



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
 and
[FACEBOOK](#)

FEBRUARY 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Equity 1pm CAB 4:30	5 Board Mtg. 3:30 Film Buds 5:30	6 <i>Lunch Bunch RSVP deadline - noon</i>	7	8 Lunch Bunch 11:30	9
10	11	12	13 Advocacy/PP 11:30	14 Film Fans 12pm	15	16
17	18	19 Branch Mtg Equi-Tea 11:30	20 <i>March News- letter Deadline</i>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Tea Time Books 2pm	New Orleans Mardi Gras Brunch, Sunday, March 3. Contact Jeanne Smolkin jsmolkin@gmail.com	

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
Equity	Eleanor Lane
Advocacy /Public Policy	Kitty Schaller & Johanna Manasse
ABTech/UNCA	Jan Huskey
GEM	Karen Mauro
STEM	Susan Beachum
Publicity	**vacant**
Co-SIG Coordinators	Linda Stover & Jean Toxen
Newsletter	Lynette Miller
Webmaster	Molly Keeney

From the Branch President Rachel Sossoman



With a new year comes new opportunity. There's plenty of opportunity for each of us in AAUW-Asheville, and I hope you will join me in seizing it.

As you know, AAUW-Asheville leadership elections are held at our annual meeting in April. I can't think of a greater opportunity to impact powerful change than through leadership service to AAUW-Asheville on the board of directors. This is an opportunity to carry a torch that has been carried by women before us for over a century now. If you are reading this and considering serving on the board, I urge you to seize that opportunity. It is an honor, a privilege, and a joy. Look for information in the coming days from the nominating committee, and take steps to ensure your name is on our next ballot.

On January 20th, several of us seized the opportunity to march in the third annual Women's March on Asheville. We were physically cold, but our spirits could not be dampened. One thing is certain: Our resolve for equity is stronger than the fiercest of storms, and that same resolve will fortify AAUW-Asheville for many years to come, seeing us through the fiercest of storms to the sunshine of justice for women on the other side. Until that day, we march on.

Sincerely yours,
Rachel Sossoman



February Branch Meeting

WHAT WILL CHANGES TO TITLE IX MEAN TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY?

Join our own **Jan Huskey**, AAUW Branch College Coordinator, and **Dr. Jill Moffitt**, UNC-A Title IX Coordinator, in an interactive session on the impact of US Department of Education proposed changes on sexual harassment definitions and the reduction of accountability for colleges in investigating potential harassment incidents.



Join us for a spot of tea, sweets and savories at UNC-A in the **Alumni Hall at Highsmith Student Union**. BYO china teacup or we will provide one. Visit with student AAUW potential members & scholarship recipients and build connections. \$10 for sweets & tea.

Reserve with Johanna Manasse at 708.224.7199 or jvm795@gmail.com by Feb 14. Then she'll send you a link to get the free parking permit (which has to be displayed on your dashboard.) Because we encourage carpooling, let us know when you reserve if you'd like to be in the car pool.

Committee News Advocacy/Public Policy Kitty Schaller & Johanna Manasse

Advocacy & Public Policy Committee Kitty Schaller & Johanna Manasse

At the January 9 meeting of the A/PP Committee, we established a firm time for subsequent meetings. We will meet the **second Wednesday of each month from 11:30AM-1PM** at the YWCA Board Room. So mark **February 13** on your calendar now and plan to join us. You are welcome to attend anytime. Bring a lunch and your enthusiasm as we pursue our focus issues. RSVP to Johanna (jvm795@gmail.com) or Kitty (kittyschaller@gmail.com). We covered an abundance of topics at the January meeting with discussion centering on the status of the ERA in NC and VA, the pending sale of Mission Hospital with numerous community concerns, determining how to proceed on the gerrymandering/fair vote concerns in conjunction with other groups, engaging all our members in action steps, addressing the dearth of childcare options within Buncombe County, and aligning our activities with national AAUW policies. Of particular importance:

The ERA Bill will be reintroduced by lawmakers on March 5. Talk it up to everyone you know and call your representatives. Watch for an alert closer to the day. In the meantime, in Virginia there is movement in their legislature to move the bill out of committee. Even though it is out of our state, you can call their legislators to promote passage. Details are available via www.era-nc.org and while on their website, join up as an individual. Our branch has now officially done so as an organization!

We reviewed national AAUW Policy Priorities with proposed changes and noted that early childhood education is not specifically addressed. Consequently, Pat Ashe submitted commentary requesting inclusion of pre-K education access as we consider it of primary import in ensuring access to economic equity for women. We will continue to review and align with national policies where appropriate.

