



GEM CHIPS, SPRING 2019

AAUW ASHEVILLE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT, INC

SPRING 2019

GEM Celebrates Seventeen Years of Supporting Higher Education for Women in Buncombe County

2019 marks the **seventeenth anniversary** of the GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville. Thanks to the generosity of the AAUW Asheville family and other GEM friends and business partners, the GEM Board allocated funds for 15 scholarships for the coming 2019-20 academic school year: eight to UNCA and seven to A-B Tech. At its founding in 2002, GEM awarded a single scholarship to A-B Tech for \$500 and one scholarship to UNCA for \$250. Both the size and number of scholarships have grown significantly since then. As of May 1, 2019, GEM has awarded 159 scholarships totaling almost \$190,000. Scholarships for A-B Tech students typically provide \$1000 to \$1500 and scholarships for UNCA students can be as much as \$2,000 per semester. From the initial seed money of \$500 provided by the Asheville branch of AAUW, total assets for the GEM Fund surpassed \$300,000 as of May 1, 2019, and GEM, under the leadership and guidance of Karen Mauro, is ahead of schedule in raising sufficient funds to begin drawing on the endowment account to actively fund new scholarships. Now that the GEM Fund is maturing, GEM Board Scholarship Liaison Susan Ikerd is working closely with both schools to more formally organize and institutionalize our scholarship distribution process for now and the years to come.

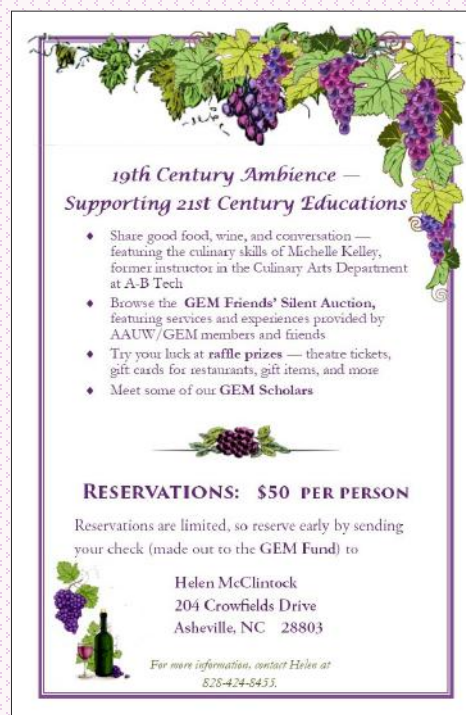
For those of you new to our Asheville branch of AAUW, please know that the **GEM Fund**, unique to our branch, is the philanthropic arm of AAUW Asheville, with the sole purpose of raising funds for a permanent endowment and active undergraduate scholarship fund for women whose college educations have been interrupted or delayed. In a typical year, our scholars range in age from 23 to 53. Some are single mothers, some have already raised a family and now want to address their own educational dreams, others are discovering for the first time how important an education can be. What they all have in common is the desire to better their lives and those of their families through education. Read their words on pages 3—9. The GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville helps them realize these dreams. These scholarships are funded solely by the amazing generosity of the AAUW Asheville family, friends, and local business partners.

Each spring GEM sponsors an annual **Spring Fund Drive**, during which there are multiple giving options, and culminating in the GEM Fundraiser Party, always held the first Sunday in June, this year on June 2, at the historic Fernhurst mansion on the A-B Tech campus. For more information, see pages 10-12.

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Fundraiser invitations have been mailed.
For more information on the Spring Fund Drive and party, see pages 10—12.



Honor the Birthdays of Friends and Family with a GEM “Dollars for Scholars” Birthday Card!

This is the sixth year of GEM’s Birthday “Dollars for Scholars” program, the brainchild of GEM board member Jeanne Smolkin. Each month Jeanne sends out, via email, a list of AAUW Asheville members with birthdays that month. Click on “Begin Survey” and simply click the boxes by the names of the members to whom you’d like to send a card. Lois Sutton will then send a special GEM birthday card to your named recipient(s). Cards are designed and printed by branch member Alice Doner. Alice notes that, even though she designs and creates the photograph for the cards, she still is thrilled to receive her own card from GEM and branch friends.



