



AAUW Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

[Find us on the Web](http://asheville-nc.aauw.net)  
[asheville-nc.aauw.net](http://asheville-nc.aauw.net)  
 and  
[FACEBOOK](#)

# DECEMBER 2017

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AAUW Asheville Branch Board	
President	Wendy Haner
Pres. Elect	Rachel Sossoman
Co-VPs, Programs	Susan Gabel & Barbara Robinson
CoVPs Membership	Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd
Treasurer	Wendy Haner
Secretary	Barbara Pressman
Fundraising	Mary Ellen Lewis
Equity	Eleanor Lane
Public Policy	Kitty Schaller
ABTech/UNCA	Jan Huskey
GEM	Marilyn Kolton
Advocacy	Anne Sayers
STEM	Cindy Stephens
Publicity	Lynn Harmon
Newsletter	Lynette Miller
Co-SIG Coordinators	Linda Stover & Jean Toxen
Webmaster	Molly Keeney

## From the Branch President Wendy Haner

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was filled with family, friends, and good times enjoyed by all!

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming Friendraiser get-together on December 7. Please be sure and get your reservation in on time. Several of our new members have said they will be at the party so please come to meet them and celebrate the holidays with your AAUW friends. It is a time to rejoice in the many accomplishments of our branch and to be thankful for the efforts of the individuals who make up our membership.

Congratulations to our eleven honorary life members for their dedication and commitment to AAUW. They are: Sandy Bernard, Rosemarie Bily, Barbara Blake, Kitty Boniske, Lynda Feldman, Mary Lloyd-Frank, Marion Mayfield-Johnson, Norma Snap, Nancy Stancil, Kay Stockdale, and Mary Brenda Tremoulet.

At a recent conference, I was asked to consider some questions that should apply to each of us - to paint a picture of who we are at AAUW – they asked that we be REAL as we reflect inwardly on these points: Are we relevant in what is going on in today’s society? Does our community care about what we are doing? Are we aligned with our beliefs and with what we are as an organization? What do I bring to the table? Do I engage, collaborate and lead? Do I bring stories to our organization and do we promote and bring diversity? I hope that each of you have an opportunity to take the time and ask yourselves these same questions and find ways to reach out and meet the needs of our AAUW branch.

These considerations caused me to think about leadership and transitions. Leadership, like life, always involves a pendulum of experiences and feelings, from exasperation to exhilaration to exhaustion to renewed energy and back again. I can see energy coming from many forms to keep the engine running smoothly for each of our events from the branch meetings to the individual SIG groups. This is what I call newfound energy coming from the clear success of this wonderful branch.

I sincerely hope that this energy continues to be one of the reasons AAUW’s mission is more relevant than ever, that we need to continue to show all our girls that they should “never doubt that they are valuable, powerful and deserving” and “not to lose faith in their dreams.” It is a seed we try plant every day through our initiatives with STEM and through our interactions with each other in the community. It is an outgrowth of the same hope for the future that sustained women 100 years ago who fought for the right to vote.

At the conference, I noticed that my friend had a safety pin on her sweater. She gave me one too. It is meant to indicate that you are a “safe person” to talk to about these tumultuous times. I wish you and, most especially, your daughters, grand daughters and women friends, have many safety pin person.s in your lives.

As we enter this coming holiday season, may it be one of renewed energy for each and every one of you!

Wendy Haner, President

### **AAUW ANNUAL FRIEND-RAISER Thursday, Dec. 7th 2-4PM**

**Upstairs dining room at First Baptist Church 5 Oak St. in downtown Asheville**

Member’s fee is \$10 for this special afternoon event, and prospective-member guests are free.



**PLEASE RSVP by Wed. Nov. 29th to**



**Barbara Robinson at [baritar16@gmail.com](mailto:baritar16@gmail.com) OR-- 828-230-7113**



## New Members    Linda Beltran

**BOWLES, Sandy**                      513-520-9934 (C )  
 3 S. Point Drive                      828-281-7093 (H)  
 Asheville, NC 28804                      sandybowles@aol.com  
 Nazareth College of Rochester                      BS Speech Pathology  
 Ithaca College                      MS Speech Pathology

Sandy has been a Member At Large (National Level) and has decided to join us! She is already participating in the Advocacy/Public Policy SIG group and is most definitely enjoying our Branch. Welcome!