Of course we discussed the status of the Mission Hospital sale. Kitty Schaller expressed grave concerns about the future of MAHEC since HCA has indicat-

ed no intent to fund that component. Meanwhile, Attorney General Stein has approved the sale, but only after negotiating significant changes for rural medical services, the makeup of the Dogwood Board and the establishment of an external 'watchdog' to ensure HCA compliance. He stated that public commentary and contacts to his office were significant in making changes to the contract. The sale will be in effect by the time you read this.

Gerrymandering issues are meandering through the legal system, coming up in May, but meanwhile we will participate with other agencies at the local level as needed. Watch for an PPP Alert on assisting with getting voter ID cards to our more rural areas with a travelling ID printing machine.

There's more, but you'll have to come to our meetings to find out. Join us **February 13 at 11:30AM at the YWCA!**

AAUW branch joins ERA-NC Alliance; you can join too!

With victory in sight for the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, our branch recently became a member organization of the ERA-NC Alliance. We join eight of the other 17 NC branches in doing so.

The AAUW of NC is a lead organization of this coalition of groups and individuals. You are invited to become an individual member by visiting the website: <https://www.era-nc.org/join-us/>

Individual dues are \$35 a year, with an optional sliding scale.

Committee News

Equity Committee Eleanor Lane

Equity Committee: Promoting Equity for ALL Women and Girls, especially women and girls with less access to power and resources.

What Does the Word “Equity” Mean?

From the City of Asheville Office of Equity & Inclusion online:

“To operate with equity means there is first an understanding that everyone does not begin from the same place. Conditions, access and opportunities differ; therefore, what is just and fair looks different based upon conditions, access and opportunities. Equity looks at outcomes.”

From *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Sept.15, 2016)

“ It is about each of us getting what we need to survive or succeed—access to opportunity, networks, resources, and supports—based on where we are and where we want to go.”

Knowing the Score: Disparities in Buncombe County Schools

White students in grades 3-8 were 2.2 times more likely to score “Career and College Ready” on end-of-grade exams than Black students. (2017-2018)

Black students were 4.2 times more likely than White students to receive a short-term suspension. (2016-2017)

Black students were 5 times more likely than white youth to be referred to juvenile delinquency court. (2017)

(Source: Youth Justice Project of the Southern Coalition of Social Justice)

We’d love for you to join our next Equity Committee meeting on **February 4**. For more information contact **Eleanor Lane**, elane@northstarlane.com.

Women in S.T.E.M



You’ve heard of the Hubble Telescope, but do you know who the *Mother* of the Hubble Telescope was?

Dr. Nancy Grace Roman was NASA’s first Chief Astronomer and was celebrated as a trailblazer for female scientists . But she was perhaps most associated as the driving force behind the Hubble Space Telescope, the first major telescope to be sent into space for the purpose of gathering photographs of and data from the universe. Hubble is widely considered to have yielded the most significant astronomical observations since Galileo began using a telescope in the early 1600s.

Dr. Roman died Dec. 25 at a hospital in Germantown, Md. She was 93, and a member of AAUW.

UNC-ASHEVILLE COACHING FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM

Last month we discussed the key issues that can be barriers to success for college students.

- Growing up with social media
- Limited resilience to deal with problems
- Unable to problem solve strategies to cope
- Not prepared to be adults

Of the four listed above, **Growing up with social media** is a recent phenomenon. It has changed the way humans communicate with each other. For college students this can mean spending the majority of their time on line, which takes away from studying or having face to face relationships with other students.

The other three barriers relate to how students were supported growing up. There is a new parenting phenom called **lawnmower parents**. Parents' behavior can be described as sheltering their children from adversity, struggle or failure.

Unfortunately this type of parenting can have consequences when their children arrive at college.

This brings us back to the coaching program at UNC-A. It was developed to offer guidance to students as to:

- making connections other than online
- building skills to problem solve
- connect them with all the resources available at the University.

Over the next few months I will keep you informed as to the branch's experience with the program.

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

Contact Jan Huskey,
huskeyjanl@charter.net

Membership Directories

There are still several dozen directories available for members who have not had a chance to pick one up at a branch or SIG meeting. If you have not received yours and would like one, please contact [Susan Ikerd](#) or [Millie Massie](#).

GEM Fund Karen Mauro

We start the New Year with a Board Meeting on January 22nd at 9:30am at the First Baptist Church. Please feel free to attend.

We have already had our first meeting of the Fundraiser Committee. Start thinking if you want to hold an event, class or outing as a fundraiser item, we would love to hear from you. Our event will be at Fernhurst on June 2nd at 4pm. Mark your calendar.