Proceeds go to fund GEM scholarships and each the year brings in several thousand dollars. If you haven’t yet participated in the program, please consider starting now. The recommended contribution is \$10 per recipient, but all donations are gratefully accepted. This is a great way to honor your friends and family and, at the same time, contribute to making higher education possible for women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed — our GEM scholars.

*This year's Spring
Fund Drive celebrates
"Wine & Spirits" —
the warmth and
comradery of wine and
the spirit of all our
GEM Scholars*



2019 marks our seventeenth year, an anniversary which tradition suggests is devoted to "Wine & Spirits." We chose this traditional wedding salute as applicable to GEM: "wine" because, for millennia, it has been a symbol of the harvest, growth, warmth, and celebration; and "spirits" because this year we offer a special toast to the spirit of all our GEM scholars — past, present, and future — and to those who make their dreams possible: our GEM donors.



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM

This newsletter contains lots of information about our upcoming fundraiser at the Fernhurst Mansion, the December celebration, and more GEM news. But what is most important is the reason we come together at these events and the reason we give throughout the year: our GEM Scholars. For the current 2018-19 academic year, GEM awarded a record 33 scholarships. About half of these were funded by monies held over from the previous year, when A-B Tech was unable to fill all the allotted scholarship slots. Improvements in the selection and distribution process resulted in all of the funds for both years being distributed for the 2018-19 school year. Following are some excerpts from letters from this year's outstanding group of women:

A-B TECH GEM SCHOLARS



Chelsea Armstrong

Chelsea currently works at the VA medical center and hopes to earn a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She writes, "Being able to go to college has been a long dream of mine and I want you to know you're helping it come true with selecting me; your scholarship is a great encouragement. Being able to show my family, especially my 13-year old, that hard work and dedication always will pay off if you apply yourself and seeking college is a must!"



Tiffany Close

Tiffany is working toward a degree in Multi Media Technologies, having completed her first year before receiving a GEM scholarship. She writes, "I am paving a way for my children. This [scholarship] impacts my success rate and my life balance as a single mother as I focus on school and rebuilding my life after hardship. . . . When I graduate . . . I intend to already have hit the ground running."



Cathy Crook

Cathy writes, "As a woman returning to school and as the mother of a young girl whom I hope to inspire, I am honored to have been chosen for this scholarship. I have been working toward a career in Occupational Therapy for several years and I am thrilled to be joining the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at A-B Tech. This scholarship will assist my daughter and me in supporting ourselves while I complete this program. On completion, I plan to obtain employment in direct service to those with developmental disabilities and I hope to continue my education to become an Occupational Therapist specializing in research and stroke rehabilitation."



Cassandra Davis

Cassandra is working on getting certification in Medical Office Administration after having to change her career as a CAN because of an injury. She wants to continue to help people and writes "I am a single mother to an 11-year old...and am determined to show my daughter that you can have whatever you truly desire as long as you put the work forth and the effort. . . . I plan to get my Associates' degree and then go on to get my Bachelors'. . . . I will continue to work as a teacher teaching mentally disable adults at a day program while I go to school."



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.



As required by the national organization of AAUW, GEM has become an independent affiliate of AAUW national. Accordingly, the official new name of GEM is

The American Association of University Women: the GEM Fund — AAUW Asheville Scholarship Endowment, Inc.

**AAUW —
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17 YEARS
SUPPORTING
HIGHER EDUCATION
FOR WORTHY
WOMEN IN
BUNCOMBE COUNTY



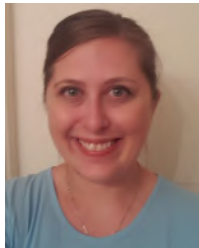
Loretta Davis

Loretta writes, "I cannot describe how thankful I am for this opportunity to learn, grow, and be able to help others. . . . Speaking as a person who has suffered from anxiety and depression a huge portion of my life, I really want to help people who struggle with that. . . . I want to make a difference in the world and I could not think of a better way than helping people improve their mental health."



