

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

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

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		I	2	3	4	5
6	7 Equity 10am	8 Film Buds 5:30 Lunch Bunch RSVP Deadline-noon- 1/9	9 Advocacy/PP - 11:30am YWCA Financial FUN. 5:30	I0 We've Moved from Tuesday! Film Fans I2pm	II <u>Lunch</u> Bunch II:30	12
13	14	15	16	World Affairs 2pm	18	19
20 Newsletter deadline	21	22 <u>Branch Mtg.</u> 11:30	23 <u>Photo</u> <u>Group Ipm</u> <u>(tentatively)</u>	24 <u>Tea Time</u> Book Group 2pm	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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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			
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

For many of us, the holiday season is a time for gathering with loved ones and, with a new year on the horizon, making resolutions for the coming year. It is also a time for reflecting on the past year. What a year 2018 has been for our branch. Together, we successfully launched a mentoring initiative in conjunction with UNC Asheville; increased the number and amount of scholarships through the GEM fund; resolved to support the ERA-NC Alliance's mission to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina; and so much more. Truly, there are too many achievements to name in a single newsletter. We are a mighty force, working together to impact change. The best part is how much fun we have doing it!

This year has been a joy. It has entailed some hard work, but it has been a joy. I cannot wait to see what 2019 has in store for our branch, and for the cause that unites us all together. In the meantime, I wish you peace and abundant blessings during this holiday season.

Sincerely yours, Rachel Sossoman

AAUW BRANCH MEETING JANUARY 22 - SAVE THE DATE----FOR "TOAST" AND A STIMULATING STEM TALK

The January branch meeting will be at the "FAMOUS TOASTERY" restaurant, at the usual time of 11:30 til 1 PM.









AAUW member Cindy Stephens will present "Nursing, STEM, and Politics" to emphasize the need for STEM study and inclusion by not only our scholarship recipients, but all us in our daily life.

Check your email on Monday, January 7th for the opening of reservations, and the menu for lunch. Each member will order their choice of meal at the time of reservation, which they will pay for at the restaurant the day of the meeting.

<u>Directions - The "Famous Toastery" restaurant</u> is easy to get to, and centrally located at 4 So. Tunnel Rd., across from Asheville Mall, on the left end of the Whole foods Market strip mall. We will be in a dedicated, nicely appointed room, and many of us who've eaten there will vouch for the food.

Barbara Robinson and Johanna Manasse, co-VPs, Programs

Membership Susan Ikerd and Millie Massey

Welcome New Members!

Brenda Scott, PhD

51 Maple Ridge Lane Asheville NC 28806 910-262-8513 (c)

drbrendascott@charter.net

Birthday: 11/03

Education:

BA (1976) and MA (2979), UNC Greensboro, Psychology

PhD, NC State Univ (1989) Engineering Psychology

Interested in STEM, Public Policy/Advocacy, Film Buds/Fans, CAB/Teatime book groups, Lunch Bunch, Upstreamers, International Dining, Membership

Linda Fitzhugh

1 Dreambird Dr, Leicester, NC 28748

208-250-1040

lindaf@eggsamerica.com

Birthday: 4/26

Education:

BS, UNC Greensboro (1970), Home Economics

Interested in Lunch Bunch, GEM

Laura Nugent (referred by Linda Beltran)

40 Gertrude PI Apt 4 Asheville NC 28801 845-826-5274 (cell)

Birthday: Oct 3

Education:

AAS (1959), Fashion Institute of Technology, Fashion Design

BGS (1984), Furman University, Business MS (2010), Fordham University, Adult Education

Interested in: STEM, YWCA Drop in, UNCA, Equity/Diversity, Public Policy/Advocacy, Film Buds,Fans, CAB/tea time book groups. Lunch Bunch, International Dining, World Affairs, Financial FUNdamentals. Membership

Women in S.T.E.M

Decades after she helped develop Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, 87-year-old **Gladys West** has received one of the Air Force space program's highest distinctions.

