

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I think about our nation's celebration of Women's History Month, names tumble in my mind – Elizabeth Blackwell, America's first female physician; courageous Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth who risked all to help slaves find their way to freedom; the fierce and independent Amelia Earhart and Beryl Markham who pioneered women in aviation; Margaret Sanger, who opened the first birth control clinic for American women in 1916.

As I sprawled out on the library floor reading biography after biography of women at Red Bank Elementary in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I can still see and smell the slender blue hardback books of those women who inspired me. They were an important part of my education where I learned much about the strength and vision of heroic women.

These are women who have paved the way; women who have shown us what courage looks like; women who contributed much to our lives today.

I am also reminded closer to home that my mother, Ruth Bennett, is my hero. By working hard and saving with my father after World War II, my sister and I were blessed with the best educations they could afford. My mother would have loved to have gone to college. For the Bennett girls, she wanted a college education for our success in life. She lifted us up above what she had had and made our lives infinitely better.

Carol Carrano has recently shared information about three heroes in our community who began the AAUW book sale tradition: Grace Monroe, Sally Baker, and Rachel Daniels. Their first profit in 1968 was \$119.30. Those modest beginnings have grown to our now raising \$30,000 to lift up women in Transylvania County. They and their fellow members are heroes to AAUW Brevard for realizing that what they could do to improve lives was to give the opportunity to make an education possible for many women.

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COMING EVENTS

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|----------------------------|--|
| Mar 7
2:00 p.m. | Book Group
College Walk |
| Mar 12
1:00 p.m. | Board Meeting
St. Timothy's
Methodist Church |
| Mar 13
7:00 p.m. | Branch Meeting
Lutheran Church of
the Good Shepherd |
| Mar 23-24 | AAUW NC Annual
Conference
Winston-Salem |
| Mar 27
1:00 p.m. | Bridge Group
Carolyn Fredley's
home. |
| Apr 4
2:00 p.m. | Book Group
College Walk |



BRANCH MEETING

7:00 p.m., March 13
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Freeing Our Creative Selves
with Connie Donaldson

Hostesses: Pat Hawkins & Molly Jenkins

MARCH BRANCH PROGRAM



Connie Donaldson will be speaking on “Freeing Our Creative Selves” at the March meeting when we return to the 7:00 p.m. time schedule.

This topic represents Connie’s quintessential view of creativity. “Many people think we either are creative or we aren’t. But I believe in creative self-expression for everyone, not just the elite few,” she says.

Connie is an artist, writer and teacher whose passion is helping others discover and reclaim their creative selves. A recent Florida transplant who was born in Southwest Virginia, Connie has been delighted to rediscover her mountain roots in a town as culturally rich as Brevard. She is now providing a series of innovative art and writing workshops at the Silvermont Opportunity Center, based on unconventional, liberating and playful techniques.

“We are all innately, naturally creative”, she states. “That’s what it is to be human and especially to be a woman. We are makers, creators. But we often don’t pause in our busy lives to acknowledge and appreciate that fact - or to exercise and develop our innate abilities.”

Connie holds a BA in English, a MS in Library Science and a MA in Counseling Psychology, all from Florida universities. With a background of over 25 years as a therapist and facilitator specializing in Women’s Issues and Creative Development, Connie began to work on her own art and writing 15 years ago. Her art was featured in two private exhibits in Jacksonville and was shown in several Florida galleries.

She created the popular “Wild Women Weekends” as a way for women to express themselves with ritual, drama, art and writing. Connie hopes to bring a Wild Woman Weekend to the Brevard area and is looking for venues. “I design experiences based on what I, myself, need in order to flourish and grow,” she admits. “Teach what you most need to learn. Works every time!” She calls her creative ventures WATERFALL ARTS.

Carole Pohl and Ellen O’Brien, Program VPs with Carol Elliott, Publicity Chair



A full house of AAUW Brevard members and guests listen intently to Kathleen Mallet’s presentation at the January branch meeting: The Impact of Alcohol & Drug Addiction on the Community

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AAUW Brevard helps me continue with that tradition with scholarships for life-changing educational opportunities. It is an honor I enjoy with my fellow AAUW members of paying it forward.

Thank you to the women who have walked before us – famous or not. We have progressed because of your sacrifices and dedication. Our debt is great. Our AAUW work gives meaning to our lives and to the lives of women we move forward for a better tomorrow.

