



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

[Find us on the Web](#)

asheville-nc.aauw.net

and

[FACEBOOK](#)

MARCH 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 CAB 4:30 Equity 10am	6 Board Mtg 3:30 S.T.E.M. 4pm	7 <i>RSVP Deadline for Lunch Bunch, 12pm</i>	8	9 Advocacy/PP 10am Lunch Bunch 11:30	10
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18	19	20 <i>April Newsletter deadline</i>	21 Photo Group	22 Tea Time Books 2:00	23	24
25	26	27 Branch Meeting 11:30	28	29	30	31

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

It occurred to me when perusing the AAUW-Asheville website that our branch was founded when women's suffrage was still a dream. What did "advance equity for women and girls" mean in March 1915 to the sixteen women who founded our branch? What does it mean to us in 2018? What will it mean to our successors in 2115?

In 2017, I felt so honored to be given the opportunity to serve our mission in a leadership capacity. After a year of listening to and learning from you, however, I must admit that I don't think "honored" is sufficient to express what it means to represent our cause in this way.

Ours is a mission that's bigger than all of us, that will outlast all of us, that will take all of us. What a journey. I can't imagine a greater one than this, or a better time than now.

In 2018, I don't take any of our rights for granted. In 2018, my 11 year old daughter lives in a country that offers her a chance at justice if she's fired for being pregnant, or refused a promotion for being female, or paid less for the same reason. What can she hope for her own children someday because of our work?

I'm a mother—a career mom, in fact. Mid-thirties. Business leader. Wife. Avid gardener. When I'm not working, I'm zipping back and forth in my minivan from home to ball practice, or straight from work to Manna Food Bank where my daughter earns volunteer hours for NJHS, or to the grocery to pick up something for dinner, or to/from some other similarly impossible scenario that results in more activities than time in my day to catch up on certain tasks like laundry or dishes. You know my story, because you have a version of this story in your own life.

Like me, you've prioritized AAUW-Asheville because you know what it represents for girls like my daughter. For women like me.

The truth is, we've come a long way since 1915, but we still have work to do. That's why I'm here. It's also why I'm asking you to join me in championing our cause in 2018 and in the years to come.

With nearly two hundred members, we boast one of the oldest and largest branches in our state. In spite of our size, we have a shortage of volunteers to fill vacancies in leadership positions.

Will you serve our branch with me? None of us can do this alone, but together, we can do anything.

We need a President-Elect, Membership VP, and Programs VP in the immediate term, but we need an army of champions poised and ready to fill all of our leadership positions in the long-term, when current leaders' chapters of service have been written in our branch.

Will you carry this torch with me? Saying you're willing is as easy as emailing a member of the nominating committee. There are four of us, and we're looking forward to hearing from you: Barbara Robinson baritar16@gmail.com

Jan Schwartz blucottage@bellsouth.net

Ann Clarke Snell ann_clarke_snell@hotmail.com

(myself) Rachel Sossoman rachelsossoman@gmail.com

If you're considering making a commitment, but would like to discuss a little more first, feel free to give me a call. My number is 828-493-3182. I look forward to hearing from you, serving with you, and serving our branch together.

Branch Meeting Tuesday, March 27th 11:30 am, First Baptist Church upstairs dining

room - Join friends and fellow members to hear about the issues involving quality childcare and early childhood education in our community

**Speakers: Beth Maczka, Chief Executive Officer YWCA and
Jacque Penick, Executive Director, Verner Center for Early Learning**

Reservation information will be sent out March 12th

*Check the next page for information about the **Shape the Future New Member Campaign**
This is the perfect time to bring new members to AAUW Asheville!*

*Please note: You may attend the meeting without having lunch. However, members who reserve lunch but do not attend, still owe \$12.
AAUW is responsible for all ordered lunches.*

Membership News

Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd

New Member

WOODROW, Marcy (DOB 4/28)	970-401-0474
103 Alaron Drive	MFW@usa.net
Weaverville, NC 28787	
University of Vermont	BS Education

Marcy has been an Member At Large with National and is joining our Branch and State for the New Year. She is interested in Movies and would like to know about Film Buds/Film Fans. She's interested in getting acquainted via Lunch Bunch and hopes to do some reading with Tea Time Book Group! Be sure to welcome her at the Branch Meeting.