**MARANVILLE, Melissa**                      865-385-2970 (C )  
 188 N River Road                      melissaamaranville@abtech.edu  
 Fletcher, NC 28732  
 University of Tennessee                      BA Sociology/Criminology/Abnormal Psych  
 University of Tennessee                      MS Safety & Terrorism/Public Health  
 Grand Canyon University                      PhD Candidate Cognitive Psych

Melissa has said "yes" to assisting and serving on our Branch Board! She is also interested in Programs/Projects, Social Events, Equity, Public Policy/Advocacy, STEM, UNCA, International Dining SIG and World Affairs SIG.

### Check It Out.... AAUW ASHEVILLE DIRECTORY ONLINE

Our Asheville Directory is available to you 24/7!

Yes, anytime you want to find the latest branch member or look up any branch member, check it out..... online. We know the directory is important to branch members, so we wanted to make it as easy as possible to access the directory online.

#### Here's how:

Go to your internet browser and type: <http://asheville-nc.aauw.net/>

Click on the Members Only Tab

Click on the Member List link

The password is: **checkit**

#### Why move the directory online?

Our branch membership is at 170 and counting. We have continually increased our budget for printing and mailing directories.

This year we would have had to spend \$400 to print and mail directories. This doesn't include the 2-3 weeks time spent by our branch volunteers to prepare the directory for printing. And then we'd have to print monthly inserts...

The board approved the following recommendations for 2017-2018

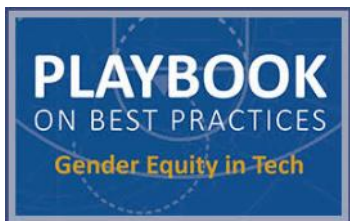
- Print directories and distribute them at Branch meetings. If you can't come to a meeting, Susan Grabel will have a few available for pickup at her house. You can contact her at 828-505-3826. [susangrabel2@gmail.com](mailto:susangrabel2@gmail.com)
- Mail directories to members without internet access
- Coach members on how to access the online directory at branch meetings or for one-on-one help members can call Jan Huskey at 828-785-9994
- **The 2018-2019 directory will only be available online.** New members joining us will be directed to the website to access the membership list.

#### Still want a printed copy of the directory?

You can print the online directory. It is 14 pages and they can be folded. This is many pages shorter than our previous directories. Our branch is constantly moving forward, and we want to make sure that all branch members have quick access to information. So check it out..... online. You may find hidden **gems** of information on the website.

**We are extremely sorry to have accidently omitted 14 names from the *printed* AAUW-Asheville Directory. This information has been included on the last page of the newsletter. *The online* Directory is complete and up-to-date!**

## Committee News



**ST.E.M. Committee** - Dec 5th, 4pm  
 Battery Park Book Exchange, Grove Arcade  
 For more info contact Cindy Stephens  
[cstephens30@thefhc.net](mailto:cstephens30@thefhc.net)

### Women in S.T.E.M

**Dr. Mae Jemison** first studied chemical engineering at Stanford University. She then received her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in 1981. She applied for NASA's astronaut program in 1986 and, in 1987, was one of 15 people chosen out of about 2,000.

*"I like to think of ideas as potential energy. They're really wonderful, but nothing will happen until we risk putting them into action." - Mae Jemison*



In 1992, Dr. Jemison was appointed the science mission specialist, meaning she was responsible for conducting experiments while in space aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor*.

### Equity Committee Eleanor Lane

The Equity Committee has decided to offer support to a wonderful community organization, My Sistah Taught Me That (MSTMT), A group from our committee will bring pizza for their December 5 dinner meeting, and begin to get to know everyone.

