

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!! Here we are at the start of a new year and time seems to speed by so quickly. My term as president is half over, and while I was a little reluctant to take on this role, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. There have been a few worries but I've learned much more about our organization and made friends with some wonderful women. It's not all work, so don't run away if asked to consider one of the available positions.

In the next few months the Nominating Committee will begin selecting several candidates for the 2020-21 Executive Board. This summer our new president, Cindy Donaldson, will be recruiting a dozen or more committee chairs and co-chairs. This is a large number of people to find and convince to work for the good of our branch. Please consider volunteering or accepting a position for 2020-21. One thing I've learned in my year as president is that this organization does not run itself and many hands are needed. It's work but it's very rewarding to share the responsibilities that make our organizational goals come true.

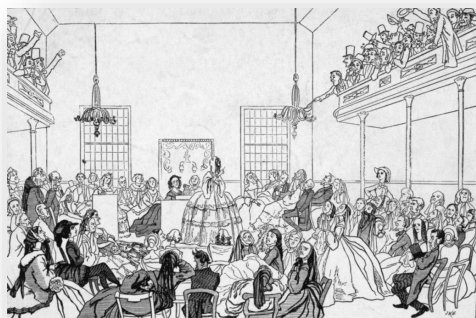
On a lighter note, I thought our Holiday Luncheon was excellent! The decorations were beautiful and the food was delicious and well served. We did not have a program this year and most of you seem to like having time to just relax and socialize. Aleta and Rebecca did a great job of putting this together and we thank them. Another person who did much to make this luncheon a success is our Treasurer, Laura Ledford, who often steps in when needed and does an excellent job. Thank you Laura, for the unsung hero you are.

The AAUW-NC Annual Meeting and Conference will soon be here so start making your plans to attend the March 27-28, 2020 gathering. It will be held in Asheville this year so it will be very close to Brevard. It is

—*President's message continued on p. 2*

COMING EVENTS

Jan 8 2:00 p.m.	Book Group College Walk
Jan 13 1:00 p.m.	Board Meeting St. Timothy's Methodist Church
Jan 14 12:00 noon	Branch Meeting St. Timothy's Methodist Church
Jan 27 1:00 p.m.	Bridge Group Connie Kay Hughes's house
Feb 5 2:00 p.m.	Book Group College Walk



WOMEN'S HISTORY BUS TOUR!

Visit Seneca Falls, New York

Two bus tours sponsored by AAUW of NC

- Departing from Greensboro: May 1-3
- Departing from Asheville: May 8-10

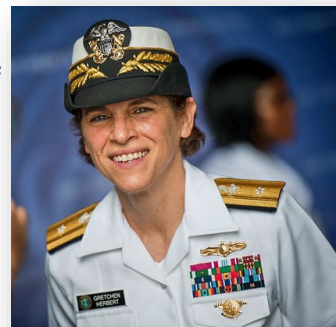
—*More information on p. 4*

JANUARY PROGRAM:

"MY NAVY JOURNEY: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED"

Our January program will feature Rear Admiral Gretchen Herbert, USN Ret., who will discuss her 30-year career in the Navy and the opportunities, challenges, and lessons she learned along the way.

Herbert's Navy journey actually began when she was in high school and her father encouraged her to apply for a ROTC scholarship. After graduating in 1984 from the ROTC program at the University of Rochester in New York, she formally began her naval career. While women were precluded from combat roles in that era, she was able to participate in an operational program. Her first position was in the sound surveillance system listening to devices on the ocean floor and tracking Soviet submarines. This led to many other positions across her career.



"My favorite tour was my first aircraft carrier," Herbert said. "I was the Combat System Officer on the George Washington, and we deployed into the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf. A Navy aircraft carrier operates like an entire city of 5,000 people. And you get to know everybody very well and you all have a common purpose. The main mission on both deployments was to support ground forces in Iraq or in Afghanistan. It was awe-inspiring to watch the aircraft launch and recover after successful missions."

She served in a number of roles across the decades, including her service on the USS George Washington (2002-2004) and the USS Ronald Reagan (2006-2008). She was also the Commanding Officer of the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Washington, DC, where she worked for another AAUW member, Capt. Maureen Copelof.

One role she played from the mid-1990s to 2015 was promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) to middle and high school students across the country, advocating for young women to pursue a science major in college. "We have so many women now in the military that are engineers, nuclear engineers on submarines, combat pilots, and surface warfare officers that operate and maintain propulsion systems for our ships and submarines. STEM is an increasingly important component of service not only in the military, but in many civilian occupations as well."

Through her experience as a female officer, Herbert has gained a deep perspective on the ever-expanding role of women in the armed forces, embracing new opportunities and challenges as they arise, and what it means to be a leader in a large, diverse organization. Her AAUW presentation will be an engaging one. Please plan to join us for this program.