West was inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile

Pioneers Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. The induction is one of the Space Command's highest honors.

Dr. West worked among a small group of women on computing for the U.S. military in the 1950s and 1960s, just before the era when the military began to usher in a wave of electronic systems.



Gladys West

That group was later depicted in the movie "Hidden Figures."

Early in her career, West contributed to an astronomical study that proved the regularity of Pluto's rotation relative to Neptune. From the mid-1970s through the 1980s, she programmed a computer to come up with a superaccurate model of the Earth, accounting for variations in the planet's shape caused by gravitational, tidal, and other forces. This model laid the groundwork for the Global Positioning System (GPS) that's ubiquitous in the military, smartphones, and cars today.

West retired from the military in 1998, but she hasn't stopped her pursuit of knowledge. In 2018, she completed her Ph.D. through a remote program with Virginia Tech!

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.

Knowing the Score: Disparities in Buncombe County

Percentage of people living without minimum level of resources necessary to meet the basic expenses of a family unit (2012-2016):

Latinx residents: 36.4%
Black residents: 27.2%
White residents: 12.3%
Life expectancy (2014-2016):

Black residents: 73.8 years White residents: 79.2 years

In our state: Women are 20% more likely than men to experience living without resources to cover basic expenses; women of color are more than twice as likely as white women to experience living without resources to cover basic expenses.

Source: North Carolina Justice Center, BTC reports, Handout: Economic Snapshot, May 2018, and https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/people-living-in-poverty-in-north-carolina/ November 2018

Moving Equity Forward in Asheville and WNC: CoThinkk: Community Collaboration, Commitment

"CoThinkk is a giving circle that invests its time, talent and treasure to accelerate positive changes in communities of color in Asheville and Western North Carolina." Their model is grounded in "trust building and authentic collaboration;" "close-knit relationships and networks... define 'scale;'" and "the deeper, more connected, authentic, aligned and coordinated, the better the impact." In 2018, they gave \$36,000 in grant funds. Read more about this amazing organization, which expands access to resources for WNC leaders of color: https://cothinkk.org.

We'd love for you to join us at our Equity Committee at our next meeting on

January 7, 2019, 10am. For more information contact Eleanor Lane, elane@northstarlane.com.



November Branch meeting speaker Marta Alcala-Williams (L) & Equity Committee Chair Eleanor Lane (3rd from L)

Committee News Advocacy/Public Policy Kitty Schaller & Johanna Manasse

<u>Good News:</u> Johanna Manasse has formally accepted to be Co-Chair of the Advocacy/Public Policy Committee, along with Kitty Schaller. Welcome Johanna!

If you've been curious about the A/PP Committee, we want to hear from you! Email us or attend the meeting to share your views, as we settle on a new meeting day/time. In January, we'll try meeting over the noontime:

The A/PP Committee meets <u>January 9 (Wednesday)</u> at <u>11:30</u> 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 and advocacy. Please RSVP to Kitty Schaller or Johanna Manasse, so we'll be ready for you, sending agenda, arranging space and materials. And if you'd like to chat about your questions or ideas – just let us know by email and we'll call you.

Point Person(s) keep up with each of our focus issues – always looking for more help to stay informed and ready to Take Action! The Point Persons are listed below.

On January 9, we'll discuss the several bills or actions that are likely to come to NC General Assembly next year when it reconvenes in February 2019, and following:

- Fair Vote Bill (against gerrymandering) offered by the League of Women Voters and promoted by other organizations (Kitty McKeithen)
- The ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) which will be reintroduced by lawmakers on March 5.
 The ERA Alliance which AAUW joined is pivotal, as we hope NC will be the final state to ratify this decades-long decision. It will finally guarantee equality for women we don't have it yet! (Robbie Madden, Linda Stover, Johanna Manasse)
- Possibly: Close the Healthcare Coverage Gap (expand Medicaid). There is interest on both sides of the aisle. (Pat Ashe & Kitty Schaller)
- And Emerging Issue: Mission Health System Sale to HCA. Coalitions of several sorts are
 working to ensure the Dogwood Health Trust is formed fairly and with transparency, and
 that AG Josh Stein hears from an interested, active population in WNC on the many issues
 that surround this critical healthcare issue. (Kitty Schaller)
- Early Childhood Education no action is likely, but we always keep our ears to the ground! (Carol Culler)