Some information so all of you learn a bit more about MSTMT:

Begun in 2016, the organization is "designed for the development, encouragement, inspiration, and education of young girls with a special focus on girls growing up in single parent homes without their father... Led by [the] founder, Leslie Council, and a CoreCrew team of other community leaders, MSTMT is dedicated to three main focus areas and goals: 1. to focus on the enhancement of self-esteem and confidence by increasing social skills through character and leadership development; encouraging positive body image, 2. to improve conflict management and problem solving skills, 3- to explore future career opportunities and set educational and personal goals; provide cultural awareness."

To learn even more about MSTMT, go to <http://www.mysistahtaughtmethat.org/home>.

The next Equity Committee meeting is Monday, December 4 at 10am. For more information, contact Eleanor Lane, [elane@northstarlane.com](mailto:elane@northstarlane.com).

The **YWCA Empowerment Center** could use Plants for the classrooms for science observations, Beta Fish (8-10) for classrooms, Heating Pads, Breast Feeding body support pillows, High chair with straps



**Please bring donations to General AAUW meetings, drop off at the Y, or email Eleanor Walther for pick up.**  
[etbucly5@gmail.com](mailto:etbucly5@gmail.com)  
**The children thank you!**

## **Advocacy & Public Policy Committee Anne Sayers & Kitty Schaller**

### **Announcing: The Public Policy Primer Is Coming Soon!**

Watch your email for a mid-month primer from the Advocacy & Public Policy Committee. With our theme, **“Educating Women to Act”**, we will rally *timely* support for action on policy issues. Often time-sensitive appeals to lawmakers are needed *after* the AAUW Newsletter goes to print – so Leslie Talbott developed the **PPP**. We’ll also use this flexible format to offer a more in-depth look beneath the headlines to prepare us to be **“5-Minute Activists”**.

Please allow a couple of months to test drive the new tool – and tell us what you think. Later we’ll offer an “unsubscribe” button, but please give it a chance! Join us for our next meeting (December 8 at 9:30-11:00 am at the YWCA), as we discuss *these 4 issues*:

### **Healthcare --- Affordable, Available, Equitable**

Every month, another healthcare idea emerges on The Hill. Now it’s the tax bills. As passed by the House, key tenets will profoundly reverse healthcare progress. In December, a Senate tax bill may need a call to action, so be watching the news for Senate action. We’ll break it down in the **Public Policy Primer** and ask you to be a 5-minute activist. Meanwhile, tell everyone, that the Affordable Care Act is OPEN for enrollment, but only till December 15. For expert help, folks can **call Pisgah Legal Services at 855-733-3711**.

### **Gerrymandering --- Undemocratic, Unfair, Unsustainable**

Hats off to the League of Women Voters for sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk in West Asheville. Walkers followed a bizarre route that ran precisely on the line dividing US Congressional Districts 11 and 10. It was a clever way to draw attention to a gerrymandered, crazy line. Over 300 walkers/runners got it! Gerrymandering means *voters can’t choose their Representatives*. Computer programs mean *lawmakers choose their voters instead*. Across NC, districts are cracked or packed – what’s that? Find out in December’s PPP!

### **Early Childhood Education --- New Steps Towards Good Early Care for All**

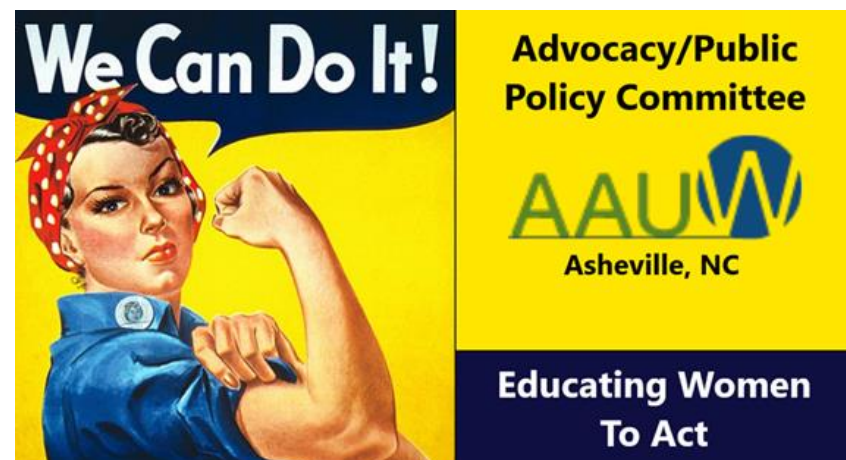
Buncombe County is on the move to help all very young children get the care and learning they deserve. A large, influential community group, **Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative**, has met for many months, studying possibilities and costs to expand and pay for education for 0 to 4 year olds. Find the ABPPC’s Final Report [HERE](#) and please read the 3-page Executive Summary. The Buncombe County Commission has shown real interest and encouragement.