Paula Bennett Paddick

PROPOSED NAT'L BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The AAUW National Board of Directors has voted to put three proposals for bylaws amendments before the membership for a vote this spring. The board strongly supports the proposed amendments that we believe will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable us to increase our impact in advancing equity for women and girls.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of AAUW membership and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. While rationale and details for each proposed amendment is on the AAUW website, the overarching motivation for these changes is to advance AAUW's mission and ensure optimal execution at the national board level.

The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal — to eliminate the degree requirement for membership — has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Members can comment on the proposed amendments and submit their own proposals from February 22 through March 22, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 25 and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET.

You can direct any questions or concerns to connect@aauw.org.

Bridge Group

Thank you, Pat Clow for serving as our Bridge hostess in February. We congratulate Carol Carrano for having the highest score this month. Way to go, Carol!

The AAUW Bridge group will next meet on Tuesday, March 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Carolyn Fredley's house. We invite AAUW members who enjoy a social game of bridge to join our group spending an afternoon together playing cards. If you are interested please contact Linda Thompson.

Book Group

AAUW book group will meet in the downstairs meeting room at College Walk at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, to discuss *A Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. On April 4, we will discuss *Euphoria* by Lily King. For more information contact Carol Carrano.



Women's History Exhibit

Julia Kennerly, Retha Lynch and Linda Thompson have put together a wonderful display at the Transylvania County Library for Women's History Month. Stop by to see the local women honored, as well as highlights and challenges along women's journey toward equity.

BRANCH UPDATES

May Luncheon

The May 8 luncheon honoring the Women Who Make a Difference will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. The menu will be a salad potluck, and we will gather at 12:00 noon. Sign up sheets for the salad pot luck and dessert will be available at the March and April meetings. Sign up early for your preferred choice.

Judith Johnson and Judy Baghose, our Special Events Committee, made reservations for our May date in the fall. They called many times to confirm, but were told only at the first of February that the restaurant would be closed during our reserved time. Both were most disappointed in the management team that they were not told earlier.

That being said and done, we must work together to have an excellent luncheon in May. More news will follow at meetings and in the coming newsletters.

IWIL Update

Did you know that IWIL women mentor local middle schoolers each year? Copy and paste this link into your browser https://my.brevard.edu/ICS/icsfs/clarion_83_21_20180221w.pdf?target=edd240e2-fe4a-4bda-9467-ce2898f6de66 to read about it in a recent issue of *The Clarion*, the Brevard College campus newspaper.

Give a Grad A Gift

AAUW members can gift one year of AAUW national membership to as many recent college graduates as you like at no cost to them or you. (If you want them to be members of the local branch, then they or you will need to pay for that).

Identify the recent graduates These may be people you know or strangers! You could gift AAUW memberships to an entire graduating class. Anyone who has completed their undergraduate degree in the past two years is eligible to receive one free membership from an AAUW member.

Collect their information You need to know the mailing address, phone number, email and alma mater of each of these future AAUW members.

Go to www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/ and **fill out the form!** Voilà! Welcome, new AAUW members. Hello, future of AAUW. It's a win-win situation. Giving a grad the gift of AAUW membership costs nothing for you or for them — and is rewarding for you both!

Book Sale

The Book Sale Committee will hold their first official meeting to discuss plans for the 2018 sale on Monday, March 12 at 11:30 a.m. upstairs at Food Matters.

While all key members are asked to attend, any member of the branch is welcome — especially new ones — to stop by and give us input from new perspectives. Hope to see some new faces.

Please DO NOT bring any more empty Ingles boxes to the book nook. There is no room for them. Carol Carrano will let everyone know if and when we need some as book sale preparations continue.

Kristen Alpert and Pinkie Byrd, Co-Chairs

New Member

Cindy Donaldson joined Brevard AAUW at the February meeting. She graduated from Illinois State University with a BS in Education, then received a MS Education from N. Illinois University and earned Certification in Educational Administration from Drake University. Cindy and her husband Larry have a son, daughter and 3 grandchildren. She is retired from school administration and moved to Brevard in November, 2016. Cindy would like to help with the book sale, leadership development, scholarship committee, Facebook page and hospitality and participate in the AAUW book club. Please welcome Cindy when you see her!

Maury Bandurraga, Membership Vice-President

