



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

[Find us on the Web](#)

[asheville-nc.aauw.net](http://asheville-nc.aauw.net)

and

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# JUNE 2018

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## 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

The year has flown by and AAUW Asheville is ready for its new president and board to take over. **Rachel Sossoman** and her elected and appointed Board of Directors are ready to go, and I know they'll do a fantastic job of continuing the good work of our branch!

When I was in the fifth grade, my name was on the chalkboard as class president. I can see it now: "Class President-Wendy". How cool was that? As president I had no real responsibilities or jobs. But it was on the front chalkboard, and it spoke volumes to me! During the time between then and July 2015, I shied away from being the president of anything else because of the responsibility the office required. Then when it came time for me to step up into the position of President-Elect and then President of AAUW Asheville after Carolyn Worthington and before her Ann Snell, I knew that their shoes were going to be hard to fill. I thought that I was not quite prepared for the task at hand. It proved to be very different from fifth grade!

During this past year our programs have, once again, been phenomenal. As a matter of fact, the entire branch is phenomenal! I think of it

as a beehive. We all were surrounded by "worker-bees." I always knew I could depend on members' doing a thorough job on whatever they were asked to do. When I came into a general meeting, I always saw women busily getting everything ready for the onslaught of members and guests. When it was time to clean up after the meeting ended, not one person was asked to clear the tables. It just happened! All those "worker-bees" took care of everything. We had many goals for our branch and one of them was to encourage new members to get involved in our branch. I'm pleased that two new members will serve on the new board! Hooray for them!

Much has been accomplished this past year. Some new activities have flourished and some old ones have faded. I could name everyone who helped make these past 2 years ones to remember, but you all know who you are. So, I've stepped out of my comfort zone and survived. Perhaps you should do the same when you're asked to serve on the board! You'll be glad you did!

As always, Wendy Haner, President

### GEM Fundraiser on June 3 at Fernihurst

Join us for the 16th annual GEM Fund fundraiser at the beautiful **Fernihurst Mansion at A-B Tech between 4 and 6 PM.** AAUW members and friends will celebrate with great food and wine. There will be silent auction items of fun activities hosted by our members and many raffle prizes including to some of the finest restaurants in town. You will have an opportunity to meet some of the women who are scholarship recipients. This is the social event of the season which you won't want to miss!

*For reservations contact **Helen McClintock**, [homclintock@gmail.com](mailto:homclintock@gmail.com), and for more information call Helen at 828-424-8455. We hope to see you there. - Marilyn Kolton, GEM Fund President*

# **Membership**     **Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd**

The following members joined us on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting (2 are gift recipients of a free National Membership through the Shape the Future Campaign - bios on next page)

<b>PATTERSON, Denise</b> 9407 Legacy Oaks Place Asheville, NC 28803 UNC (Greensboro) UNC (Charlotte) Gardner-Webb University UNC (Charlotte)		828-337-2635 <a href="mailto:denise.patterson@acsgmail.net">denise.patterson@acsgmail.net</a>  BS Elementary Education MA Elementary Education MA School Administration Ed.D Educational Leadership
At the April Branch meeting, Rachel Sossoman presented Dr. Patterson with a full year's membership to AAUW in recognition of and gratitude for her commitment to AAUW ideals! Dr. Patterson has offered to help the Board occasionally and is interested in the Equity Committee.		
<b>BARRY, Amy</b> <a href="mailto:amy@buncombepfc.org">2229 Riverside Drive</a> Asheville, NC 28804 Hamilton College Boston College		828-407-2054 <a href="mailto:amy@buncombepfc.org">amy@buncombepfc.org</a>  BA MSW Social Work
Amy is Executive Director of Buncombe Partnership for Children and was also presented with a full year's membership for her commitment to AAUW's ideals.		
<b>ROONEY, Lola ( DOB 12/24)</b> <a href="mailto:lolabet@aol.com">16 Forest Knoll Drive</a> Weaverville, NC 28787 Buffalo State City College NY		845-656-5555 (C ) 828-484-8782 (H) <a href="mailto:lolabet@aol.com">lolabet@aol.com</a> BS Special Education MS School Psychology
Joanna Manasse has referred Lola to our Branch. Lola is interested in Public Policy/Advocacy and the CAB Book Group.		

