

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

> Find us on the Web asheville-nc.aauw.net **FACEBOOK**

# SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						I
2	3 <u>CAB 4:30</u>	4 Board Mtg 3:30-	5	6	7	8
9 <u>Branch Picnic!</u> 3-6pm	10 Film Buds 5:30	II <u>Film Fans</u> 12pm	12 RSVP Deadline for Lunch Bunch, Financial FUN - damentals 5:30	13	I4 Advocacy/PP 10am Lunch Bunch 11:30	15 RSVP deadline for AAUW ADVENTURES
16	17	18 AAUW Adventures	19 Photo Group 1pm	20 World Affairs 2pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <u>Tea Time</u> <u>Books 2pm</u>	28	29
30						

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

# **From the Branch President**

#### **Rachel Sossoman**

Fellow Advocates, Dreamers, Leaders, Inspirers of Change,

So begins a brand new year in a fight that began for us here in Asheville over a century ago. Just look at how far we've come. Just think of how far we will go! One thing is certain: This is OUR time. This is OUR year.

What better way to kick off the summer than by breaking records? That's exactly what the GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville did on June 3rd at the Fernihurst mansion annual fundraiser when they exceeded all prior fundraising records. In fact, June's event exceeded the closest prior fundraising record by five thousand dollars! What began sixteen years ago as a vision of kickoff "Picnic in the Park" at West Asheville Park on September 9th (11 supporting higher education for women in our community has now become a reality. Just look at how far we've come. Just think of how far we will go! This is OUR time. This is OUR year.

At just under 200 members, AAUW Asheville has held the honor of being the largest AAUW branch in the state of North Carolina. We are a mighty force! Thanks to you, we offer an array of opportunities to empower each one of us to impact our world in ways that matter to us

personally. Thanks to you, a record-setting number of women in the largest branch in the state are able to support the vision of AAUW Asheville via personalized experiences tailored to individual members. What a testament to our extraordinary members--to YOU!--for making that happen. Just look at how far we've come. Just think of how far we will go! One thing is certain, friends: This is OUR time. This is OUR year.

I can hardly wait to get started. I look forward to seeing you at the potluck Vermont Ave. Asheville 3—6 PM). Together, we will celebrate how far we've come, and unify our vision toward the greatness to come in 2018-2019. One thing is certain, friends: This is OUR time. This is OUR year.

Sincerely yours, Rachel Sossoman President AAUW Asheville

# Our first AAUW meeting of the year will be a PICNIC in the PARK!

SUNDAY SEPT. 9th, 2018

3 PM til 6PM

West Asheville's Don Gassaway Park at 11 Vermont Ave. West Asheville\*\*\*

Bring a friend or significant other, a comfy chair, a dish to share. Join us for some music, laughs and your summer fun stories!

Reservations: Barbara Robinson, baritar16@gmail.com OR call 828-230-7113

END DATE to reserve a seat Wed. Sept. 5

\*\*\*more info - directions, what to bring - on page 6



# **Committee News**

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

Are You Worried About Our Country & Our State? DO SOMETHING!

Join the Advocacy/Public Policy Committee's Kick Off meeting on September 14, 10:00 am at the YWCA (upstairs board room). We'll focus on Voting Rights,\*\* as we head into the fall elections (Early Voting begins October 17).

- Our main concern is the 6 NC Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. Do you understand these highly political, game-changing, and possibly-forever fiascos for our lives and our state? Come learn.
- We'll figure out how to join nonpartisan efforts (League of Women Voters & Democracy NC) to educate voters. Our voting rights are especially threatened by the amendment vaguely calling for "Photo ID" for every voter good luck if you are a student, an elder, a low-income person: YOU are the target. There are FIVE more huge Constitutional Amendments! A vote to "Nix All Six" counts as much here as anywhere in NC!
- While these times call for Voting Rights now, we will consider what our other key issues should be for the coming year. Do we continue to work on the ERA, Gerrymandering/Fair Vote, Healthcare and Early Childhood Education or are there other policy issues we should address? Come help us decide!!!