You are welcome to join us – Do RSVP to Kitty Schaller (<u>kittyschaller@gmail.com</u>) or Johanna Manasse (<u>jvm795@gmail.com</u>)

Pass It On: A Gift of Equity for Your Family and Friends

We often fail to notice significant gifts available to us from our own organization. The national AAUW has a free online course entitled Work Smart which trains the participant in techniques around salary negotiations and pay equity. With a goal of having a million women trained via the program, AAUW has made the one-hour online course FREE to anyone. I have two working daughters and a granddaughter who just started her first post-college job, as well as countless nieces and friends who are working women. I gifted them the information about the free course and encouraged them to be empowered. You can do the same and take the course yourself too. Tell your extended family members to go to salary.aauw.org or go to courses.aauw.org to register. They don't have to be AAUW members nor will they be forced to join (though they may be so impressed with the organization that they sign up!) If each of us forwards the course information to twenty women, in short order 20 million women will have received training that will impact their financial futures immeasurably. Pass it on. We can do it.

Submitted by Johanna Manasse On behalf of the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." -Rosalynn Carter

Committee News UNCA Update Jan Huskey

UNC-Asheville Coach for Success Program

(First of 2 articles)

What are the reasons college students have trouble adjusting to college?

Do you know? Before continuing to read this article, jot down your answers to the question above.

Twelve Asheville AAUW branch members attended training sessions this fall to become coaches for UNC-Asheville Coach for Success Program. We were joined by two interested non members. Thanks to Johanna Manasse for recruiting her husband Robert and his friend Nick.

Sessions were conducted by Robert Straub. Robert heads the university's International Students Services. The AAUW coaches will begin coaching students at the start of UNCA'S second semester in January 2019. Their responsibilities include:

- Working with students to develop appropriate action plans regarding personal, social, co-curricular and academic support issues. Coaches will connect students to relevant campus resources through direct referrals and personal connections.
- Being committed to helping students persist and succeed in their college experience. Coaches will understand the demands and challenges that students may face while attending the university.

So why is it hard for students to adjust to college these days? Reasons include:

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

Are these the reasons you had jotted down? Next month we will explore the adjustments issues in depth. If you have any comments as to adjustment concerns or would like to become a coach, please let me know.

Huskeyjanl@charter.net

(pictures from the first training sessions on the following page)

UNC Asheville
Students Succeed?
Become a Coach!

Click **HERE** to learn more

Or contact Jan Huskey, huskeyjanl@charter.net

Jan Huskey

UNC-Asheville Coach for Success Program

Pictures from the first training sessions. Attendees included:

Pat Ashe, Johanna Manasse, Robert Manasse, Wendy Haner, Carol Culler, Linda Beltran, Jan Huskey and Robert Straub.









GEM Fund Karen Mauro

Thank you to all who attended the Holiday celebration at the WNC Governor's residence. The snow added a sense of cheer and wonder to the occasion. We were able to support the Swannanoa Women's Prison Book Collection program by bringing an additional 25+ books. We also brought bundles of toys for the Mix 96.5 Christmas Is For Kids project run by Tammy Jones. We had so much fun, we will be revisiting next year.

We start the New Year with a Board Meeting on January 22nd at the First Baptist Church. Please feel free to attend. Also if anyone is interested in a Board position on The GEM Fund, we have an opening for the 2019-20 year. Please contact Carol Smith at carolasmith49@gmail.com if you have an interest.

