

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Imagine

Imagine a world where all women and girls are empowered, gender and pay equity are reality, and sexual assault and sexual harassment are eradicated. To get there, we must work for it every day, but how? One way is by enabling women and girls to realize their full potential through educational experiences such as attending college, leadership conferences, and science camps. We do this at our branch level through our fabulous annual book sale. We are gearing up for that right now so if you don't yet have a way (or ways!) to participate, please contact book sale chair Pat Hawkins. The book sale meeting is coming right up in March, and our opening day, June 17th, will be here before you know it. There are many opportunities to pitch in and all tasks are critical to our book sale's success, which is critical to our branch's success.

Something from National AAUW

As members you should have received the winter issue of *Outlook* from national AAUW. I know we are all inundated with so much to read that it's hard to keep up, but one of our board members mentioned an article to me on how to be 'political' without being 'partisan' which is something I have really struggled with while writing these President's messages this year. The author, Lisa Maatz, does a great job explaining the difference and providing a 12-step road map on how we can all work in a non-partisan way for what we believe in and make progress toward our goals. There is also an article on school vouchers and another one on human trafficking, which was addressed by our November program. I recommend taking a look.

Happy 45th Birthday to Title IX!

Maybe you, like me, graduated high school before Title IX was passed, and so you, like me, missed out on the opportunity to experience a real high school sports program for girls. I knew the unjustness of

COMING EVENTS

- March 1 Book Club**
2:00 PM College Walk
- March 13 Book Sale Meeting**
11:30 AM Food Matters Upstairs
- March 13 Board Meeting**
1:00 PM St. Philip's Episcopal Church
- March 14 Branch Meeting**
7:00 PM Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- April 2 Checks Due for Annual Spring Luncheon**
- April 5 Book Club**
2:00 PM College Walk

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 14 - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - 7:00 PM

The Status of Children and Adolescents in Transylvania County

Jaime Laughter, County Manager

Hostesses: Barbara Burkhart and Annette Blum





County Manager to Present Update on Transylvania County's Children

We are delighted to be welcoming Jaime Laughter, Transylvania County Manager, at our March 14th meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. She will be giving a presentation on the state of the lives of our county's children, based on the findings of the Pre-School Task Force. This is one presentation that nobody should miss.

"Staggering" and "shocking" is what county commissioners called the report issued by the Pre-School Task Force in December, 2015. Among their findings were the following:

- Half of the children in the county's Care Coordination for Children program were receiving treatment for opiate withdrawal symptoms;
- The number of children in this county with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is seven times greater than the statewide average;
- Academically, 78% of our kindergarteners were not ready for school;
- 29% of the county's children are "food insecure;" and
- Day care costs in the county are far beyond the means of most of the county's young families.

Jaime Laughter, Transylvania County Manager, will address the Preschool Task Force's report and the county's response to its findings. She feels the problems faced by many of our youngest citizens are both complicated and difficult to remedy, but the implications for long-term damage to this vulnerable population and to the future of our county demand our attention.

Ms. Laughter has served as county manager since 2014 and is responsible for the administration of a wide range of county services. Since earning a master's degree in Public Administration in 2004, she has worked as a county manager, a town manager, a transportation engineer, a community planner and a zoning enforcement officer for a number of governmental entities throughout North Carolina.

As she says in her resume, "I chose government service because I wanted to make a difference in communities." Since 2008, Ms. Laughter has chosen the needs of children as one of her primary areas of concern, working in key agency positions in both Henderson and Transylvania counties. She is a leader in crafting the county's response to the problems faced by many of its young children.

-- Kathleen Milligan, Program VP



Dr. Rachel Keever, the speaker at our February meeting (third from left), gave an excellent presentation on women's heart health.



ON THE HORIZON

The [First Amendment Defense Act \(FADA\)](#) was first introduced in the US House of Representatives on June 17, 2015. If passed, the legislation would have effectively legalized discrimination across the board, including among employers, businesses, landlords and healthcare providers, as long as they claim to be motivated by firmly held religious beliefs. Included among the co-sponsors of the legislation at that time were NC Senators Richard Burr and Tom Tillis, as well as NC Representative Mark Meadows

As proposed in 2105, the [First Amendment Defense Act \(FADA\)](#) would prohibit the federal government from taking discriminatory action against a person on the basis that such person believes or acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that: (1) marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or (2) sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage.

An order in the vein of the FADA would apply to all individuals and organizations, barring the federal government from punishing them if they denied services based on their religious beliefs. Supporters of the legislation say it is necessary to protect the First Amendment rights of religious people or institutions, like schools, hospitals and nonprofit groups, many of which receive federal contracts.

The American Civil Liberties Union believes that 2017 will set a record for the number of anti-LGBT religious freedom bills debated by state legislatures. Last year, more than 200 pieces of legislation seeking to roll back the rights of the LGBT community in the name of faith were introduced in states ranging from Illinois and Massachusetts to Alabama. Just days into 2017, Kentucky has already filed a bill [strikingly similar to the First Amendment Defense Act](#). A similar law passed in Mississippi is under challenge in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Over the holidays, Sen. [Ted Cruz](#) announced that he would be reintroducing the First Amendment Defense Act. Given the current tenor in the national legislative and executive branches of government, observers are predicting the possibility of passing the First Amendment Defense Act, if introduced in 2017, is much greater now than in 2015.