We are powerful women. We can do something. We must act or live with consequences. Remember Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." HEY AAUW, WE ARE THAT SMALL GROUP!

To RSVP for 9/14 meeting, please email Co-Chair: Anne Sayers annesayers432@gmail.com

## **Equity Committee** Eleanor Lane

Equity Committee--promoting equity for ALL women and girls, especially those with less access to power and resources

### **Knowing the Score: Disparities in Asheville**

"Rapid economic changes mean Asheville has the state's highest median rent for a two-bedroom apartment at \$1,180, according to some of the latest housing, economic and demographic data. Median household income in the city is \$42,333, and a median black household income is \$30,000. African-American unemployment, meanwhile, hovers around 15 percent." (Asheville Citizen Times, online February 7, 2018)

## **Moving Equity Forward in Asheville**

The brand new Human Relations Commission of Asheville, with very diverse membership, is up and running. This commission will: make policy recommendations to promote and improve human relations and advance equity in the city; provide a forum to raise issues and complaints related to human relations; advance equity in public safety, educational, art and cultural opportunities, economic development, health and human services and housing—and more. (City of Asheville, Ordinance Establishing Human Relations Committee online August 8, 2018)

We'd love for you to join us at our next meeting on October 1, 2018. For more information contact Eleanor Lane, <a href="mailto:elane@northstarlane.com">elane@northstarlane.com</a>

# **Gem News** Karen Mauro

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was another successful year of growth and giving for GEM. To date we have awarded 144 scholarships totaling \$163,559 to students at UNC Asheville and AB Tech. We will have 33 scholars for the 2018-2019 academic year, 13 at UNCA and 20 at AB Tech.

Income for Fiscal 2017-18 totaled \$46,372.27, with the annual fundraiser bringing in over \$28,000, accounting for 61% of all revenue and about 9% increase over last year.

The spring fund drive and fundraiser party raised a record \$28,275. Ticket sales brought in \$4,100 with 82 guests in attendance. Raffle tickets netted \$1,690, and the GEM Friends' Silent Auction brought in \$4,855. This year's event added a live auction, which raised \$1,425. GEM sponsorship was also up this

year, with 42 sponsors, including three businesses. Seven donations were made at the \$1,000 or more Diamond level; five at the Ruby level (gifts from \$500 to \$999), and 30 at the Sapphire level (gifts from \$100 to \$499). An additional 16 donors made donations under \$100. Sponsor and other donor contributions totaled \$16,205. Our business donors were ZOE Dental and Karen Donatelli, each making a \$500 donation and Marilyn Wright donating \$1,000. John Laughter Jewelers donated the four pieces of jewelry for the live auction with a retail value of \$1,800. A record 35 local businesses also contributed items and services for the raffle.

The GEM Fund wants to thank all of you who participated. We change lives with our organization allowing women to gain an education they otherwise might not be able to afford.



The <u>YWCA Empowerment Center</u> could use crayons, coloring books, finger paints, plastic scissors

Please bring donations to General AAUW meetings, drop off at the Y, or email Eleanor Walther for pick up. etbuckly5@gmail.com

The children thank you!