Earlier in January, Jeanne Smolkin, GEM's treasurer, Susan Ikerd, GEM's College Liaison and I met with the 2 universities, AB Tech and UNCA, to whom we give scholarships. They both remarked how grateful they and the students were for our ongoing support. They confirmed that the GEM scholars are more likely to be appreciative of the opportunity afforded to them, which was gratifying to hear. They mentioned that those women who have had an interruption in their education have a more difficult time finding and receiving scholarships and so the GEM funds are very welcome. We are happy we can be of help.

Estate planning is an important means for donating to the GEM Fund. In 2010 we set up The Beatrice Rice Wells Legacy Society to receive such donations; it currently has 17 members who designated GEM as a beneficiary in their wills. We have added a new member in January, Pat Hankinson. Welcome and thank you.

We have updated our information on the AAUW –Asheville Webpage. Always remember to check this page for any GEM news and, of course, for information on AAUW Asheville goings on. AAUW also has a Facebook page on which GEM also shares information. Make sure to check it out and like it so you can take advantage of ongoing events. <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWinAsheville/>

We hope your year has gotten off to a grand start and look forward to seeing all of you at the branch meetings and the Fundraiser in June.



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

February Birthdays

2/4 Lynn Harmon

2/4 Anne Reis

2/5 Maria Roloff

2/7 Carol Culler

2/7 Millie Massey

2/7 Frances Myers

2/10 Betty Paine

2/14 Carol Samsky

2/16 Nini Abbott

2/18 Betty Letzig

2/23 Jayne Gallinger

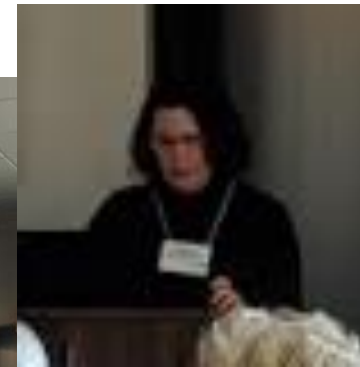
2/24 Molly Keeney

2/25 Marion Mayfield-Johnson

Branch Photos



LUNCH BUNCH January 11, at BlackBird Restaurant, From Left: Kitty McKeithen, Mary Ellen Lewis, Karin Ellis, Millie Massey, Wendy Haner, Linda Nicodemus, Front R. Linda Devenish



January 22 Branch Meeting at The Toastery,
Speaker : AAUW member Cindy Stephens



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

February BURNING BRIGHT by Ron Rash

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

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

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 monthly at the YWCA 183 S. French Broad St. – second Wednesdays at 11:30 am. Potential new members, plus those interested in learning more about advocacy and public policy initiatives are welcome to join us.

Contact: Johanna Manasse at jvm795@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

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

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

Equity Committee

We want to promote equity for ALL women and girls, with a special focus on 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** (jtoxen@bellsouth.net; 404-784-0603) or **Linda Stover** (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

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 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

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, 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, 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

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 lcmlillerstudio@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 2018-19, meetings are scheduled for **Oct., Jan. March & May** at 2 p.m. Please contact **Eve Miller** (evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com or [828-299-8107](tel:828-299-8107)) for additional information.

Calendar Details

Equity Committee Monday Feb. 4, 1pm, contact Eleanor Lane elane@northstarlane.com for more info

Board Mtg Tuesday Feb. 5, 3:30-5, board room at 1201 Patton Avenue on the 2nd floor. Contact Rachel Sossoman, rachelsossoman@gmail.com



LUNCH BUNCH - Friday, February 8, 11:30am The **Corner Kitchen**, 3 Boston Way, Biltmore Village, Asheville. *Deadline for reservations Wed. Feb. 6 noon.* Contact Sherry Brown, 828-357-8455 or sherrysaerie@gmail.com

FILM FANS

Please note that our Film Fans discussions have been changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays.

Therefore, Film Fans will meet on **THURSDAY, February 14 (Valentine's Day)** 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.



Financial FUNDamentals

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

Photo Group

I'll be out of town for our regularly scheduled meeting - see you in March!

To learn more, Visit our [Photo Group Website](#) or contact Lynette Miller, LCMillerStudio@gmail.com

International Dining - New Orleans Mardi Gras Brunch,

Sunday, March 3. Contact Jeanne Smolkin jsmolkin@gmail.com



Next World Affairs

World Affairs will meet at 2 p.m. on **March 21** at the home of Lynn Hill to discuss Migration. Please contact

Lynn at (828) 298-4431 or via email at JBWH31@gmail.com to let her know if you will be there. Other questions to Eve Miller, evhigginsmiller7@gmail.com.

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)

Feb. 19, '19 Equi-Tea 4:30--6 at UNC-A , Speaker Jan Husky to discuss "Impact of Proposed Changes to Title IX on All Women"

March 26, '19 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