[Check It Out.... AAUW ASHEVILLE DIRECTORY ONLINE](#)



**TIME TO RENEW BRANCH DUES!**  
**National AAUW's deadline to renew dues is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018!**

Membership dues have increased to be \$83. The breakdown of the yearly dues: \$59 goes to National, \$11 to the State and \$13 to our branch. Remember that only **\$56** is tax deductible. Dues for Life Members are \$24 to cover State and Branch dues.

You have two ways to renew: **Online** at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or **by check**. Make checks payable to AAUW- Asheville and mail to Linda Beltran at 11 Outlook Circle, Swannanoa, NC 28778. **Be sure to check your information in the current online branch directory and provide any changes to Linda at email LINBEL-TRAN09@yahoo.com!** Our branch website is <http://asheville-nc.aauw.net/>

We will be printing a directory this year and you'll need to renew by July 15 if you want to be in the directory!

**As of this writing there are 111 members who have not yet renewed their membership; have you?**

## Membership

Linda Beltran & Susan Ikerd



**Amy Barry**

Executive Director, Buncombe Partnership for Children.

Amy is also a new member of our branch. At the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, Rachel Sossoman presented her with full membership to

AAUW in recognition of and gratitude for her commitment to AAUW ideals! Amy Barry is the Executive Director of Buncombe Partnership for Children, a nonprofit providing a range of programs for children birth to 5, their families and the educators who care for and teach them. She holds a BA from Hamilton College and an MSW from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. She has over 25 years of experience providing leadership in nonprofits in a range of communities from rural to urban including Boston MA, Helena MT and for the past twelve years, Asheville, NC. Amy began her career at Wediko Children's Services, a NH and MA based non-profit committed to improving the lives of children with complex psychiatric, emotional, and behavioral difficulties. She worked for thirteen years at United South End Settlements, in Boston's South End where she was the Director of Programs and Services overseeing programs serving preschoolers through seniors offering prevention, education, family support and enrichment programs. Her work in Helena Montana was in community based mental health services for children and adults. Amy's background is in program design and development with a focus on children and families in the areas of early care and education, mental health and family support. She brings a deep understanding of organizational operations and strategic planning to her work along with a commitment to supporting children's healthy development, resilient families and strong communities.



**Denise Patterson**

Superintendent of Asheville City Schools

Dr. Patterson was the speaker at the April 24<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting and spoke to the status of Asheville school pro-

grams. She explained Magnet schools within the Asheville district and indicated that she wants children to have choices in the direction of their education. She also emphasized the need for teachers to be better supported, within the community as well as fiscally. Locally there are increases to salaries beyond the state scale. Asheville is making an effort to attract teachers to the area, with such incentives as hiring bonuses. Dr. Patterson is a speaker that keeps your attention and is able to provide clarity to sometimes more difficult topics. Perhaps the most unusual aspect of her new program is the emphasis on personalizing a child's education by incorporating the child's interest into the academic subjects. When she answered the last question and was leaving the podium, I felt like I'd enjoy experience education in the environment that she is creating! She exudes pride in her new neighborhood!

Dr. Patterson is also a new member of our branch. At this meeting, Rachel Sossoman present her with full membership to AAUW in recognition of and gratitude for her commitment to AAUW ideals!

