



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](#)

| Contents                  |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| From the Branch President | 2     |
| Committee News            | 3,4,5 |
| GEM, Birthdays            | 6     |
| GEM Strudel Bakers        | 7     |
| Tea Time Books            | 8     |
| C.A.B.                    | 8     |
| Board Committees          | 8     |
| Special Interest Groups   | 10    |
| Calendar Details          | 11    |
| Branch Mtg Programs       | 12    |

# DECEMBER 2018

| Sun   | Mon                                 | Tue  | Wed                                  | Thu                                   | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|   |                                     |  |                                      |                                       |     | 1   |
| 2  | 3 <a href="#">Equity Comm 10 am</a> | 4  | 5 <a href="#">Winter Celebration</a> | 6                                     | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 10                                  | 11 <a href="#">Film Fans, 12 Advocacy/PP 4pm, YWCA</a>                                 | 12                                   | 13                                    | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17                                  | 18   | 19                                   | 20 <b>January Newsletter Deadline</b> | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24                                  | 25  | 26                                   | 27                                    | 28  | 29  |
| 30  | 31                                  |  |                                      |                                       |     |     |

| AAUW Asheville Branch Board |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President                   | Rachel Sossoman                    |
| Pres. Elect                 | Pat Ashe                           |
| Co-VPs, Programs            | Barbara Robinson & Johanna Manasse |
| CoVPs Membership            | Susan Ikerd & Millie Massey        |
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| Secretary                   | Barbara Pressman                   |
| Equity                      | Eleanor Lane                       |
| Advocacy /Public Policy     | Kitty Schaller                     |
| ABTech/UNCA                 | Jan Huskey                         |
| GEM                         | Karen Mauro                        |
| STEM                        | **vacant**                         |
| Publicity                   | **vacant**                         |
| Co-SIG Coordinators         | Linda Stover & Jean Toxen          |
| Newsletter                  | Lynette Miller                     |
| Webmaster                   | Molly Keeney                       |

## From the Branch President Rachel Sossoman

At our November branch meeting, Johanna Manasse delivered an engaging presentation detailing what it means to be an AAUW Advocate. During group discussion following Johanna's presentation, members identified key concerns: early childhood education, gerrymandering and fair voting, ratification of the ERA, and healthcare access, including the sale of Mission to HCA. If you haven't already, I encourage you to read the Public Policy Primer email sent by the committee on November 19th, and take action! Our action is a catalyst for change, and it's the same catalyst that will ensure equity for women in Asheville in the years to come.

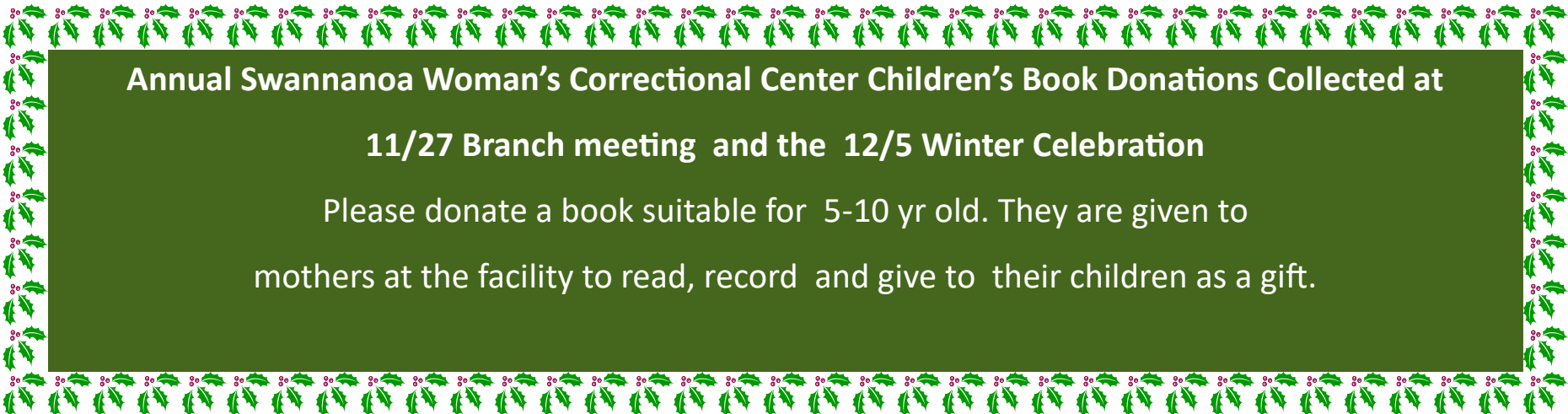
As many of you know, the co-founder of Ratify ERA-NC and the ERA-NC Alliance, Robbie Madden, is a member of our AAUW Asheville branch! We are an extraordinary branch of extraordinary women. What an honor to be a part of it. Just this month, the President of NC AAUW, Jane Terwillegar, reached out to all branch leaders encouraging all branches to join the ERA-NC Alliance and endorse the AAUW NC Resolution on ERA ratification. AAUW-Asheville is proud to

support this effort. I encourage everyone, if you haven't already, to learn about the ERA and its importance for women by visiting [www.era-nc.org](http://www.era-nc.org).