### **ERA and More: Women’s Right to Fair Pay AND Fair Treatment**

We roundly condemn the thousands of stories of sexual harassment and abuse that are coming to light these days, pointing up the myriad ways women are treated *less than* their male counterparts. Too often men use powerful positions to subdue and manipulate women – and worse. And those victims cannot breach the system in corporate/entertainment/government structures. Laws and legal recourse matter! The ERA promises change for equal pay – and more, even for sexual abuse.

Anne Sayers & Kitty Schaller, Advocacy & Public Policy Co-Chairs

***Advocacy & Public Policy Committee will meet Friday, December 8 at 9:30-11:00 at the YWCA.***





## Picture Page



### AAUW UPSTREAMERS GO TO WORK

October 26 was the last of 3 yearly clean-ups of Reed Creek by the *Upstreamers*. Four members made it to the creek in their best boots and neon vests to pick trash, kick a few stones, and talk all the way downstream. Pictured are Molly Keeney, Susan Ikerd, Marianne Mooney and Barbara Robinson with their bags of treasured trash. The sun was out, the water shallow, and it was an easy outing for us. RiverLink appreciates our help to keep the creek clean, the French Broad River running trash-free, and we have the satisfaction of knowing our hands do make a difference in the world. New members are welcome----we start up again next April. Thanks also to all the other members of our group who've slogged through the creek and kept us all smiling as we worked.



### Photo Group 11/15

Presentation on Artistic Influences;  
 L-R: Sherry Brown, Linda Beltran, Gayle Mudge, Wendy Haner, Molly Keeney, Michele Nichols. *Next meeting in January.*



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

### December Birthdays

- 12/1 Jean Dairaghi
- 12/5 Verna McGaughey
- 12/7 Eleanor Johnson
- 12/8 Patsy Beyer
- 12/12 Beverly Briedis
- 12/12 Julie Hettiger-Nelson
- 12/15 Kitty Schaller
- 12/17 Faith Doyle
- 12/21 Ellen James
- 12/22 Karen Ellis
- 12/26 Jane Hatley
- 12/26 Gayle Mudge

## Tea Time Book Club 2017-18 Selections 4th Thursdays at 2 Juanita Spanogle

Date	Book	Location
Jan. 25	<u>The Secret Life of Anna Blanc</u> Jennifer Kincheloe	Andriette Kinsella, 75 Haywood St. Apt. 713 28801 c828.243-1996 <a href="mailto:andriettek@bellsouth.net">andriettek@bellsouth.net</a>
Feb. 22	<u>Hillbilly Elegy</u> J.D. Vance	Sherry Brown, 295 Ninth St. Black Mt 28711 357.8455, c 828.551.0432 <a href="mailto:sherrysaerie@gmail.com">sherrysaerie@gmail.com</a>
Mar. 22	<u>The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story</u> Diane Ackerman	Rosey Bily, 130 Lookout Dr. 28804 252.1210 <a href="mailto:robily@att.net">robily@att.net</a>
Apr. 26	<u>Vinegar Girl : the Taming of the Shrew Retold</u> Anne Tyler	Jane Lance, 3001 Timber Trail 28804 505.8192, c 208.569.5318 <a href="mailto:janlance@aol.com">janlance@aol.com</a>
May 24	<u>The Marriage of Opposites</u> a novel based on the life of Rachel Pizarro by Alice Hoffmann	Jo Yates, 15-H Wesley Drive, 28803 c 828.275.4948 <a href="mailto:joyates4@gmail.com">joyates4@gmail.com</a>
June 28	Book Selection	Juanita Spanogle, 19 Stony Ridge 28804 258.0096 c 828 425 5385 <a href="mailto:jspanogle@aol.com">jspanogle@aol.com</a>

*Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light.  
–Vera Nazarian*

## CAB Reading List 2017 Selections 1st Monday at 4:30 pm at Metro Wines, Anne Reis

<b>December</b>	<b><i>The Risen, Ron Rash</i></b>	<b>need discussion leader</b>
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## Board Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the committee head.