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

#### **September Birthdays**

9/4 Judith Hoy

9/4 Meta Laabs

9/5 Betsy Sterling

9/6 Cindy Berryman-Fink

9/6 Barbara Campbell

9/9 Linda Stover

9/12 Judy Colella

9/15 Diane Mooney

9/15 Jo Yates

9/16 Beth Maczka

9/16 Carol Taylor

9/21 Sherry Brown

9/21 Ruth Slawson

9/21 Linda Sokalski

9/21 Terry Van Duyi

9/21 Deborah Vigeland

9/23 Laurie Powell

9/23 Ilona Sena

9/24 Melanie McClure

9/28 Sarah Humphries

9/28 M. Joanne Swenson

# **Tea Time Book Club 2018-19 Selections** 4th Thursdays at 2 Juanita Spanogle

Date	Book	Location	
Sept. 27	A Piece of the World 2017. 320 p.	Lois Sutton	
	Christine Baker Kline	638 Upper Grassy Branch Ext. 28805	
		c281.409.6498 doctorlonc@gmail.com	
Oct. 25	In the Midst of Winter. 2017. 352p Isabel Allende	Carol Smith 42 Sparkle Dun Dr. Biltmore Lake 28715	
		667.0053 carolasmith49@gmail.com	
Nov. 29	Educated. 2018. 327p.	Marilyn Kolton	
	Tara Westover	18 Ridgeview Drive 28804	
		259.9461 <u>Idwmkd@aol.com</u>	
Jan. 24	<u>The Shadow Land.</u> 2017. 496p. Kostova, Elizabeth	Janet Graham 25 Wesley Drive, Apt. F 28803	
		285.2585 <u>dickgjang1@gmail.com</u>	
Feb. 28	Born a Crime: Stories from a South  African Childhood 2016. 288 p.  Trevor Noah	Bette Feingold 65 Creekside View Drive 2880 645.1974 c912.844.9002 bettefeingold@gmail.com	
Mar. 28	<u>Varina.</u> 2018. 368p.	Jane Lance	
	Charles Frazier	3001 Timber Trail 28804	
		505.8192 c208.569.5318 janlance@aol.com	
Apr. 25	<u>Lab Girl.</u> 2016. 336p.	Barbara Mayer	
	Hope Jahren	100 Wesley Drive, Apt. 706 28803	
		277.5319 bmayer8804@aol.com	
May 23	Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening	Jo Yates	
	2017. 304p.	15-H Wesley Drive, 28803	
	Manal Al-Sharif,	c828.275.4948 joyates4@gmail.com	
June 27	Book Selection	Judy Balsanek	
		299 Whitfield Lane Weav 28787	
		c616.510.6073 jbalsanek@sbcglobal.net	

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

TUESDAY September 4	THE KNOWN WORLD by Edward P. Jones
October CHURCHILL AND ORWELL: THE FIGHT FOR FREEOM 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

abibliophobia, uh-bib-li-uh-fo-bee-yuh - the fear of running out of something to read

## 9/9 PICNIC DIRECTIONS & INFO

#### From the north or east

- take I-240 west across Bowen Bridge to exit 2, Haywood Rd.
- Go right (west) on Haywood Rd. .8 miles to Vermont Ave.
- Left onto Vermont

#### From the south

- take I-26 west (towards TN ),
- get off at exit 1A--Brevard Rd./SR 119.
- Go west onto Brevard Rd. towards West Asheville .6 miles to Davenport Ave.
- Left onto Davenport for .3 miles, then left again directly into the park on Vermont.

## Please bring a dish to share, enough for 8 people:

- If your last name begins with A through K bring a main dish & spoon to serve it
- If you last name begins with L through R bring an appetizer or salad
- If you last name begins with S through Z bring a dessert
- drinks and tableware will be provided

Reservations: Barbara Robinson---- baritar16@gmail.com

OR call me @ 828-230-7113

END DATE to reserve a seat Wed, Sept. 5

# **International Dining 2018-19 Schedule**

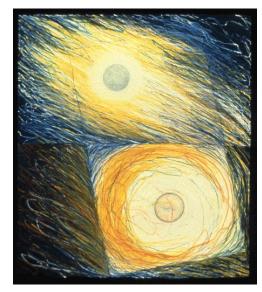
International Diners is a potluck brunch, lunch or dinner hosted by a member and featuring the cuisine and culture of countries and places of interest around the world. Email announcement is sent to the ID members the month before the event. Seating is limited and is first come-first serve. Member may bring one guest. If you are interested in joining International Diners, contact Jeanne Smolkin (jsmolkin@gmail.com).

Theme	Home/Main Menu Planner	
Cuban Comida (luncheon)	Linda Sokalski Farrell	
Asian Fusion	Bette Feingold	
New Orleans Mardi Gras Brunch	Sandy Bernard, Jeanne Smolkin	
Northern Italy	Cathy Battle	
Haiti	Diane Mooney	
	Cuban Comida (luncheon)  Asian Fusion  New Orleans Mardi Gras Brunch  Northern Italy	

## You've heard of Women in S.T.E.M. - How about S.T.E.A.M? (+Art)



Canadian abstract painter **Dorothea Rockburne** (1932- ) draws inspiration primarily from her deep interest in mathematics and astronomy. In 1950 she moved to the United States to attend Black Mountain College, where she studied with mathematician Max Dehn, a lifelong influence on her work. Her work is geometric and abstract, seemingly simple but very precise to reflect the mathematical concepts she strives to concretize. "I wanted very much to see the equations I was studying, so I started making them in my studio," she has said. "I was visually solving equations."