SHAPE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN is the National AAUW Membership Drive!!!!

AT OUR MARCH 27th BRANCH MEETING

Do you know someone who has been thinking of joining our Branch?

Bring them to the March Branch Meeting - With their checkbook!

This national AAUW program helps branches recruit members. New members pay just 50 percent of the national dues rate when they join AAUW **on the spot** at a public event. We are having this Shape the Future event at our March Meeting. This is a WIN-WIN situation. Those NEW MEMBERS who join get a great discounted membership of **\$53.50** versus \$83 and their membership will last until June 30, 2019! There's an advantage for the branch as well. For every two new members who join, we will earn one free national membership with a maximum of three.

This is a great way to celebrate the Spring! Look for **Susan Ikerd** or **Linda Beltran** in March ; they'll be wearing turquoise aprons and have membership information for the guests you bring!

"My friends have made the story of my life. In a thousand ways they have turned my limitations into beautiful privileges." — Helen Keller

Membership News Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd

*National AAUW is honoring **Brenda Tremoulet** and **Kay Stockdale** for 50 years of membership in this organization. At the February 27th Branch Meeting they both will receive National's certificate and pin to celebrate their continued commitment to AAUW.*



BRENDA TREMOULET

Brenda has changed careers every decade. Each time, it was her spirit of caring for others that drew her to a new vocation. First she taught French and German in a secondary school. Since she was the oldest of 23 grandchildren, it fell to her to become the primary caregiver for her grandmother. While visiting her father in the Intensive Care Unit, she developed a passion for older people and went on to nursing school. She

also saw that hospitals could be run more efficiently so she got a MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, focusing on hospital economy. Brenda was director of a home care agency, and designed and administered a hospital based Gerontological Care Coordination Program in Toms River, NJ. After relocating to Indiana she taught at the University of St Francis in Fort Wayne and got her MSN.

She and her husband came to Asheville about 7 years ago to reside in Deerfield. Brenda enrolled in computer classes at AB Tech and ended up teaching Certified Nurses Aide students at AB Tech. She still volunteers in Mission Emergency Room in triage capacity. She "listens" to patients and uses her nursing and social work skills to help them feel calmer and more relaxed. Most have no idea that she is also a nurse.

Brenda is now traveling frequently, especially to visit her grandchildren in San Diego and New Jersey. She is proud of her time as President of the North Carolina Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) organization. She has visited over 50 CCRCs and feels that she is contributing to their continued improvement.

Both Brenda and I joined AAUW in New Jersey - the Northern Monmouth County Branch. We had a few minutes to reminisce about people we both know.

KAY STOCKDALE

Kay joined AAUW Tuscaloosa Area Branch in 1968, and served as the Branch President and the following year as Program Vice President for the Alabama State AAUW. In 1972, the family came to North Carolina. She has served on the Asheville Branch Board, and in 1974 established our first Panel Discussion on Women's Equality. Kay especially enjoys the International Dining Group and fondly remembers a Discussion Group on Women's Issues that met in the evenings. In 1994, Kay commuted to Greensboro and graduated with her doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2000.

While reminiscing, Kay reflected on how AAUW has changed her life. She moved to Alabama in her late 20s and was really a novice in understanding what was going on around her. She grew up through her participation in AAUW. She expanded her concerns for her community and became more aware of the political world. She did attend the National Conference in 1965, in Dallas. She recalled with laughter a particular Southeast Regional conference in Jackson, Mississippi. The previous year, her Alabama branch had won the Paul Revere Silver Bowl for the most gains in New Members for the region. This Bowl was to be presented to the new branch recipient at the meeting but the person responsible for bringing the bowl couldn't attend and the bowl never got to the meeting. Ever resourceful, Kay went to a downtown jewelry store and asked to borrow a bowl for the presentation with the commitment to return it after the meeting. She was immediately given a large Paul Revere Silver Bowl to use in the ceremony. How wonderful to instill trust like this with a stranger in a strange community! Our Kay continues to be involved in the branch and is currently working with Jan Huskey to establish Start Smart Programs at Warren Wilson College and Montreat College.

Thank you, Kay, for all that you have done and continue to do!