Serenity Dylan

Serenity is working on an Associates in Science degree and plans to continue her education with a Bachelor's degree and internship in Dietetics at Appalachian State, with a goal of becoming a registered dietician. She writes, "I will combine my training in Dietetics and holistic health to give people health consultations from this well-rounded perspective. I plan to open a health clinic in Asheville. Your generosity brings me closer to making these dreams come true."



Mary Susan Figel

Mary writes, "I am a single adult student who has returned to school later in life. I am focused on history and writing and hope to work in historical preservation. Ideally, I hope to have a career that will add value to and enrich my community. . . . Since I have made the decision to return to school to pursue a degree, I have only been able to work 27 hours a week. While it is challenging to support myself on a limited income, the opportunity to attend college and achieve my goals has been well worth the sacrifice. . . . Gifts like yours allow me to continue my educational journey."



Kimberlee Ford

After much soul searching and working with A-B Tech counselors, Kimberlee has decided to pursue a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology. Kimberlee writes, "As a non-traditional student, I have financial responsibilities that I must account for while pursuing my education. This scholarship will ease my financial burden and mental stress so that I can maintain my focus on academics. The opportunity to attend college is enabling me to pursue a career of my choosing instead of strictly making a living with my previous job experiences....I am excited about my future. I intend to begin working in a medical laboratory upon graduation while pursuing a bachelor's degree."



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.



**159
SCHOLARSHIPS
SINCE 2002**

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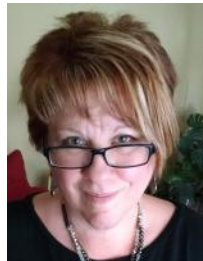
Nichole Indelicato

Nicole is working on a degree in Medical Office Administration and certification in Medical Billing and Coding. She writes, "I am the first in my family to pursue a higher education, and, although it has been difficult at times, I have never felt more proud of my accomplishments." Nichole goes on to say that her prior work in the insurance field informed her about how simple coding errors cause so many problems for people. She hopes to eliminate these causes for stress in a new career made possible through higher education.



Summer Jones

Summer is a second-year student at A-B Tech, pursuing a degree in Nursing. She writes, "It has been a struggle to get to where I am now with my education, [having faced] many obstacles along the way . . . but, for one reason or another, I have always managed to find a little more determination in the tank." She expresses her gratitude for receiving the GEM scholarship to help her realize her dreams and for "believing in her." She says that "My children deserve the best future I can give them [and] and my family deserves to see that all their help along the way has not been for nothing."



Margaret Lawson-Lanahan

Margaret is pursuing a degree in Nursing with plans to become a Registered Nurse. She tells us that recently her husband suffered a stroke and was unable to work and one result was having to put her nursing dreams on hold. With the help of the GEM scholarship, she says that she will now be able to continue with her education. She also writes, "I am especially pleased that this award is from AAUW. An award from university women is meaningful to me because my mother was an educator, as am I. I hope to make you glad you invested in my career."



Laura Lavezzo

Laura is a mother of four and left her 4-year program many years ago to pursue a career and raise a family. When she decided to go back to school, she says "figuring out my career goal was easy: I want to be a Special Education teacher....I am working full time, going to school, and juggling my family. I wouldn't have it any other way. The scholarship is not only financially appreciated but also gives me confirmation that I have made the right decision."



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.



*Diamonds aren't
a girl's best
friend—an
education is!"*

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Kristen Candella-
Lopez

Kristen is working on an Associate of Arts degree and plans to go on to complete her four-year degree. Currently she attends school full time and holds down two jobs. She writes, "My education is very important to me. I'd even venture to say that it is the most important. . . . My childhood was less than favorable, to say the least. It is very important to me and my family that we continue to do better and better. . . . My future career goal is to work in corporate finance. While I would love to be an historian, I fear there isn't much work in that field. . . . Thank you for investing in my future."



