

OCTOBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you know that the first week of October is designated as "Getting Organized Week"? I think our Branch is right on target for being organized. By now you should have received your new Directory in the mail. All of the information you will need for meetings, contacts and general AAUW information can be found within.



One of the first items you will see is the AAUW Mission Statement: "To advance gender equality for women and girls through research, education and advocacy". I have thought about the importance of this statement with the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Justice Ginsburg was a champion for the rights of women and girls, and her work was instrumental in advancing AAUW's priorities. In 1999, AAUW awarded her the organization's Achievement Award. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor (1988) and Sonya Sotomayor (2017) are also recipients.

The AAUW Achievement Award is bestowed on an individual whose record of achievement in any scholarly or professional field spans more than a 20-year period. Justice Ginsburg received her award for co-founding the women's rights project of the American Civil Liberties Union and for being the first woman to receive tenure from Columbia University School of Law.

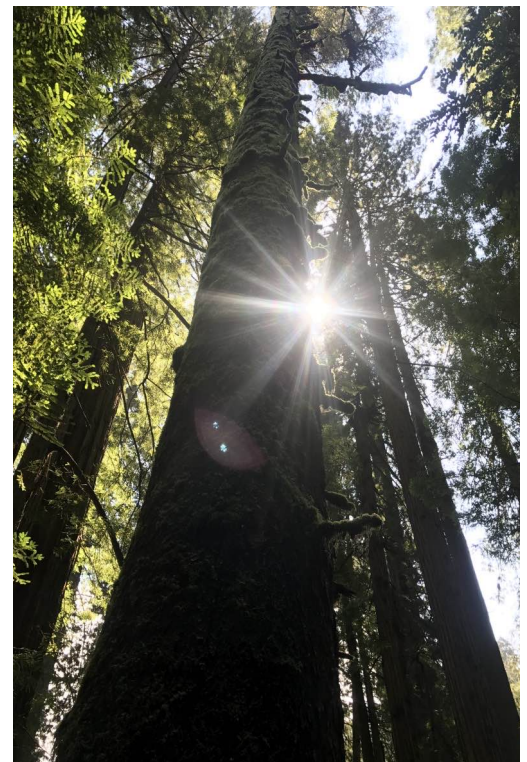
The last stanza of Maya Angelou's poem "When Great Trees Fall" (at right) expresses what we feel when someone like Ruth Bader Ginsburg leaves us.

Members of AAUW have the opportunity not only to recognize and honor women of distinction, but also to learn about how they may personally advance the vision of equity for all.

***"And when great souls die,
after a period peace
blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to
us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed."***

COMING EVENTS

Oct 7 2:00 p.m.	Book Group Zoom
Oct 12 1:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Zoom
Oct 13 7:00 p.m.	Branch Meeting Zoom
Nov 4 2:00 p.m.	Book Group Zoom



October Program

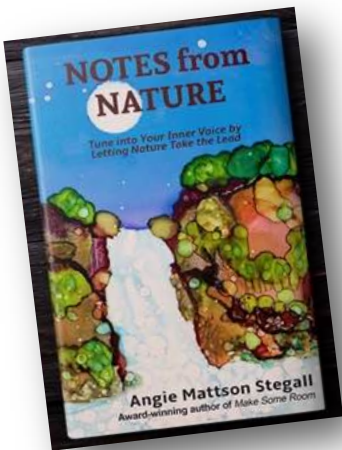
Embracing Nature and Stillness for Wellness

Our October 13 AAUW program will feature award-winning author Angie Mattson Stegall, who will share a program on "Call of the Wild: Embracing Nature and Stillness for Wellness." This talk is perfect for business owners, professionals, and anyone seeking insights for personal growth.

Stegall has discovered, through a practice of stillness outdoors, that nature gives her answers, messages, signs, and even gifts. "When my heart is heavy, if I'm feeling detached from my true self, or when I'm struggling with the noise of life, disconnecting from 'busy' and reconnecting to nature is my path to wisdom," Stegall explains.

Stegall will feature tools and concepts from her newest book *Notes from Nature: Tune into Your Inner Voice by Letting Nature Take the Lead*. Drawing on a mixture of experiential education, well-researched science, and discussion,

Stegall will invite AAUW members and guests to learn how to incorporate nature and stillness into their own lives and how those practices positively enhance their wellness.



Her AAUW presentation promises to be an engaging one. Please plan to join us for this wonderful program. Due to the pandemic our October 13 meeting will be presented at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent via email to all members a few days before out the meeting. If you would like to invite a guest to join our meeting, you are encouraged to share the Zoom link with them. If you would like a Zoom tutorial, email Cindi Spillman

for an appointment or visit the resources section at www.zoom.us.