At our next branch meeting, Marta Alcala-Williams will speak to us about addressing childhood trauma and providing tools for equity in the Asheville Housing Authority community. We will also collect books for the women's correctional center at this meeting. Everyone is welcome to participate in this worthy effort by donating a book suitable for a 5-10 year old. These books are given to incarcerated mothers who then read, record, and give these books to their children. What a beautiful initiative. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on November 27th.

Sincerely,

Rachel Sossoman



### Annual Swannanoa Woman's Correctional Center Children's Book Donations Collected at 11/27 Branch meeting and the 12/5 Winter Celebration

Please donate a book suitable for 5-10 yr old. They are given to mothers at the facility to read, record and give to their children as a gift.

# Committee News

## Advocacy/Public Policy Kitty Schaller

If you've been interested to try out the A/PP Committee but the Friday morning meeting time didn't work for you - you are in luck! Come to the **Tuesday, December 11** meeting, as we work out a new monthly meeting day & time.

**The A/PP Committee meets December 11 (Tuesday) at 4:00 pm at the YWCA (185 S. French Broad St) - 2nd floor board room.** We welcome the stalwart committee, the new members or those newly interested in participating in public policy action.

New rule: The A/PP Committee decided when an important public policy concern arises that has not been previously chosen as a focus issue area, we will call for action. Such was the case *immediately* with concerns for the sale of Mission Health Systems (the hospital) to for profit Hospital Corporation of America.

We have issued a **Public Policy Primer by email blast**, requesting AAUW members act. (Check email on 11/16 from AAUW of Asheville.)

- **Write letters to the editor of our major papers:** Mountain Xpress and/or Asheville Citizen Times.
- **Secondly, write the Attorney General Josh Stein.**

**In both cases, ponder the launch of the Dogwood Health Trust (DHT) that will absorb the proceeds of the hospital sale, making it the largest per capita foundation in the USA!** Concerned WNC experts — near and far —urge restraint, transparency of the contract, diversity for DHT board, and **caution in the formation of the Trust.** With respect to the MHS/HCA contract, : slow down to review many issues, such as Why can't DHT be sued should it not conform to the contract? What steps must be taken to ensure the hospital's relationship with MAHEC for graduate medical education? Can we set a date certain, before which the rural hospitals will not close? And so many other questions.

- Speakers in recent meetings have warned, the decisions that are **"being made these days will will outlive us all — long after our names are forgotten."** This web of needs and decisions will affect our WNC residents for many generations to come. Let's help get right! AAUW has the concern — and the clout — let's use it. Also, a newly elected NC legislature may portend some action on our other policy areas: early ed, gerrymandering, ERA, and healthcare access.

Join us for the next steps. Questions or RSVP to Kitty Schaller, Chair — [kittyschaller@gmail.com](mailto:kittyschaller@gmail.com). or 828-777-1370

*"Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less."* Susan B Anthony

**Equal Rights Amendment - "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex"**

Authored by Alice Paul and approved in the U. S. Senate in 1972.  
One more state needed for ratification; North Carolina could be that state in 2019.

(Submitted by Linda Stover)