Read more about Dr. Patterson: [New Asheville Schools chief is NC born and educated | Mountain Xpress](#)



## Equity Committee News

Eleanor Lane



### Attending to My Sistah Taught Me That (MSTMT)

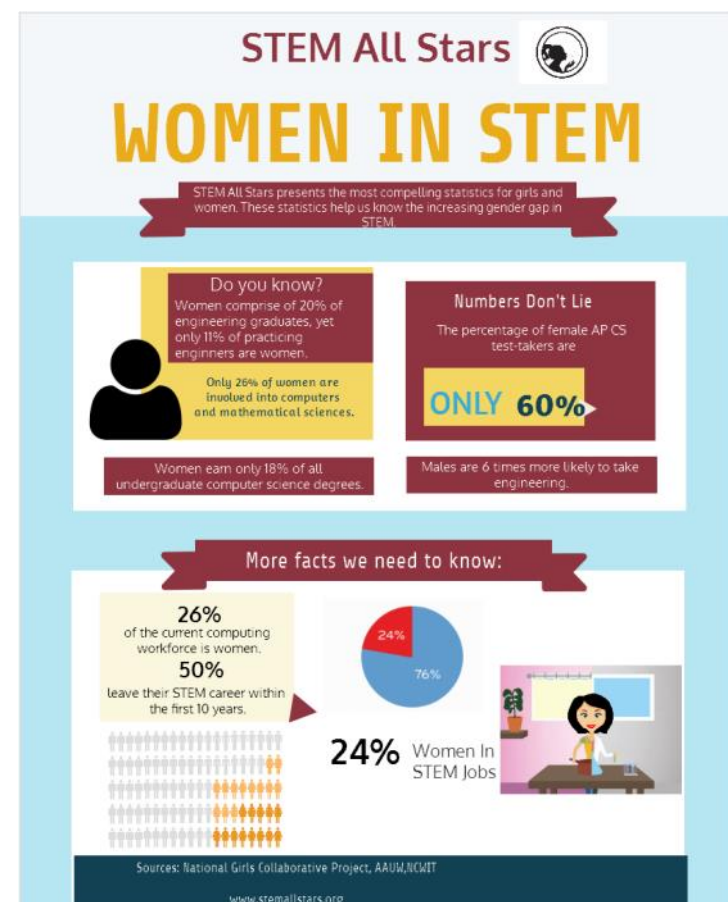
**Eleanor Lane** and **Betsy Kirk** attended a meeting of MSTMT; Betsy brought a supply of paper plates and napkins to use for future meeting dinners.

Photo: Eleanor and Betsy with **Leslie Lake**, founder of MSTMT.

### Deserving Our Attention:

- “[In the US] a black woman with an advanced degree is [more likely to lose her baby](#) than a white woman with less than an eighth-grade education.”
- “Black women are three to four times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as their white counterparts, according to the C.D.C.”
- “...pregnant women who received the continuous support that doulas provide were [39 percent less likely to have C-sections](#). In general, women with continuous support tended to have babies who were healthier at birth.
- *New York Times* online, “Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-and-Death Crisis,” April 11, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/11/magazine/black-mothers-babies-death-maternal-mortality.html>.

In Asheville, we have a doula program, Sistas Caring 4 Sistas: Doulas for Social Justice, that is working to support our mothers and babies.



### Summer S.T.E.M. Reading:

- ★ [Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and ...](#)
- ★ [The 5 Biases Pushing Women Out of STEM - Harvard Business Review](#)
- ★ [The More Gender Equality, the Fewer Women in STEM - The Atlantic](#)
- ★ [Why It's Crucial to Get More Women Into Science](#)

**Don't wait 'til the June 30 deadline - renew your AAUW membership TODAY!**

**June**

1 Ann Marie Stuart  
 1 Carolyn Worthington  
 2 Susan Roderick  
 3 Johanna Manasse  
 6 Patricia Friedrichs  
 7 Lee E. Kucera  
 11 Pamela Silvers  
 16 Ann G. Perry  
 20 Barbara Hearn  
 21 Judy Balsanek  
 22 Sandy Bowles  
 24 BA Schenk  
 30 Andrea de la Torre

**July**

2 Jan Schwartz  
 5 Hedy Sarbey  
 5 M. Brenda Tremoulet  
 7 Mary Powell  
 9 Carol Smith  
 12 Barbara Chambers  
 18 Barbara Pressman  
 19 Rebecca Bringle  
 23 Susan Beachum  
 23 Michele Nichols  
 25 Bettie Council  
 27 Andriette Kinsella