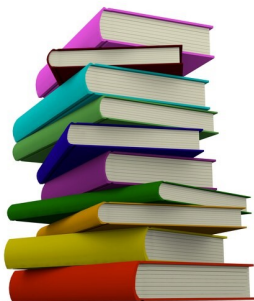
—Linda Thompson, Publicity Chair

President's Message, continued from p. 1

often held in the state capital or other larger cities and I believe this is the first time it's been in Asheville. This may be the last time it's held in WNC for a while so this is your best chance to attend a state conference that's just a short drive away. See the notice later in this newsletter for details.

Conference registration begins February 1, but I'm making my room reservation soon at the conference site, the Doubletree Hilton in Biltmore Village. You may want to do so as well and find a roommate to share if you like. I hope many of our Brevard members will attend and enjoy listening to the speakers, learning about new initiatives, and meeting other women who share and work toward our mission of promoting equity for women and girls.

—Roberta Carver, President



**Are you ready for
the AAUW book
sale?**



AAUW North Carolina Annual Meeting & Conference

March 27-28, 2020

4:00 PM Friday through 2:30 PM Saturday
DoubleTree Hotel in Asheville's Historic Biltmore Village

Five Reasons to SAVE THE DATE!

Two Awesome Keynote Speakers

Angie Newsome, founder and editor of the Carolina Public Press

Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice, NC State Supreme Court

Eight Awesome Breakout Sessions

STEM, Work Smart, Woman's Health, Getting Women Elected to Office, Girls & Women in Education, and more

Special treat for Friday evening

Asheville is No. 3 on *Travel+Leisure* magazine's 2020 list of 50 hotspots

Tours available Friday morning and Saturday afternoon

Registration begins February 1, 2020. Watch for further details in CONNECT or use these links:

<https://www.aauwnc.org>

@AAUWinAsheville on Facebook

Bridge Group

Thank you to Carol Carrano for serving as our Bridge hostess in December, and congratulations to Honey Kirila who was the high scorer this month. We always have a fun time playing cards together! The AAUW Bridge group will next meet on January 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Connie Kay Hughes's house. We invite AAUW members who enjoy a social game of bridge to join our group. This friendly group enjoys spending an afternoon together playing cards. If you are interested please contact Linda Thompson.

Book Group

AAUW book group will meet on Wednesday, January 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the activity room at College Walk. Please note this is the second Wednesday of January due to the New Year's Holiday. We will discuss *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*, by John Carryou. On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, we will discuss *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, by Anne Fadiman. For more information, contact Carol Carrano.



Welcoming members to the annual Holiday Luncheon were (L-R): Aleta Tisdale, Rebecca Sewell, and Fran Rasmussen. More photos from the luncheon are on page 5.

—Photo by Roberta Carver

Continued from p. 1

Seneca Falls Bus Tour

In honor of the 19th Amendment centennial, AAUW of NC is sponsoring two bus trips to Seneca Falls, New York, and nearby sites. Seneca Falls is home to the Women's Rights National Historical Park, commemorating the first Women's Rights Convention, held there in 1848.



The bus trip also includes tours of the historic homes of:

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Susan B. Anthony
- Maggie Walker, first African-American female bank founder
- Jennie Wade, lone civilian casualty of the Battle of Gettysburg

For more information visit aauwnc.org or its [Seneca Falls Bus Trip page](#).

AAUW BREVARD CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations made since the October newsletter

Brevard College Scholarship Endowment

Donor:

Grace Munro Roy
Grace Munro Roy

In Honor of:

Carolyn Abriola
Sara & Bob Kellar

Donor:

Kristen Alpert
Carol & John Carrano

In Memory of:

Carol Elliott
Terry Davies

Donor:

Patty Stark

Blue Ridge Community College Scholarship Endowment

Donor:

Frances A. Aguilar

In Honor of:

Norma & James Aguilar (for Christmas)

Donor:

Kristen Alpert

AAUW Brevard

Donor:

Kristen Alpert
Jean Fallis

Scholarship Committee
Branch Operating Account

If you or family members are looking for a gift idea, please consider contributing to one of the AAUW college endowments. You can link to the forms at: <http://brevard-nc.aauw.net/donate/>

YELLOW BOXES NEED YOU!

On February 1, a dedicated group of AAUW volunteers will place Yellow Boxes in 50 locations to collect books for our 2020 June book sale. Each person regularly will pick up books from her box(es) and take them to the Book Nook for sorting and pricing.

We ask you to join us. It's not a hard job to monitor boxes until early June, but it's a very important one - the gathering point for our sale!

As of right now, these locations need volunteers:

- Ingles (We need several people to share this, our biggest book donation location)
- St. Philips Episcopal Church
- Brevard Health and Racquet Club (We need one more volunteer to share this)
- Sav-Mor

You can choose a location that you already frequent or drive by.

We'll distribute the boxes after the January meeting and give you instructions then, so please sign up soon. Contact Laura Cunningham or Joy Evans for more information or to sign up.

Thank you!

—Laura and Joy, your Yellow Box Chairs

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The 2019 AAUW Holiday Luncheon was held December 10 at the Connestee Falls clubhouse. Pictured enjoying the festivities are, left to right: Laura Ledford; Cindy Donaldson and Roberta Carver; and Judith Johnson and Karla Atkinson.

—Photos by Paula Bennett-Paddick