Trista Lozano

Trista is working toward a degree in Occupational Technology, Pre-Dental Hygiene. Of the AAUW GEM scholarship, Trista writes that it not only the monetary value of the scholarship that is so meaningful but also notes that "it is fuel for all things good for my education and for the world it will help create as I push forward in life. The news of this scholarship not only helps me attend college, but it also allows me to explain to my young children what a scholarship is and the journey of a higher education."



Gwen Lyles

Gwen is working on certification in General Occupational Technology, Cosmetology. She writes, "I am a single mom of five kids; my four boys have graduated high school and two will be attending college while my daughter will be in second grade. Now is the time for me to follow my dreams. I am going to school to become a cosmetologist [and] plan to graduate in 2020. Afterwards, I plan to open my own shop to help people feel good about themselves. I am excited to have been awarded [this scholarship] to better myself and put my all into what I love to do."



Ashley Ramey

Ashley is a single mother with three sons; in the past she tells us that she has struggled with domestic violence and addiction, but, after completing several semesters at A-B Tech, "views the world around me completely differently." She is working toward an associate degree in Political Science and is "fascinated with politics, history, and humanity." She currently works with the Head Start program and would be "honored to be a court advocate" for children and families suffering abuse and domestic violence. Ashley writes that "I will not waste this opportunity to become the best mother, daughter, employee, student that I can be. I will make you proud."



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.



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Terri Rogers

Terry is working on a degree in Medical Office Administration. She currently works full-time in a health care office. She tells us, "I love my job and, by continuing my education, I hope to advance within my company. I find the classes I have taken at A-B Tech to be extremely helpful and I look forward to learning more in the future. . . . Your [scholarship] is helping make my dream a reality."



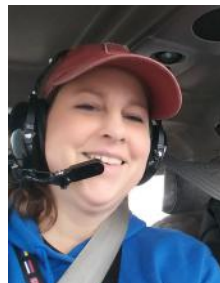
Kimberly Schreiner

Kimberley is embarking on her first year of higher education, working toward an Associate of Arts degree. Kimberley writes, "I rely on financial aid, grants, and student loans to help finance my education. . . . I hope to become an individual that makes your association proud. . . . Receiving this scholarship is something I can show my daughter what it means to work hard and always strive for your goals. I hope that when my daughter becomes an adult, she can look back and say. . the definitions of kindness, integrity, and loyalty are 'my mom.'"



Lori Talbot

Lori is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in history and hopes to go on to earn a BA and MA or higher. She tells us, "I have been attending college intermittently since I was 18. I am now 31. In that time, "[history] is the one subject I always find time for" and hopes to become a history professor. She is particularly interested in the history of the Mediterranean area and would like to join an archaeological team. She says that the GEM scholarship is much needed, that, although she's received government assistance, it hasn't been sufficient to stay in school and raise a child. Like other scholarship recipients, she notes the impact on her child: "[The scholarship] means the world to me and will make a huge difference in the life of my son, not only financially, but because he will see me reach for the stars and make my dreams comes true."



Alisa Burnette

Alisa is pursuing a degree in Aviation Management and Career Pilot Technology. She is finishing up her sophomore year.



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.

UNCA Scholars



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- Sarah Goff

Sarah, a senior, writes, "If you would have told me ten years ago that I would become a college graduate, I would not have believed you." Sarah is majoring in psychology and is engaged in a university internship in which she works at a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans. This work, she says, has determined her desire to become a social worker. She writes, "Being able to see the difference I am making in people's lives is indescribable. None of this would have happened without the support of the staff and faculty of UNCA and, by extension, you [GEM]."

- Tiffanie Boone

Tiffanie, slated to graduate last December, writes, "I decided at 32 years old to go back to school and, because of groups like yours, I have been able to successfully achieve my goal." Tiffanie majored in Mass Communication with a emphasis in journalism and video. As her senior capstone project, she developed a podcast series and this experience, she says, "brought back [her] academic confidence . . . I'm looking forward to a bright future post graduation and I have you to recognize in giving this gift."