**August**

3 Rosemary Bily  
 7 Judith Chitwood  
 11 Linda Devenish  
 11 Mary Lasher  
 12 Nancy Stewart  
 15 Betsy Kirk  
 17 Gail McCarthy  
 17 Judy Roach  
 19 Susan Ikerd  
 20 LaDean Peterson  
 21 Lucy Borland  
 28 Linda Beltran  
 29 Eve Miller



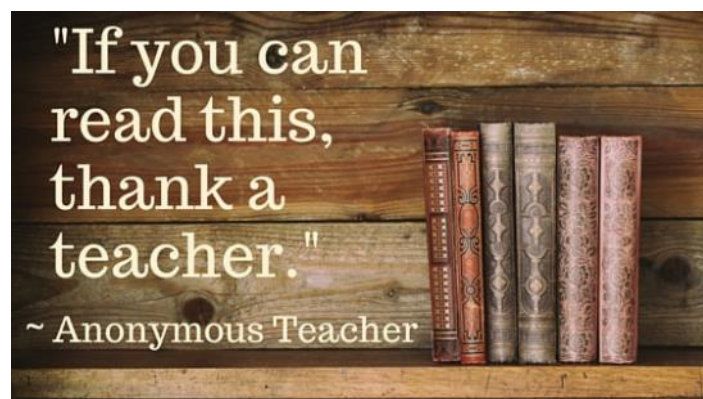
Above are several of the lucky auction bidders during a workshop to create *Gyotaku*, Japanese fish prints. The workshop held in Cathy Battle's studio was followed by lunch and an Ikebana demonstration by Libby Campbell and Jeanne Smolkin. It was a member service auction item from last year's GEM Fundraiser.



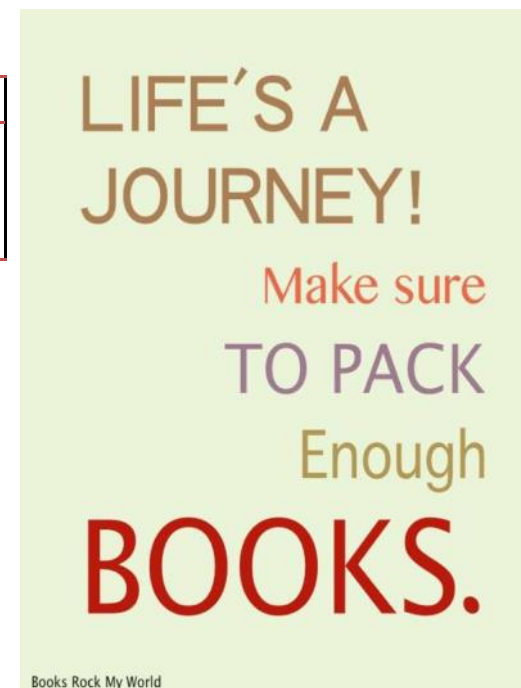
**The GEM Fund (Gaining Educational Momentum)** is the Asheville AAUW's Scholarship Endowment Fund. Scholarships are provided to non-traditional women students whose education has been interrupted and now are returning to school. Now in its 16th year, one hundred and twenty scholarships have been rewarded to students at AB Tech and UNCA. Major sources of donations are the annual fundraiser party, the birthday dollars for scholars program, and honorariums and memorials.

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

Date	Book	Location
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>

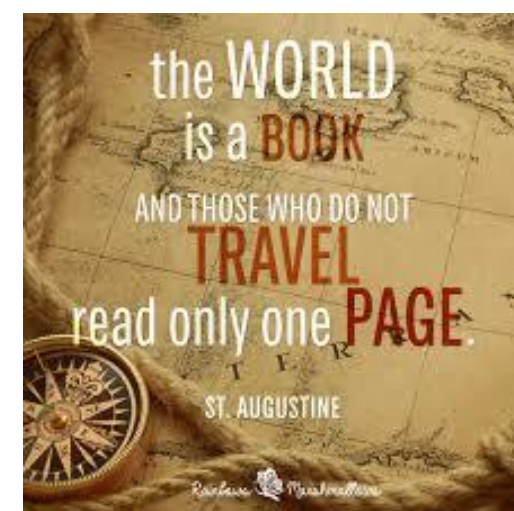


*"To travel far, there is no better ship than a book."*  
- Emily Dickinson



### **Cocktails And Books 2018-2019 Selections 1st Mondays at 4:30, Metro Wines, Contact Anne Reis , [annereis2@gmail.com](mailto:annereis2@gmail.com)**