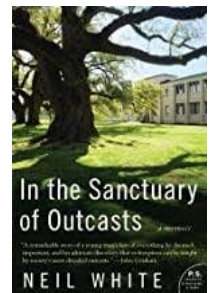
Please plan to join the Zoom meeting by 6:50-6:55 p.m. to ensure a timely start for the presentation. A short AAUW business meeting will follow Angie Stegall's program.

—Submitted by **Linda Thompson**

Book Group News

On Oct. 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., we will discuss *In The Sanctuary of Outcasts*, by Neil White, on Zoom. (This returns our meeting to the first Wednesday of the month.)

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 2:00 p.m., we will discuss *When Things Fall Apart*, by Buddhist monk Pema Chodron, also on Zoom. Contact Carol Carrano for more information.



Scholarship Committee News

Endowments posted the following amounts in mid-September: Brevard College, \$49,960; and Blue Ridge Community College, \$95,222.

In early July, AAUW-Brevard Branch sent Brevard College and Blue Ridge Community College \$6000 each to support their scholarships.

In recognition of the gift to Brevard College, the following article was printed in *BC Strong*, the BC alumni newsletter, concluding with a link to the Brevard AAUW website and contact information for Jeff Joyce, Director of Development for the college.



Local AAUW Chapter Shows Generosity in Difficult Times

Recognizing the difficult economic times facing students, the Brevard Chapter of the American Association of University Women recently gave \$6,000 to support deserving, local female students at Brevard College. These funds continue an effort that began in 1985 when the local chapter created an annual scholarship at the college.

"The women of AAUW have helped to make my college experience so much easier through supporting me with their scholarship. I am so grateful that local women are taking the time and energy to invest in the next generation of female leaders," said current student Marissa Henson '22.



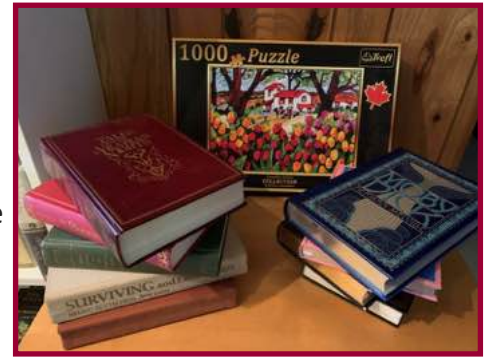
Transylvania County residents will be familiar with the group's annual book sale that takes place on the college campus each summer. This beloved event is a way the chapter raises the funds they distribute to several local institutions to support scholarships. The summer of 2020 has proved different with the current pandemic forcing the women of AAUW to cancel their annual fundraiser. However, the club remained committed to their mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy and were still able to raise the funds to support the deserving scholarship recipients at the college.

"The college was so grateful to learn that the AAUW Brevard chapter will continue to support student success at the college for the 2020/21 academic year. In these trying times it is amazing to see the community rally alongside our local students in an effort to make a Brevard College education as attainable as possible," said Director of Development Jeff Joyce. "This year, more than ever, students have expressed a greater need for financial assistance and the support of AAUW will allow the college to help more students."

—Submitted by **Jody Schuld**, Scholarship Chair

Book Sale Notes

Jigsaw puzzles are available at The Nook for members to borrow—a puzzle exchange until the book sale gets close. Members can borrow books and return them when read. Books can also be purchased: List the book under your name in the back of the sign-in notebook at the Nook. Payment will be requested during the book sale or can be made directly to Laura Ledford.



Donations should be arranged through Kristen Alpert. If members are bringing books to the Nook, please be sure that they are in good condition (ie: books that you would like to give to a friend). Dusty, moldy, dirty, or books in poor condition should not be donated or accepted from a donor. Please be mindful of this if accepting books for donation. Contact Kristen Alpert or Carrie Clary if you have any questions or concerns about a donation.

—Submitted by **Kristen Alpert**, Book Sale Chair

BREVARD BRANCH OPERATING ACCOUNT DONATIONS

Donor:

Grace Roy
Grace Roy
Grace Roy
Grace Roy
Grace Roy

In Honor of:

Carol and John Carrano
Paul and Lynn Blankinship
Sylvia Ledford
College Walk Nursing Staff
Celia Miles

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

Donor:

Carol & John Carrano

In Honor of:

Betty Runion

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/>

President's Letter, cont'd from page 1

The national website is a great resource for learning more about AAUW and the work being done on behalf of women and girls. Please visit aauw.org and become familiar with the website.

I would like to thank Cindi Spillman for presenting at our September meeting. Those attending learned some new skills that will help us to become more comfortable meeting via Zoom.

I hope you will join us for our October program, “Call of the Wild”. Angie Mattson Stegall will share how we can tune into our inner voice by letting nature take the lead. You will receive an email containing the Zoom link for the meeting. I hope you will join us on October 13.

—**Cindy Donaldson**, President