### Advocacy & Public Policy Group

The purpose of the Advocacy & Public Policy Committee is to advance equity for women and girls through education, partnering, advocacy and action. At our monthly meeting (2nd Friday 9:30 am) we focus on increasing awareness and involvement of Branch members on a few issues, including those adopted by National AAUW and those we choose locally. In 2017-18, the A/PP Committee will develop new means of communication to Branch members - both timely and targeted — to facilitate their attendance at education events and to take action with public officials when advised.

For more information, contact Anne Sayers at [annesayers432@gmail.com](mailto:annesayers432@gmail.com) or Kitty Schaller at [kittyschaller@gmail.com](mailto:kittyschaller@gmail.com). New members are always welcome.

### College/University Partnership with UNCA

Our objective is to provide women students with advisers, mentors and supporters from all walks of life to help them hone life and career skills. Our goals with UNCA include offering programs on salary negotiation, how to build leadership skills, and how to advocate on key issues impacting women today.

Contact Jan Huskey, [huskeyjan@charter.net](mailto:huskeyjan@charter.net)

### Community Impact Fund

The 2017/2018 mission of the Community Impact Fund is to raise dollars to support STEM, UNCA, YWCA, Equity, Public Policy and any other committees that meet the mission of AAUW-Asheville. Contact Mary Ellen Lewis, [emmyjoellen3@gmail.com](mailto:emmyjoellen3@gmail.com)

### Membership Committee

Membership has two basic goals: Recruitment and Retention, by maintaining databases and general membership information, writing newsletter articles and initiating special membership campaigns, and most importantly, making new people feel welcomed and integrated in our branch.

Contact Linda Beltran at [linbeltran09@yahoo.com](mailto:linbeltran09@yahoo.com) or call 828-575-9964.

### STEM ( Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Committee

This committee is engaged in promoting STEM for women and girls by providing fieldtrip experiences, expert panels, parent programs (in development) and mentoring opportunities.

Contact: Cindy Stephens DNP, RN, FNP-BC [cstephens30@thefhc.net](mailto:cstephens30@thefhc.net)  
Cell: 828-337-3011

### Equity Committee

We want to promote equity for ALL women and girls, with a special focus on those women and girls who have less access to power and resources. Our approach is two-fold: 1- Education, bringing information to our members about disparities in Asheville and Buncombe County and issues of inequity researched by our national AAUW, 2- Direct action in our community, supporting local organizations that address the development of women and girls to increase access to power and resources. Please join us at our monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at 10:00am.

Contact Eleanor Lane, [elane@northstarlane.com](mailto:elane@northstarlane.com), for more information.



*AAUW Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*



## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Currently we have 9 SIGS with over 100 AAUW members participating. The SIG group topics include international dining, photography, world affairs, film, clean streams, book clubs and local restaurants (see below for full description of each). Please contact the SIG Coordinator listed for each group if you have questions or would like to attend one of the meetings.

If you have any questions about the overall SIG Program or if you would like to establish a new SIG, please contact either **Jean Toxen** ([jtoxen@bellsouth.net](mailto:jtoxen@bellsouth.net); 404-784-0603) or **Linda Stover** ([lindalstover@gmail.com](mailto:lindalstover@gmail.com); 704-905-6530)

**AAUW Upstreamers:** This group works with Riverlink to clean up a stream at Reed Creek Park near UNC-A three times a year. For more information contact Barbara Robinson at [baritar16@gmail.com](mailto:baritar16@gmail.com) 230-7113.