Dance of the Spheres

# **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 2nd 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 or Kitty Schaller at 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

#### **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)**

## 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 (<a href="mailto:itoxen@bellsouth.net">itoxen@bellsouth.net</a>; 404-784-0603) or Linda Stover (lindalstover@gmail.com; 704-905-6530)

<u>AAUW Upstreamers:</u> This group works with Riverlink to clean up a stream at Reed Creek Park near UNC-A two times a year. For more information contact **Barbara Robinson** at <u>baritar16@gmail.com</u> 230-7113.

<u>CAB Book Group:</u> 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

<u>Film Buds:</u> 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 <a href="mailto:slark1@att.net">slark1@att.net</a>. 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

<u>Financial FUNdamentals:</u> Education & discussion of topics, strategies and current events, to build confidence in your financial know-how and choices. Share what you've learned; understand what's seemed "over your head." Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd, Asheville. For questions, contact Leslie Apple, ljfrey@gmail.com, 303-946-8141

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 potluck, 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

<u>Lunch Bunch:</u> 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 <a href="mailto:sherrysaerie@gmail.com">sherrysaerie@gmail.com</a> to reserve space and get directions to the restaurant.

<u>Photography Group:</u> 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 <u>aauwphotog.weebly.com</u> or email <u>Lynette Miller at lcmillerstudio@gmail.com</u>.

<u>Tea Time Book Group:</u> 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 <a href="mailto:jspanogle@aol.com">jspanogle@aol.com</a>.

World Affairs Group: A group to study and discuss events across the globe. In 2018-19, meetings are scheduled for Oct., Jan. March & May at 2 p.m.

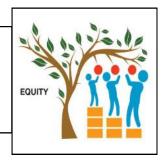
Please contact Eve Miller (evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com or 828-299-8107) for additional information.

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** Monday, October 4, 10 am

For more info Contact Eleanor Lane. elane@northstarlane.com.



## **Lunch Bunch**



Lunch Bunch will meet Friday Sept.14, 11:30,

Famous Toastery, 4 Tunnel Rd.

(across from Asheville Mall)

Reservation deadline Wednesday, Noon, Sept. 12 Sherry Brown, sherrysaerie@gmail.com 357-8455

Film Fans will meet on **Tuesday, September 11** from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

at a new eatery across from the Asheville Mall, around the corner from Whole Foods. They have a lovely, quiet, private room in the

back which will meet our needs quite well. Please plan to buy lunch

(or at least something to drink.) Film i& directions to be announced.

I look forward to seeing all of you. -Beth Johnson,

johnson1ea@earthlink.net



## **Financial FUNdamentals**

Education & discussion of topics, strategies and current events, to build confidence in your financial know-how and choices. Share what you've learned; understand what's seemed "over your head." **September topic: Stocks: The Nuts & Bolts**. Meets second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd, Asheville.

Contact Leslie Apple, ljfrey@gmail.com, 303-946-8141

## Photo Group Meets on Wed. Sept. 19, 1pm Rescheduled Photo Scavenger Hunt!





# Film Fans

#### **AAUW Adventures Tuesday Sept. 18**

Lake Lure Boat Cruise 11am (tour limit 16) Lunch at LaStrada, Lake Lure, 12:30, Garden Stroll

> RSVP deadline 9/15, Details & fees - contact Sherry Brown,

sherrysaerie@gmail.com, 357-8455

## **World Affairs**

World Affairs will meet to get organized on September 20 at 2 p.m. at

the home of Eve Miller. We will organize topics for the coming year and set meeting venues for October, January, March and May. Please contact Eve for additional information and directions at 828) 299-8107 evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com

