsman Circle

RSVP to ruthslawson@hotmail.com

NEW WRITING GROUP FORMS: "WOMEN WHO WRITE"



Betty Paine has organized another new group, called "Women Who Write." This is the a monthly critique group for short story and memoir writers where members share and critique each other's writings in a positive environment. Members Cathy Battle, Judith Hoy, Helen McClintock, Linda Nicodemus, Meredith Norwood and Betty Paine will meet the third Thursday from 10am - 12pm in alternating member homes. Helen McClintock has designed a logo for the group. Betty writes, "Though this group is closed, we encourage and offer help to others who might want to start a second group." You can reach Betty at bettyjpaine@yahoo.com or 277-0542



Directory Addendum:

Thanks to Bobby Carney for noting that some of our members live in NC District 10 and contact information for the 10th District is omitted from the new directory.

Contact information for Congressman Patrick McHenry:

10th District
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone: 202.225.2576

Fax: 202.225.0316

160 Midland Avenue
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Telephone: 828.669.0600

To reach by e-mail, you must go to his website, <http://mchenry.house.gov/contact/> and use the contact/send a message link.