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 Committee**

The purpose of the Advocacy & Public Policy Committee is to advance equity for women and girls through education, partnering, advocacy and action. At our **A/PP monthly meeting (2nd Friday 10:00 am at the YWCA)** 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, we have chosen four areas of concern for education and action and the four work groups and meeting times are as follows:

- **Health Care - (variety of state & federal policies)**  
*Meets 9:10 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - YWCA*
- **Early Childhood Education & Care (state & local concerns)**  
*Meets 9:00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday- YWCA*
- **Fair Vote -Stop Gerrymandering (state & federal issue)**  
*Meets 9:00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - YWCA*
- **Equal Rights for Women -ERA -Fair Wage/Pay Gap**  
*Meets 11:30 pm 1st Wednesday -- Cornerstone Restaurant*

During 2017-18, the A/PP Committee will develop the Public Policy Primer, a new means of communication to Branch members. Both timely and targeted, it facilitates members' attendance at education events and action steps with public officials when advised.

Contact: Anne Sayers at [annesayers432@gmail.com](mailto:annesayers432@gmail.com)  
or Kitty Schaller at [kittyschaller@gmail.com](mailto:kittyschaller@gmail.com)

### **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, [huskeyjanl@charter.net](mailto:huskeyjanl@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.

### **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](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 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)

Jean Toxen & Linda Stover

Currently AAUW Asheville has 11 SIGS with a wide range of subjects (see details below) and over 100 members participating. Please contact the individual SIG coordinators if you have questions or want to attend a meeting. 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@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:slark1@att.net). Participants bring pot-luck supper.

**Film Fans:** This film discussion group meets the second Tuesday 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](mailto:JOHNSON1ea@earthlink.net)

**Financial FUNDamentals - NEW!** Well-educated women with money will change the world! On the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30**, come understand how investment strategies can serve you and the world you care about. All levels of experience welcome; for this month's topic and location or any question, contact group leader **Leslie Apple** at 828-628-1546 or [leslie.apple@edwardjones.com](mailto:leslie.apple@edwardjones.com).

**Hiking SIG - NEW!** Hikes held on the second Tuesday of each month and tailored to meet the interests and wishes of the members. Hikes will vary in level of difficulty and length. Dogs welcome on most hikes if participants agree. For details on current month's hike, contact SIG Coordinator **Susan Beachum**; 860-912-6789; [cabinflats2@gmail.com](mailto:cabinflats2@gmail.com)

**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** ([evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com](mailto:evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com) or [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107)) for additional information.

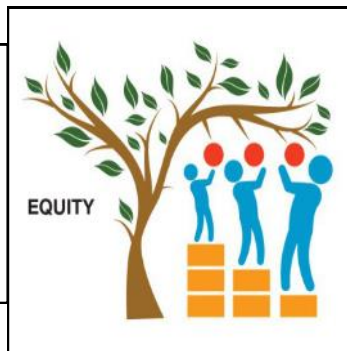
*Please remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month's meeting so they can predict attendance and you can be apprised of any last-*



## Calendar Details

**AAUW Equity Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 11**  
**"social get together", lunch at 1pm**

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



### Hiking SIG

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### Financial FUNDamentals

Meets on the **2nd monthly Wednesday at 5:30**, come understand how investment strategies can serve you and the world you care about. All levels of experience welcome. For this month's topic and location or any questions, contact group leader **Leslie Apple** at [828-628-1546](tel:828-628-1546) or [leslie.apple@edwardjones.com](mailto:leslie.apple@edwardjones.com)