# Committee News

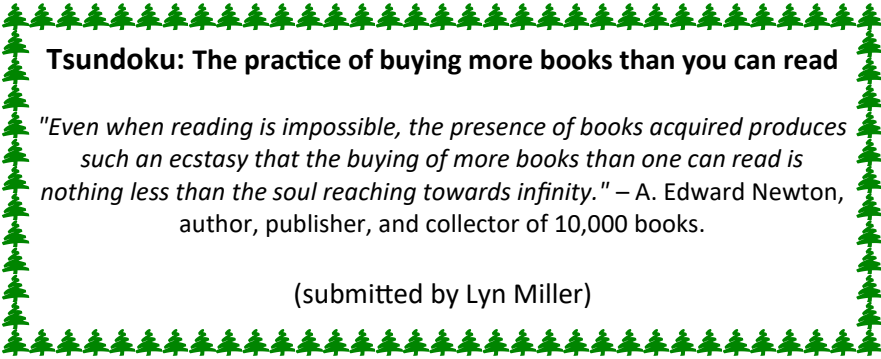
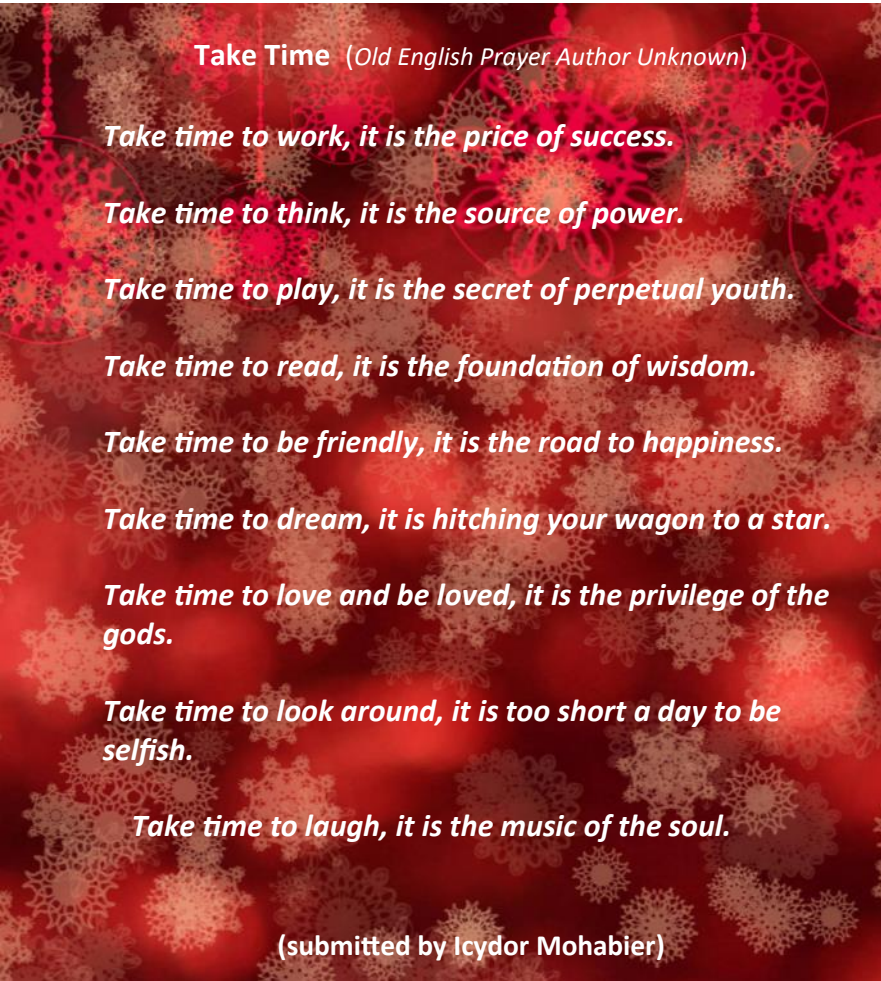
## Results of October Branch Meeting Group Participation

The members of the AAUW Public Policy and Advocacy Committee so appreciate your participation and response to the October Branch meeting. We knew in our hearts that advocacy was important to many of our fellow AAUWers and you proved it with your enthusiastic discussion, thoughtful responses to the information cards and demonstrated willingness to do your advocacy part. Sitting together made for a lively social time as well.

We tallied the response cards (33+) and noted the following: *Almost two-thirds of you listed healthcare and access to healthcare, voting rights and gerrymandering, and ERA passage as your top three concerns.* That's significant and will play a primary role in the PPA Committee's activities this coming year. Further, *two-thirds of you are willing to engage in one-time or one-task specific activities on behalf of those priorities.* Seven of you are willing to serve on the committee (THANK YOU) and 17 of you have or will sign up to be Two-Minute Activists at the national level. We are inspired and encouraged with the support you offer and plan to take you up on it when the occasion calls for it. We've already sent out two calls to action. Please open them and pass them on.