Committee News



Equity Committee Member Roberta Madden

“My mother's experience and my own with workplace inequities made me a feminist, and I became passionate about the ERA in 1972. Then working for the YWCA in Baton Rouge, I adopted the YW mission as my own: eliminating racism, empowering women.”

EQUITY, EQUALITY, AND THE AAUW

“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied by the United States or by any state on account of sex,” the Equal Rights Amendment states—a bright promise, still unfulfilled 95 years after it was first proposed by suffragist Alice Paul. A passionate ERA advocate, I serve on our branch’s Advocacy/Public Policy Committee, which has selected the ERA as one of our priority issues.

Closely related to equality is the concept of equity. Our branch’s Equity Committee is dedicated to the same ideal: fairness for all, with a special concern for those left out because of race or gender. Both the Equity Committee and the Advocacy/Public Policy Committee are working hard to advance equal opportunities. Why not join us?

(Robbie is slated as a speaker for the AAUW NC State Conference in Winston-Salem March 23-24.)

“I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.” - Alice Paul

Equity Committee Eleanor Lane

Special Thank You to Leslie Council, founder of My Sistah Taught Me That (MSTMT), for her impactful and well-received presentation at our January branch meeting! MSTMT is our committee’s choice for community outreach.

Our committee seeks to provide information on equity to branch members:

Asheville's diverse population statistics 2017 (compiled from numerous on-line sources and approximate): 78% white, 12% African American, 2% Asian, 0.4% Native American, 6% Latinx, and the remaining individuals identify as other, in two or more racial/ethnic groups and unknown.

Asheville’s Latest Move on the Equity Front: A blue ribbon committee appointed by the city council has made recommendations for a Human Relations Commission to address equity and institutional racism and other discrimination. [\(Click here for more info\)](#)

Another statistic to support why equity in our city is so important: In 2016 African Americans had an unemployment rate of 15%, three times higher than whites with 5%. (*Asheville Citizen Times*, online, February 7, 2018.)

Come join us at the next Equity Committee meeting March 5. For more information contact Eleanor Lane, 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.
etbuckly5@gmail.com

Committee News

Advocacy & Public Policy Kitty Schaller & Anne Sayers

Learn how citizens can advocate and get their voice heard

The League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County, Pisgah Legal Services, and Children First/Communities in Schools have joined together to present a four-week program entitled “Civics 101”.

The program will take place at the Edington Center, 133 Livingston Street, Asheville, NC from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for each session. It will focus on providing an opportunity to learn about the roles and decisions making processes of our local governments and how citizens can advocate and get their voice heard.

The presentations will be as follows:

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – Asheville City Government

- Jaime Matthews- Assistant to the City Manager
- Dawa Hitch – Director of Communications and Public Engagement.
- Keith Young – Councilman – City of Asheville

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 – Buncombe County Government

- Kathy Hughes – NCMCC- Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners
- Al Whitesides- County Commissioner – Buncombe County – District 1

Tuesday, March 20, 2018- Justice Resource Center and Family Justice Center

- Tiffany Iheanacho, Justice Resource Center Coordinator
- Julie Klipp-Nicholson, Family Justice Center Coordinator
- Honorable Susan M. Dotson-Smith, District Court Judge

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 – Advocacy Training- Staff of Pisgah Legal Services



There will be time for our speakers to explain what is happening now and for questions and answers with all our speakers

*Attendees are welcome to come to any or all sessions.

*Light snacks will be served.

*Spanish interpretation will be available.

If child care services are needed, please call [828-333-0893](tel:828-333-0893) by February 28, 2018.

“The ongoing invisibility of women and girls is a serious issue for our country, and for the world. The invisibility of our history, heroes, stories, challenges, and success handicaps the future of all Americans, and it deeply affects our economy and our communities.” Megan Smith, United States Chief of Technology Officer
9/2/14-1/20/17.

Committee News

March UNCA Update Jan Huskey

Spreading the word on the pay gap. Sessions of AAUW's StartSmart and WorkSmart will be held in March.

A pilot of StartSmart will be held at A-B Tech on March 13. This is an exciting opportunity. This is the second time AAUW has participated in A-B Tech's Women In Technology event. Our STEM committee participated last year.