**CAB Book Group:** The “Cocktails and Books” discussion group meets at Metro Wines 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 Ann Reis, [annereis2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annereis2@sbcglobal.net)

**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](mailto:slark1@att.net). Participants bring pot-luck supper.

**Film Fans:** This film discussion group meets the **second** Thursday of each month from 12-1:30 pm 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](mailto:JOHNSON1ea@earthlink.net)

**International Dining Group:** The International Dining Group is composed of AAUW members who enjoy sharing great cuisine and conversation, with a dash of history, storytelling and personal experiences. Member may bring one guest. Dinner is pot-luck, with menu suggestions from the host. Dinners are approximately every other month. For more information, contact Jeanne Smolkin at 828-254-4789 or [jsmolkin@gmail.com](mailto:jsmolkin@gmail.com)

**Lunch Bunch:** The Lunch Bunch is an informal gathering for lunch on the second Friday of each month at 11:30 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 noon the Wednesday before at 828-357-8455 or [sherrysaerie@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysaerie@gmail.com) to reserve space and get directions to the restaurant.

**Photography Group:** The Photography Group is open to anyone with an interest in photography—with or without a camera. The group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday at 1pm though field trips/events may necessitate changes. More information at our website [aauwphotog.weebly.com](http://aauwphotog.weebly.com) or email Lynette Miller at [lcmlerstudio@gmail.com](mailto:lcmlerstudio@gmail.com).

**Tea Time Book Group:** This book discussion group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 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](mailto:jspanogle@aol.com).

**World Affairs Group:** A group to study and discuss events across the globe. In 2018, meetings are scheduled for Jan. 18, March 15 and May 17 at 2 p.m. Please contact Eve Miller ([evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com](mailto:evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com) or [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107)) for additional information.

*Please remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month’s meeting so they can predict attendance and you can be apprised of any last-minute changes!*

## Calendar Details

**AAUW Equity Committee Meeting**  
 Next meeting 10AM Dec. 4  
 For more info Contact Eleanor Lane,  
[elane@northstarlane.com](mailto:elane@northstarlane.com).



### Film Fans

See the designated film at your leisure, bring your lunch, engage in lively discussion. If you would like to be added to the Film Fans notification list - or for more info - contact Beth Johnson, [johnson1ea@earthlink.net](mailto:johnson1ea@earthlink.net)

### Lunch Bunch

*Lunch Bunch will NOT meet in December but will resume in January*

Sherry Brown [sherrysaerie@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysaerie@gmail.com) 357-8455

### Photo Group

*Will NOT be meeting in December, but do take a look at what members have come up with for our Negative/Positive Space [Photo Challenge](#) (and previous Challenges) See you in January!*

*To learn more about the group, Visit our Photo Group Website:*

[AAUWPhotog.weebly.com](http://AAUWPhotog.weebly.com) or

contact Lynette Miller, [LCMillerStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LCMillerStudio@gmail.com)

## AAUW celebrates 132 year Birthday On November 28!

How many organizations can say they have lasted for as long as we have? The answer is, not many. Let's back up. Our story always begins in 1881 with Marion Talbot, a then-recent graduate from Boston University, and Ellen Swallow Richards, Talbot's mentor and also the first woman professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. On November 28, 1881, they invited 15 alumnae from eight colleges to a meeting in Boston. Out of this meeting, they created the idea for the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which would become AAUW. The plan was to join together to help other women attend college and to assist those who had already graduated. On January 14, 1882, a group of 65 college women graduates met and officially formed the Association of Collegiate Alumnae to "unite in practical educational work." The rest is history, right? Well, we've uncovered some "new" history this year. For years, we thought we know all we could know about our founder, Marion Talbot. We recognized her young face in our photos (she always seemed to be in her cap and gown!) We knew her mother, Emily Talbot, was disappointed at the lack of professional and social opportunities available to women like her daughter. We knew she went on to become dean of women at the University of Chicago and worked to improve educational opportunities for women throughout her life.

## Directory Omissions

SETZER, JoAnne  
828-252-4496  
[josetzer@gmail.com](mailto:josetzer@gmail.com)

SHAKLAN, Marlene  
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[cstephens30@theFHC.net](mailto:cstephens30@theFHC.net)

SSSo SSSorry!