- Jennifer Wilson

Jennifer, a junior, is a wife and mother of three. Of the GEM scholarship she says, "Your scholarship was an answered prayer for which I am extremely grateful. Because of your generosity I am able to pursue my dream of obtaining a college degree. You have also given my children the precious gift of witnessing what fruits may come from hard work and dedication."

- Tracy Walker

Tracy, a senior, tells us that the GEM scholarship has allowed her to "focus more intensely on my studies without the added pressure of tuition and financial aid concerns." "Your gift," she says, "has inspired me and it is my hope that I can one day 'pay it forward.'"

- Melissa Soares

Melissa, a senior, is a full-time student pursuing her "dream of becoming a primary care physician." Also, she says, she is "a wife and mother of two beautiful children. Everyday I get up and go to school I know I am not only a step closer to a better life for my family, but I am also a role model for them. I am living proof that you are never too old to follow your dreams and, with hard work and dedication, anything is possible."



THE FACES AND VOICES OF GEM, CONT.



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- Beth Scott

Beth is a senior at UNCA, majoring in Chemistry, in preparation for a medical career. She tells us that she started college very late because she was busy raising her kid sister. "I didn't start until I was 24 and I wasn't always able to do full-time semesters or take summer courses without financial aid," says Beth, now 30. She continues, "It has been a long and difficult journey, but I am almost there."

- Tabatha Warren

Tabatha is a junior working toward a degree in Computer Science. She writes, "At 47 years old, I am the first person in my family to attend a university. My education has become the most important goal in my life. When I reenrolled at UNCA, I was unsure how I would pay for it, but I did so in good faith and optimism. Your contribution to my education is an invaluable reward for my optimism."

- Kimberly Treadaway

Kimberly, a junior, writes, "As a 26-year old non-traditional student, working in a restaurant to make ends meet, I could not be more grateful for this support. This semester I am taking four challenging courses: organic chemistry, cell biology, experimental design, and humanities. The extra support has allowed me to work one less day a week to focus on school!!! I look forward to using my education to make even a small difference in some lives, potentially in public health or a similar area."

- Teresa Sleeper

Teresa, a senior, is "determined to graduate with a Bachelors degree in Biology." She graduated from high school over ten years ago and works to support herself, as well as going to UNCA. "Going back to school later in life," she says, "has given me the understanding of how important an education is and why it needs to be my first priority. Your [scholarship] has helped me make that become a reality."

- Deanna Tipton

Deanna tells us that "Neither of my parents had this opportunity to get a four-year degree. . . . There are so many more opportunities here than I thought I could have, especially coming from a humble background." Deanna is majoring in Environmental Science, with a concentration in Management and Policy. Her hope, she says, "is to work with the EPA or NOAA to help curb climate change and develop new ways to mitigate pollution."

- Jodi O'Hara

Jodi is working on a degree in Fine Arts, with a concentration in painting. She tells us she's an "Asheville native, a mother, and a third generation artist." She goes on to say that "Juggling the demands of school, work, and being a mother has its challenges, so I am extremely appreciative for your [scholarship]."



GEM Offers Multiple Opportunities for Participating in the Spring Fund Drive

The annual GEM Fund of AAUW Asheville spring fund drive is underway, culminating in the annual fundraiser party on **June 2**. We hope to see you all at the party. However, if "party" is not your thing or you are going to be traveling, then know that there are multiple ways to participate in the fund drive — all of which support GEM's mission of providing undergraduate scholarships to women whose educations have been interrupted or delayed. Below are some of the many opportunities for giving and support.

GIVING OPTIONS

As in previous years, this year's fund drive includes a number of giving options:

- ◆ **Sponsorship** at one of three levels:
 - ◆ Diamond: \$1000 or more
 - ◆ Ruby: \$500 to \$999
 - ◆ Sapphire: \$100 to \$499
- ◆ Contributions in any amount
- ◆ Sponsorships or contributions as tributes
- ◆ Attendance at the fundraiser party at \$50 per person
- ◆ Bidding in the Members' Silent Auction and/or Raffle
- ◆ Participating in the GEM "Birthday Dollars for Scholars" program (see page 2 for more information)
- ◆ Legacy gift to GEM as part of your will