Many thanks to **Pam Silvers** who is a branch member, a STEM group member, and a faculty member at A-B Tech for arranging this opportunity. Thanks also to our branch's Community Impact Fund for contributing funds enabling A-B Tech to offer this workshop.

On March 20, our branch is co-sponsoring a WorkSmart session to be held at the Chamber of Commerce. This is an effort to introduce WorkSmart to the greater Asheville workforce. Invitations have been sent to key business, academic, government and non-profit leaders. We are proud to be a sponsor along with the Chamber of Commerce, Luna Bars, Izzy's Coffee, and Poppy's Popcorn. Thanks to branch member Leslie Apple for bringing this opportunity to the branch.

Another reason for the economic gap for women is debt. Women typically incur more debt in student loans than men. A session on student debt will be held on March 27 at UNCA.

Developing the next generation of leaders

For the second year in the row, our branch will be participating in the UNCA Leadership Forum. The date is February 27.



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

March Birthdays

- 3/1 - Carol McLimans
- 3/3 - Peg Steiner
- 3/8 - Jacque Penick
- 3/11 - Janet Graham
- 3/16 - Melinda Bolinger
- 3/17 - Lynette Miller
- 3/17 - Wendy Owen
- 3/24 - Ellen Nutter
- 3/25 - JoAnne Setzer
- 3/25 - Eleanor Walther
- 3/26 - Marilyn Kolton
- 3/28 - Leslie Apple
- 3/31 - Roberta Carney
- 3/31 - Sharon Kopstein

Women in S.T.E.M.

Hypatia 370 - 415 was the daughter of Theon of Alexandria. Trained as a mathematician by her father, she eventually replaced him as the leading mathematician of Alexandria and as the pre-eminent mathematician of her time. She authored a work called *The Astronomical Canon* (possibly based on her father's commentary), a commentary on *The Conics* of Apollonius (thus leading to the notions of hyperbolas, parabolas, and ellipses) She was an early proponent of scientific thought based on rational, sound evidence. Ironically, these qualities led to Hypatia's brutal murder at around 416 A.D. by a sect of the Christian Church which viewed her influence as dangerous and paganistic.



For GEM Auction Info

Click [Here](#)

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

Date	Book	Location
Mar. 22	<u>The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story</u> Diane Ackerman	Rosey Bily, 130 Lookout Dr. 28804 252.1210 robily@att.net
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 janlance@aol.com
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 joyates4@gmail.com
June 28	Book Selection	Juanita Spanogle, 19 Stony Ridge 28804 258.0096 c 828 425 5385 Jspanogle@aol.com

Cocktails And Books 2018-2019 Selections 1st Mondays at 4:30, Metro Wines, Contact Anne Reis , annereis2@gmail.com

March	LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE by Celeste Ng
April	LAST CASTLE: THE EPIC STORY OF LOVE, LOSS AND AMERICAN ROYALTY IN THE NATION'S BIGGEST HOME by Denise Kiernan
May	ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE by Elizabeth Strout
June	THE EVOLUTION OF BEAUTY:HOW DARWIN'S FORGOTTEN THEORY OF MATE CHOICE SHAPES THE ANIMAL WORLD-AND US by Richard O Prum
August	THE LAST BALLAD by Wiley Cash
September	FIRST GENERATIONS: WOMEN IN COLONIAL AMERICA by Carol Berkin
October	CHURCHILL AND ORWELL: THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM by Thomas E Picks
November	BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME by Ta- Nehisi Coates
December	SPY OF THE FIRST PERSON by Sam Shepard
February	BURNING BRIGHT by Ron Rash

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 or Kitty Schaller at 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

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



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 or call 828-575-9964.

S.T.E.M. (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
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, for more information.

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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; 404-784-0603) or **Linda Stover** (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 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@gmail.com

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 **second** Thursday of each month from 12-1:30 pm, location TBA. 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 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 jmolkin@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 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 or email Lynette Miller at lcmlisterstudio@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.