--Karla Atkinson – Public Policy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

that in high school and I realized it again at my first job after college when a male colleague bragged about getting a track scholarship to an ivy league school even though he never participated in the university track team. That showed me how the lack of equal opportunity in high school sports could adversely affect equal opportunity in college education. Thankfully, Title IX was passed on June 23rd, 1972, and the resulting successes are obvious to all who follow NCAA Women's Basketball as well as other women's sports. (You go girls!) But Title IX is not just about sports; it is a prohibition against sex-based discrimination in education, including discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs. It also addresses sexual harassment, sexual violence, and gender-based discrimination. Happy 45th birthday, Title IX! Keep up the good work!

-- Aleta Tisdale

AAUW NC Annual Meeting

The 2017 AAUW NC annual meeting in Greensboro will be held on Friday afternoon and Saturday, March 31-April 1. Melissa Johnsen, member of the national AAUW Board, will lead a workshop on Reproductive Justice and address the broader context of the impact of the national election on women's rights.

The deadline for reserving a room for the meeting is March 3rd. To read details on the meeting and hotel, please visit:

<http://www.aauwnc.org/events/2017-annual-meeting/>

New and Prospective Member Reception

Please join us to learn more about AAUW

Thursday, April 13

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

148 West Probart Street



All new & recent members, as well as those interested in learning more, are invited. Reduced dues for any who join during this event!

**Call Leslie Chepenik at 877-5721
to reserve your place.**

BOOK SALE

Our yellow boxes are out! Once again books are being collected, sorted, priced and boxed in anticipation of another successful book sale. I want to mention that what makes it a success is the willingness of workers who cheerfully go about the business of whatever their "job" happens to be. We are in need of people to step up to the plate and take over some of the jobs so when asked, please say yes. There is not one single job involving the book sale that is overwhelming...I promise...even being Book Chair.



If you were at the last branch meeting, you heard Carol Carrano's request that we pick up Laura Lynn milk boxes at Ingle's and cut them to 5 inches high. If you have worked at the sale before, you know how we then make one "cube" out of the four half boxes. We need for everyone to be on board with this. If you just pick up 12 boxes between now and June and cut them, you will only need to store 3 of these cubes for the book sale. We can do this!!! Also regarding boxes, if you drop of a load of books in one of our boxes and you would like to have the box, there are extra boxes toward the back on both sides of the shed past the pricing tables. You can simply take some of those and leave the boxes with books in them so you do not have to transfer them. .

It would be nice if someone works with Pinkie Byrd this year at move-in/move-out. We welcome everyone to attend our book sale meetings to hear first hand the types of things that go on and witness the energy. Our first meeting is March 13 at 11:30 at Food Matters - we grab something to eat downstairs and then meet upstairs.

-- Pat Hawkins, Book Sale Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
“Women Who Make a Difference”

When: TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017
Where: Connestee Falls Overlook Clubhouse
Time: 12:00 – Sparkling punch or cash wine bar
12:30 – Lunch served
Cost: \$18 inclusive

We are happy to announce that our spring luncheon will be held at the Connestee Falls Clubhouse. Since the complete change in management and staff, the improvement of the entire dining experience has far exceeded expectations! The menu* will include:

Tomato & Mozzarella with Balsamic Drizzle
Atlantic Salmon with a Champagne & Dill Sauce
Saffron Rice Pilaf with Zucchini Provençale
Fresh Fruit Salad with Lemon Sorbet
Rolls & Butter
Coffee (Reg. & Decaf.) Hot Tea

*Vegetarian option available upon request

*******DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CHECKS – MAY 2, 2017*******

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AAUW BREVARD BRANCH

Mail to:

Ann Grant

(DO NOT MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ANN)

12 Galuyasdi Court

Brevard, NC 28712-9205

BRIDGE CLUB

AAUW Bridge will meet at 1:00 p.m. on March 28th at Carol Carrano's house. Her address is 860 Cherrywood Lane, off of Williamson Creek Road. If you have any questions, please call Linda Thompson at 877-2085.

BOOK GROUP

AAUW book group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Wed., March. 1, to discuss *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. On Wed. April 5, 2017 we will discuss *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. For further information contact Carol Carrano.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is an arm of National AAUW whose purpose is to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. LAF supports legal cases throughout the nation, fighting unfair pay, sexual harassment, and Title IX violations. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. To learn more about what LAF does and the legal cases AAUW supports, go to www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/ and you will get to the LAF home page. You'll be proud of what our organization is doing to fight discrimination and sexual harassment.

AAUW BREVARD SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations made since February newsletter

Blue Ridge Community College Endowment

AAUW Brevard Branch Bridge Club

In Honor of Friends

Brevard College Endowment

Judith Johnson

RISE AND SHINE GALA FUND-RAISER

April 29, 2017

"Motown Memories"

Join Neighbors in Ministry/Rise and Shine at our annual gala fund-raiser on April 29th from 6 to 10 pm at Straus Auditorium on the Brevard Music Center Campus. It will be an evening of music, dance, food, auctions and of course sharing it all in great company and community. **Tickets will go on sale soon at \$50.00 per person.**

We are looking for sponsors for this event and are offering three different sponsor levels:

Platinum Sponsors - Donation of \$1,000 - \$5,000

Gold Sponsors - Donation of \$500.00 - \$999.00

Silver Sponsors - Donation of \$250.00 - \$499.00

We are also looking for donors who can provide items for our silent and live auction. Should be a fun auction with Jimmy Harris as the auctioneer! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or donating to the auction contact: Maureen Copelof at mcopelof@yahoo.com, 828-862-5898. Tickets will be available for purchase in early March at Main Street Ltd, Rise and Shine, and Highland Books. Looking forward to seeing everyone on April 29th!

-- Maureen Copelof