### Lunch Bunch

Resumes in September

### Photo Group will resume in September

To learn more, Visit our Photo Group Website: [AAUWPhotog.weebly.com](http://AAUWPhotog.weebly.com) or contact Lynette Miller, [LCMillerStudio@gmail.com](mailto:LCMillerStudio@gmail.com)

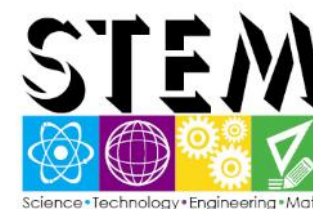
### Film Fans

Film Fans continues throughout the summer, meeting every second Tuesday of the month. So, we will be getting together on **June 12, July 10, and August 14**. The films and meeting locations are yet to be determined.

Please contact **Beth Johnson**, [johnson1ea@earthlink.net](mailto:johnson1ea@earthlink.net) if you have any questions or want to be put on the Film Fans email list.

### S.T.E.M. Meeting

For more info contact Cindy Stephens  
[cstephens30@thefhc.net](mailto:cstephens30@thefhc.net)



Dear AAUW Asheville Branch Members,

Over the years AAUW has changed its by-laws and again this year they have three proposed amendments before the membership for a vote.

**The three proposed amendments are:**

- Creating 3 year staggered board terms
- Opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership
- Eliminating the degree requirement for membership

Each proposed amendment can be found on the AAUW website, <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/> the overarching motivation for these changes at this time is to uphold and advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

Some of the bylaw changes in the past have been:

- 1882 – Degree from a specific list of colleges or universities
- 1949 - Degree from any accredited four-year college or university
- 1987 - Membership extended to male college graduates
- 2005 - Membership extended to include graduates who hold an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution

The reason for these changes came about as the board asked - how many potential members are we losing because AAUW has this eligibility requirement? Could it be for women who don't meet the education requirement, or we lose women who share our vision but don't like AAUW because it seems to be an exclusive organization and do we lose donations who don't understand why you much have a college degree to work towards gender equality.

Some members object to the open membership because they are concerned that our name will be changed. AAUW is the forth name we have had in our years of being a membership organization. The name was not changed when AAUW started accepting people who had a community college degree. What we call ourselves is not the end all in their decision to become a more inclusive organization.

AAUW is an organization that fully supports women getting a college education in the field of their choice, but we need to recognize that education comes in many forms.

Over our professional lives we have worked with many women who did not have a

formal degree. This is not a measure of intelligence, sometimes it is the lack of opportunity or choices made early in life that are difficult to reverse.

If you look at the statistics, in 2016, 46% of non-Hispanic white women aged 25 to 29 years completed four years of college. For African American and Hispanic women, the numbers are more stark at 25% and 31% respectively. This suggests AAUW cannot promote equity and diversity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements.

So, the first two proposals would bring AAUW more in line with nationally accepted non-profit best practices and the needs of the organization. AAUW National board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense in the beginning, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

At the state meeting that was held on March 24th this was brought to a vote by all in attendance and all three proposals were endorsed without any opposition.

**How to Vote for these by-laws:**

- April 16th you can go online and request a paper ballot.
- April 26th voting online will begin.
- On June 9th Voting on line will end
- June 10th the results will be announced as to how members voted.

Please make your voice count and have a say in the future of AAUW.

We need every woman who supports our mission – empowering women and girls – to join us in the ongoing challenge of achieving gender equity.

**Thank you for supporting AAUW.**

Sincerely,  
 Wendy Haner, President of AAUW Asheville Branch  
 Rachel Sossoman, President Elect  
 Barbara Pressman, Secretary  
 Wendy Haner, Interim Treasurer  
 Linda Beltran, Co-VP of Membership  
 Susan Ikerd, Co-VP of Membership  
 Susan Grabel, Co-VP of Programs  
 Barbara Robinson, Co-VP of Programs