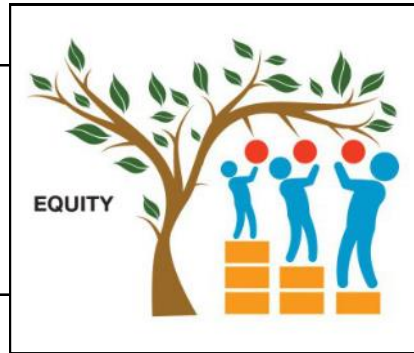
World Affairs Group: A group to study and discuss events across the globe. In 2018, meetings are scheduled for Jan. 18, March 15 and May 17 at 2 p.m. Please contact Eve Miller (evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com or [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107)) for additional information.

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 in March 5
more info Contact Eleanor Lane,
elane@northstarlane.com.



AAUW-Asheville Photo Group visited the Tracey Morgan Gallery 2/21

Photo Group Meets on Wed. March 21

To learn more, Visit our Photo Group Website: AAUWPhotog.weebly.com
or contact Lynette Miller, LCMillerStudio@gmail.com



Lunch Bunch

Friday, March 9, 11:30 at Stoney Knob
Cafe, 337 Merrimon Ave., Weaverville.
Reservation deadline Wednesday
March 7, noon
Contact Sherry Brown
Sherrysaerie@gmail.com 357-8655

Film Fans

Film Fans are on the move. At our recent meeting, members of the Film Fans discussion group voted to permanently move our meeting to the second Tuesday of each month. Therefore the March meeting of Film Fans will be March 13. The location has yet to be determined. Stay tuned. For more info - contact Beth Johnson, johnson1ea@earthlink.net

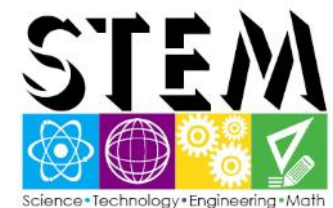


World Affairs will meet Thursday, March 15
at 2 p.m. to discuss
Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Questions and
additional information available
from Eve Miller at [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107) or
evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com.

S.T.E.M. Meeting

March 6, 4pm [Battery Park Book Exchange](#)

For more info contact Cindy Stephens
cstephens30@thefhc.net



CALL FOR GEM FRIENDS' SILENT AUCTION SERVICES & EXPERIENCES

The annual GEM fundraiser event is coming up soon — as always, the first Sunday in June, which, this year, is **June 3**. For several years now, the event has included a **GEM Friends' Silent Auction**, in which our branch members and friends may offer experiences or services for silent auction. This is a great way to raise a little money for women's scholarships and to feature things you're good at or just love to do, and, even better, spend some time with other branch members and friends. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, elaborate, or expensive. What do you like to do that you can share with others?

Past offerings have included a wide array. A day "class" in ceramics, papermaking, Zentangle drawing, knitting, photography, and more have been very popular. Several of our members have offered various kinds of "Fun and Games" nights — with simple fare like pizza, wine, and beer. Others have offered elegant dinners or lunches. Last year Julie Hettiger and Alice Doner hosted a "Day of the Dead" Mexican brunch. For three years now our caterer, Michelle Kelly, has catered a romantic dinner for two in the winning bidder's home. GEM Board president Marilyn Kolton usually offers a nature and bird hike which so many of our winning bidders have enjoyed. One year branch member Peg Steiner and her husband Bill, an Audubon expert, offered a tour of their amazing Audubon collection, including a print to take home. Other members have offered dog sitting, movie critic studies, massage therapy,

picnics, and more. There is really no limit to what you might offer. Consider some of the following:

- ◆ Arrange an art gallery tour
- ◆ Show a film in your home, with discussion and snacks
- ◆ Teach a session, or just do a demonstration, in cooking, fine arts or crafts, photography, gardening, or whatever you love
- ◆ Arrange a garden tour or a half day hike on your favorite trail
- ◆ Offer massage, meditation, or yoga therapy
- ◆ Host a games night, with a variety of games or just your favorite
- ◆ Invite winning bidders for lunch or dinner, based on any theme you like
- ◆ And so on —

The GEM Friends' Silent Auction is really fun and for a great cause and we are currently in need of additional experiences and services. **Please take a moment to consider what you might offer. We are accepting offers now. If you have an idea that you'd like to offer, please contact branch member and GEM Vice President, Susan Gabel, at susangrabel2@gmail.com or (828) 505-3826.**