In fact, because the healthcare issue (Mission Health sale to HCA) is of paramount importance to all of western North Carolina over the next few weeks, we will be sending out updates and calls to action when really necessary and when a swift, active response on your part will carry the most import. That's when we are counting on you to click open the call email and ACT. Meanwhile, the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee continues its pursuit of educating, responding, promoting and calling on you as we support the national and local policy agendas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Johanna Manasse



## Committee News

*"In education, in marriage, in religion, in everything, disappointment is the lot of women. It shall be the business of my life to deepen this disappointment in every woman's heart until she bows down to it no longer." - Lucy Stone, suffragist*

(submitted by Roberta Madden)



**Books pile up  
worlds  
of timely tunes**

(Submitted by Juanita Spanogle)

### Equity Committee Eleanor Lane

*Equity Committee: Promoting Equity for ALL Women and Girls, with a special emphasis on those with less access to power and resources.*

#### **Moving Equity Forward in Asheville:**

**Support My Sistah Taught Me That's celebration of their new, permanent space at the Asheville Mall! Tickets for the Open House, \$10, provide funds for future programming and meals. December 1 from 7-10pm.**

*You heard the founder Leslie (Council) Lake speak at an AAUW branch meeting last year.*

Our committee focuses on education and direct action in the community. We have chosen to support the amazing **My Sistah Taught Me That (MSTMT)**, a developmental program designed to encourage, inspire, educate, and empower girls ages 11-19, that is making a real difference in our community. The girls have the chance to be exposed to local professional leaders who are dedicated to providing opportunities, open dialogue, and exposure to things they wouldn't routinely do, with the intent of helping them grow and mature.

**Purchase a ticket** for MSTMT's Open House on December 1 from 7-10pm: <http://www.mysistahtaughtmethat.org/schedule/2018/12/1/mdtmtmstmt-open-house>

We'd love for you to join us at our next Equity Committee meeting on **Dec. 3, 2018**. For more information contact Eleanor Lane, [elane@northstarlane.com](mailto:elane@northstarlane.com).

## G.E.M. Winter Celebration

*Because of rules from the Residence, space is limited to 50 participants and 40 cars, so RSVP early and plan to car-pool. Also, if you wish, please bring a gift for a foster child, aged 2 to 15, to be donated. Also, if you want to donate a children's book to the Swannanoa Women's Prison book program (where incarcerated mothers record a reading of a book for their children) and have not done by so then, you may bring that as well. Finally, our winter party "Happy Hour" will feature light refreshments. If you want wine or beer, please plan to bring some.*

**Interested in Helping  
UNC Asheville  
Students Succeed?  
Become a Coach!**

Click [HERE](#) to learn more

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



The Board of the GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville invites you  
and fellow branch members to an end-of-year

### Happy Hour and Winter Celebration

Wednesday, December 5

4:30 — 6:30

Western Governor's Residence

45 Patton Mountain Road



Bring the beverage of your choice — bubbly or otherwise — and  
join us for drinks and light refreshment

Space is limited, so **RSVP** early to  
Karen Mauro at [ktminnc@gmail.com](mailto:ktminnc@gmail.com)



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

### December Birthdays

Jeanne Dairaghi, 12/1

Verna McGaughey, 12/5

Eleanor Johnson, 12/7

Patsy Beyer, 12/8

Beverly Briedis, 12/12

Juili Hettiger-Nelson, 12/12

Kitty Schaller, 12/15

Faith Doyle, 12/17

Merrill Grinblat, 12/19

Ellen James, 12/21

Karin Ellis, 12/22

Lola Rooney, 12/24

Jane Hatley, 12/26

Gayle Mudge, 12/26

## G.E.M. Strudel Bakers submitted by Susan Gabel

Here are some of the strudel bakers who bid on my GEM offering - lots of fun!



Marcia Liebman, Anne Reid, and Hedy Sarbey



All I Want For Christmas Is A New...  
starring Oliver the Puppy  
For a guaranteed smile [Click here](#)  
(submitted by Mary Ellen Lewis)

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

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| December | SPY OF THE FIRST PERSON by Sam Shepard |
| February | BURNING BRIGHT by Ron Rash             |

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

| Date    | Book  | Location   |
|---------|---|--|
| Jan. 24 | <u><i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i></u> 2016.288p.<br>Trevor Noah  | Janet Graham<br>25 Wesley Drive, Apt. F 28803<br>285.2585 <a href="mailto:dickgiang1@gmail.com">dickgiang1@gmail.com</a>             |
| Feb. 28 | <u><i>The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels</i></u> 2018 402p.<br>Jon Meachum | Bette Feingold<br>65 Creekside Dr.<br>645.1974 c912.844.9002 <a href="mailto:bettefeingold@gmail.com">bettefeingold@gmail.com</a>    |
| Mar. 28 | <u><i>Varina.</i></u> 2018. 368p.<br>Charles Frazier  | Jane Lance<br>3001 Timber Trail 28804<br>505.8192 c208.569.5318 <a href="mailto:janlance@aol.com">janlance@aol.com</a>               |
| Apr. 25 | <u><i>Lab Girl.</i></u> 2016. 336p.<br>Hope Jahren  | Barbara Mayer<br>100 Wesley Drive, Apt. 706 28803<br>277.5319 <a href="mailto:bmayer8804@aol.com">bmayer8804@aol.com</a>             |
| May 23  | <u><i>Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening</i></u><br>2017. 304p.<br>Manal Al-Sharif,   | Jo Yates<br>15-H Wesley Drive, 28803<br>c828.275.4948 <a href="mailto:joyates4@gmail.com">joyates4@gmail.com</a>                     |
| June 27 | Book Selection  | Judy Balsanek<br>299 Whitfield Lane Weav 28787<br>c616.510.6073 <a href="mailto:jbalsanek@sbcglobal.net">jbalsanek@sbcglobal.net</a> |