Note that reservations for the June 2 party are separate from sponsorships and other contributions. All non-reservation contributions are acknowledged and donors may designate how their contributions are to be distributed. Return the giving card you receive in the mail, along with your check made out to the GEM Fund to

GEM Fund Drive c/o Helen McClintock

204 Crowfields Drive
Asheville 28803.

For more information on reservations, please contact Helen at (828) 424-8455 or homclintock@gmail.com.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PARTY

The Mansion

The June 2 fundraiser party will be held once again at the historic Fernihurst Mansion on the A-B Tech campus; this is our eighth year to hold the event at this location. Those who attended in



previous years will remember what a lovely house it is. Built circa 1875

by Civil War Colonel John Kerr Connally, Fernihurst was once the center of social activity for the elite township of Victoria and the City of Asheville. The house takes its name from Connolly's ancestral home in Scotland, the 16th century "Fernihurst Castle." A-B Tech acquired the building in 1974 and used it as offices before the renovation, which earned a Griffin Award for historic preservation from the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County. The story goes that the beautiful view caught the eye of George Vanderbilt when he was first visiting Asheville, so much so that he offered to buy the small mansion. When he was refused, he decided to buy and build a little further down the road — building the magnificent Biltmore Estate that thousands visit today. Attendees at the Fundraiser Party may tour Fernihurst and enjoy the view that inspired George Vanderbilt. Know that no other organization outside A-B Tech is allowed to hold an event at

Fernihurst. There will be food, wine, and great conversation. You may also have the opportunity to meet some of our GEM scholars.

The Food

We have a special treat for guests again this year. For the first twelve years that GEM held annual fundraisers, branch members and friends were wonderful in volunteering to bring platters of great food, for which the Board has always been very grateful. However, we wanted to use the fundraiser party, not only to raise money, but also to thank our members for their many years of generosity, so 2019 will mark the fifth year that we're having the event catered. This has turned out to be a wonderful decision, and so, again this year, you need not bring anything but yourselves! Once again, Michelle Kelley, owner of CrackerJack Chef and former instructor in the A-B Tech Culinary Arts Department, has agreed to cater the event.



This year Michelle will tailor her menu to align with our salute to wine and spirit. Small plates will be followed by large platters, served buffet style, and, of course, dessert. John and Gina, from Metro Wines, once again will be working with event planners to select and deliver wonderful red, white, and sparkling wines.



— continued on next page

The Fun of Giving

In addition to attending the event and making direct contributions to the GEM Fund, guests may support future GEM scholars by trying their luck in the raffle and silent auctions. Karen Mauro, Marlene Shaklan, Nini Abbott, Millie Massey, and Carol Smith are lining up a number of great raffle items, including theatre tickets, gift cards to restaurants, fun experiences, and gift baskets. Tickets will be available at the event for \$5 each or five for \$20.

Again this year the former Members' Boutique has evolved into the **GEM Friends' Silent Auction**. Many of our members have commented that they don't need any more "stuff." So, instead, the silent auction focuses exclusively on a variety of experiences and services, offered by branch members and friends. Some of the items offered in the past were a one-of-a-kind guided tour of Audubon expert Bill Steiner's museum quality collection of prints; arts and crafts classes with several of our members; a "1915 Lunch on the Veranda," honoring our centennial year; a nature lovers' guided walk; super Scrabble and poker nights; "Mexican Train and Margaritas," what is becoming an annual picnic by Karen Mauro's pool, a "Day of the Dead" Mexican brunch, yoga and lunch on a downtown rooftop, dog-sitting, and Jeanne Smolkin's famous gumbo. Other members have offered sessions in ceramics, knitting, card making, photography, zentangle drawing, paper making, strudel making, and much more. These member hosted classes are always popular. Our GEM caterer, Michelle Kelley, has offered once again to include her catering services in the silent auction. Susan Grabel (susangrabel2@gmail.com) is currently soliciting offers for experiences and services. Everyone who has participated in these experiences in the past have reported that they were great fun and, at the same time, raised money for scholarships. Later in May watch for the an email communication containing a full descriptive preview of raffle and silent auction items. If you can't attend the party, have someone bid for you. You do not have to be present to win.