In January, we will begin planning our Fundraiser to be held in June at Fernihurst. If you want to be on the committee, please contact Karen Mauro at 828 891 5963. Also start thinking if you want to hold an event, class or outing as a fundraiser item, we would love to hear from you.

An easy and painless way to give to GEM is through Amazon's "Amazon Smile" program, whereby, for every purchase you make on Amazon, GEM receives .05% of the transaction amount. To select GEM as your charity of choice, log on to smile.amazon.com. There you may select GEM by entering "GEM Fund" in the charity search window. Once selected, the system will remember your choice and every time you purchase anything on Amazon a portion will be contributed to GEM.

The Fall/Winter copy of the GEM Chips that went out on 11/29 serves as a reminder as to why we contribute to GEM. There are so many stories of women who GEM has helped. Thanks to all of you who continue to support our organization.

The GEM Fund Karen Mauro, President



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

January Birthdays

1/3 Nancy Donnelly

1/6 Karen Milnes

1/8 Kitty McKeithen

1/8 Susan Pierce

1/8 Nancy Stancil

1/9 Cindy Stephens

1/11 Judy Garner

1/13 Lina Evans

1/17 Rachel Sossoman

1/19 Shannon Earle

1/21 Alice Doner

1/21 Melissa Maranville

1/22 Pat Argue

1/23 Lynn Hill

1/24 Bette Feingold

1/24 Linda Fromson

1/24 Terry Peters

1/26 Bobbi Blake

1/29 Deborah Fulton-Helmer

1/31 Gloria Rabun

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

(No JANUARY MEETING)

February	BURNING BRIGHT by Ron Rash	
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Tea Time Book Club 2018-19 Selections 4th Thursdays at 2 Juanita Spanogle

Date	Book	Location		
Jan. 24	Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood 2016.288p.	Janet Graham 25 Wesley Drive, Apt. F 28803		
	Trevor Noah	285.2585 <u>dickgjang1@gmail.com</u>		
Feb. 28	The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels 2018 402p. Jon Meachum	Bette Feingold 65 Creekside Dr. 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. 304р.	15-H Wesley Drive, 28803		
	Manal Al-Sharif,	c828.275.4948 joyates4@gmail.com		
June 27		Judy Balsanek		
	Book Selection	299 Whitfield Lane Weav 28787		
		c616.510.6073 <u>jbalsanek@sbcglobal.net</u>		

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. - this next month, on January 9 (Wednesday) at 11:30 am. The "time it is a changin'! Stay tuned or call us. 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 (itoxen@bellsouth.net; 404-784-0603) or Linda Stover (lindalstover@gmail.com; 704-905-6530)

<u>AAUW Adventures:</u> Planned trips and tours to regional places of intereset 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

<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 baritar16@gmail.com 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 slark1@att.net. Participants bring pot-luck supper.

<u>Film Fans:</u> 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 <u>JOHNSON1ea@earthlink.net</u>

Please remember to notify the hostess or group leader if you plan to attend this month's meeting so they can predict attendance <u>Hiking:</u> 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

<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, 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 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 sherrysaerie@gmail.com 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 Icmillerstudio@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 ispanogle@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 (evehigginsmiller7@gmail.com or 828-299-8107) for additional information.

Calendar Details



LUNCH BUNCH - Jan. 11, Friday, 11:30am at **The Blackbird Restaurant**, in the Aloft Hotel, 47 Biltmore Ave., Asheville

Deadline for reservations Wed. Jan 9, noon.

Contact Sherry Brown - sherrysaerie@gmail.com, or 357-8455

Parking in Aloft Hotel garage

AAUW Adventures: Will resume in February



Financial FUNdamentals

Contact Leslie Apple, <u>lifrey@gmail.com</u>, 303-946-8141

Photo Group

Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 23

To learn more, Visit our <u>Photo Group Website</u> or

contact Lynette Miller, 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. All are welcome to join the discussion. If you have questions, please contact Eve Miller at evehigginsmiller7@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)

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 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