## 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. We meet on **Friday October 12th at 10:00 to 11:30 am** — at the YWCA 183 S. French Broad St.

Potential new members, plus those interested in learning more about advocacy and public policy initiatives are welcome to join us.

**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)**

### 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: Susan Ikerd, [sandcikerd@gmail.com](mailto:sandcikerd@gmail.com)**

### 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: Rachel Sossaman [rachelmsossoman@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmsossoman@gmail.com)**

### 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 Adventures:** Planned trips and tours to regional places of interest and fun on the third Tuesday in the months of September, October, February, March, April and May. Locations, times and information will appear each month in the AAUW newsletter. Coordinator: Sherry Brown, [sherrysaerie@gmail.com](mailto:sherrysaerie@gmail.com)

**AAUW Upstreamers:** 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 [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)

*Please remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month's meeting so they can predict attendance*

**Hiking:** A group to enjoy the outdoors meeting on the second Thursday of each month. Hikes are tailored to meet the interests and wishes of the members. Hikes vary in level of difficulty and length. Dogs welcome on most hikes if participants agree. Contact Susan for location and time of hikes. Coordinator: **Susan Beachum**, [cabinflats2@gmail.com](mailto:cabinflats2@gmail.com), 860-912-6789

**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." Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at 4 Olde Eastwood Village Blvd, Suite #204, Asheville. For questions, contact **Leslie Apple**, [lifrey@gmail.com](mailto:lifrey@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 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 2018-19, meetings are scheduled for **Oct., Jan. March & May** 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.

## Calendar Details

### Lunch Bunch

See you in January!

**AAUW Adventures: Will resume in February 1919.**

## **THEATER**

Film Fans will meet on **Tuesday, December 11 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.** at the Famous Toastery, an eatery across from the Asheville Mall and around the corner from Whole Foods. They have a private room in the back which is perfect for us. Please plan to buy lunch. For questions contact

Beth Johnson [johnson1ea@earthlink.net](mailto:johnson1ea@earthlink.net).



### Financial FUNdamentals

Contact Leslie Apple, [lifrey@gmail.com](mailto:lifrey@gmail.com),  
303-946-8141

### Photo Group

*Have a wonderful Holiday season! - Photo Group  
will resume in January*

*To learn more, Visit our [Photo Group Website](#) or*

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



### World Affairs

World Affairs will meet **Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.** at the home of LaDean Peterson. The topic is World Trade and the U.S. Tariffs. Please contact LaDean to let her know you will be there at 828-650-3005 or at [LDJP704@gmail.com](mailto:LDJP704@gmail.com). All are welcome to join the discussion. If you have questions, please contact Eve Miller at [evehigginsmil-](mailto:evehigginsmil-)



### **2018—2019 AAUW Branch Meeting Programs**

Monthly branch meetings will be on Tuesdays, 11:30 AM til 1 PM unless otherwise specified, and held at the First Baptist Church, 5 Oak St. downtown Asheville unless otherwise specified.

(You can also find this info on pg. 6 of your Directory)

**Nov. 27, '18 Equity committee: speaker Marta Alcala-Williams on "Racial Equity and Adverse Childhood Experiences"**

Dec. '18---NO meeting

Jan. 22, 2019 STEM committee: speaker Cindy Stephens on "Nursing, STEM and Politics"

Feb. 26, '19 College Coordination committee: speaker Jan Huskey on "Workforce Dilemmas for Women"

March 26, '19 "Shape the Future" campaign and BPR/WCQS speaker Barbara Sayer, Program Director, on "Womens' Voices on the Radio"

April 23, '19 Elections to board and speaker from WNC Women magazine, editor Sandi Tomlin-Sutker on "Women in Business"

May 17, '19 Field Trip Surprise----lunch at local restaurant and visit-location to be announced Feb. 2019