And What We Wore

Four years ago many of our members and guests at the fundraiser party honored our branch's centennial birthday and our founding members by donning period hats, celebrating our founding sisters from 1915. This was so much fun that the next year guests were encouraged to celebrate 2016's giving by wearing black and/or white. Next year we will encourage the wearing of white to honor the hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US constitution, giving women the right to vote. This year (as always), wear whatever you like. Just come to

celebrate the spring, good wine, conversation, and the spirits of our GEM Scholars. **The most important thing is that you join in the festivities for a great cause.**



17h Anniversary Party to be held at the historic Fernhurst Mansion



Sunday, June 2
4 — 6

- ◆ GREAT CONVERSATION
- ◆ FABULOUS FOOD AND WINE
- ◆ RAFFLE PRIZES
- ◆ GEM FRIENDS' SILENT AUCTION, FEATURING SERVICES AND EXPERIENCES OFFERED BY OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
- ◆ CHANCE TO MEET OUR GEM SCHOLARS
- ◆ TOUR OF THE HISTORIC 19TH-CENTURY MANSION



CALL FOR GEM FRIENDS' SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

The annual GEM fundraiser event is coming up soon — as always, the first Sunday in June, which, this year, is June 2. For several years now, the event has included a **GEM Friends' Silent Auction**, in which our branch members and friends may offer experiences or services for silent auction. This is a great way to raise a little money for women's scholarships and to feature things you're good at or just love to do, and, even better, spend some time with other branch members and friends. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, elaborate, or expensive. What do you like to do that you can share with others?

Past offerings have included a wide array. A day "class" in ceramics, papermaking, Zentangle drawing, knitting, photography, and more have been very popular. Several of our members have offered various kinds of "Fun and Games" nights — with simple fare like pizza, wine, and beer. Others have offered elegant dinners or lunches. Last year Julie Hettiger and Alice Doner hosted a "Day of the Dead" Mexican brunch. For three years now our caterer, Michelle Kelly, has catered a romantic dinner for two in the winning bidder's home. GEM Board president Marilyn Kolton usually offers a nature and bird hike which so many of our winning bidders have enjoyed. One year branch member Peg Steiner and her husband Bill, an Audubon expert, offered a tour of their amazing Audubon collection, including a print to take home. Other members have offered dog sitting, movie critic studies, massage therapy, picnics, and more. There is really no limit to what you might offer. Several years ago a group got together for a night of "Poker and Pizza." It was so much fun that they have been doing it as a group ever since. Consider some of the following:

- ◆ Arrange an art gallery tour
- ◆ Show a film in your home, with discussion and snacks
- ◆ Teach a session, or just do a demonstration, in cooking, fine arts or crafts, photography, gardening, or whatever you love
- ◆ Arrange a garden tour or a half day hike on your favorite trail
- ◆ Offer massage, meditation, or yoga therapy
- ◆ Host a games night, with a variety of games or just your favorite
- ◆ Invite winning bidders for lunch or dinner, based on any theme you like
- ◆ And so on —

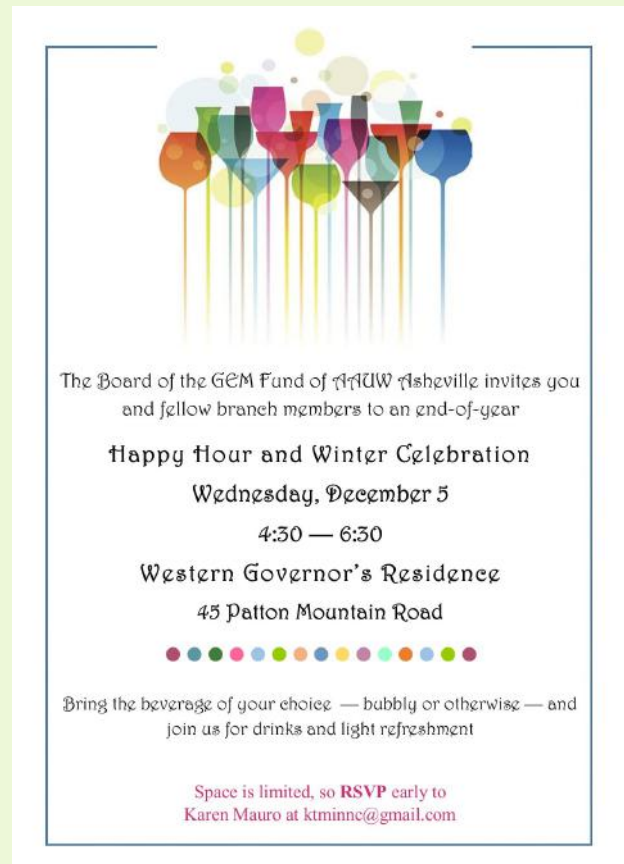
The GEM Friends' Silent Auction is really fun and for a great cause and we are currently in need of additional experiences and services. Please take a moment to consider what you might offer.

We are accepting offers now.

If you have a idea that you'd like to suggest, please contact Susan Grabel, at susangrabel2@gmail.com or (828) 505-3826 or Alice Doner at aadoner@gmail.com.

GEM Says “Thank you” to AVL Branch of AAUW in Winter Celebration at Governors’ Western Residence

GEM Board President Karen Mauro, on behalf of the Board, invited all our branch members to attend a “thank you” Happy Hour at the Governor's Western Residence in December. It turned out to be a lovely day with beautiful distant winter views from the residence off Town Mountain Road. GEM could not have become the mature successful entity that it has without the consistent and bountiful support of our branch members.





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For more information,
 contact board
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 at
ktminnc@gmail.com.

THE GEM FUND OF AAUW ASHEVILLE

4B Long Shoals Road, #135
 Arden, NC. 288704

THE GEM FUND

As the philanthropic arm of **AAUW Asheville**, the **GEM Fund** supports AAUW's mission of empowering women by breaking down educational and economic barriers. GEM raises funds to award undergraduate scholarships to women whose college educations have been interrupted or delayed. Our goal is to help these women attend local colleges, "**G**aining **E**ducational **M**omentum (GEM)."

Ways to Make Our GEM Shine

The **GEM Fund** is supported entirely by contributions or funds earned on investments from prior contributions. We accept many types of donations, including cash, stock, insurance policies, and legacy gifts. Donors may specify whether they want their contributions to go to the active scholarship fund, which funds scholarships for the coming school year, and/or to the permanent endowment fund, which ensures that money for scholarships will be available for future years. In addition to making direct contributions, there are multiple ways to participate in the Spring Fund Drive, as listed on p. 3. In addition, there are other ways to contribute to GEM at any time during the year:



The Beatrice Rice Wells Legacy Society

***THE BEATRICE RICE WELLS LEGACY SOCIETY** comprises a special group of donors who have graciously designated a contribution to the **GEM Fund** in their wills. Providing for a donation to GEM in your will is an especially powerful way to support GEM and our GEM scholars, a gift that truly does keep on giving. For more information, contact Bette Feingold at bettefeingold@gmail.com.*

Tributes to Loved Ones and Friends

To honor the memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, holiday, graduation or just to celebrate those important people in your life, consider making a gift to the GEM Fund. Additionally, you may want to honor a good friend; in the AAUW Asheville newsletter, you will find a list of that month's member birthdays. Wish them a "Happy Birthday" and, for special friends, consider making a gift to the GEM Fund in their honor. Participate in the "Birthday Dollars for Scholars" program (See p. 1.) GEM will send word of your thoughtfulness to you and your honoree. Not only do these gifts honor loved ones; tributes and legacy gifts help worthy women get an education they might not otherwise have. See page 2 of this newsletter to find examples of what GEM contributions support.

The Gem Fund has 501(c)3 status and, as such, all contribution to GEM are entirely tax deductible. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Branch at 919-807-2214. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Contributions an any amount are gratefully accepted and acknowledged.