

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to March! I've seen my first harbinger of spring, a robin sitting in a tree in our front yard. It reminded me of a finger play we used to do when I was an early childhood special education teacher.

Spring is here,	Birds and bees,
Spring is here,	Leaves on trees.
Goodbye snow,	Hello, Spring,
flowers grow.	Hello, Spring.

This year March signifies to me that we are in the home stretch of our AAUW year. Our branch, as well as the state and national organizations, is busy planning for the rest of this year as well as the year to come.

NCCWSL 2021 will be a virtual experience held on May 25 & 26. We are working with Brevard College to support young women leaders attending this event.

AAUW National received 400 submissions to the annual art contest. From now until March 3 you may select your 10 favorite submissions. The winning entries will be featured on note cards to be mailed to you later this spring.

Beginning April 7 members will be asked to vote on the national board of directors as well as a proposal to eliminate the membership degree requirement. See "Coming Up...Biennial National AAUW Election" on p. 2 of this newsletter for more information.

The annual state conference will be held virtually on March 19 & 20. Election of officers will be held on March 20th. Pat Ashe of the Asheville branch has been nominated for president and Janet Bunger of the Raleigh branch has been nominated for branch advocate.

Work continues at the book nook preparing for the sale in June. Books continue to be sold via eBay and Thrift Books. The Book Group continues to discuss interesting books at their monthly meetings on Zoom. Kathryn Burleigh continues making our website interesting and informative. Sheila Gardin Mooney, our 2019 "Women Who Make a Difference" awardee, will present this month.

The nominating committee has had a very busy two months working to build a slate of officers who will join Rhae Mozley in leading us in 2021-22. You will be presented with this slate in the April newsletter and have the opportunity to vote at the April 13 meeting. I encourage you to attend the April Zoom meeting and vote. Your support of those who keep our branch active and engaged in the work of our mission and vision on behalf of all 132 of our members is most appreciated.

*Cindy Donaldson*

## COMING EVENTS

<b>Mar 3</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Book Group</b> Zoom
<b>Mar 8</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>Board Meeting</b> Zoom
<b>Mar 9</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Branch Meeting</b> Zoom
<b>Apr 7</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Book Group</b> Zoom



## MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Circles of Security with Sheila Gardin Mooney

See p. 3 for more information

## COMING UP...BIENNIAL NATIONAL AAUW ELECTION



Every two years AAUW proposes changes to its public policy statement. In addition, the AAUW National is again proposing an organizational change which is subject to approval by the national membership. . This spring the AAUW membership will vote on an amendment to the AAUW Bylaws which, if passed, would eliminate the current educational requirements for AAUW membership.

The proposed change, if approved, would read:

An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.

Similar proposals, introduced in the past, have failed. This year the national Board of Directors feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made sense at AAUW's inception, the degree requirement runs counter to our mission to become more diverse and inclusive. The Board also believes that eliminating the degree requirement better align our mission, values and the needs of women today.

The Board notes that in the past few years, a number of funds and corporations that were interested in giving money to support major AAUW projects were unable to do so because their governance guidelines prohibited them from donating to organizations that discriminate. To move forward, support from corporate and nonprofit organizations must be a significant portion of AAUW resources. AAUW cannot and will not survive solely by dues or gifts from members (which account for only 15% of the national AAUW budget.)

If approved, the proposed changes to the Bylaws would eliminate the Student Associate section. Student associates will be given the option of becoming Individual Members or joining the Equity Network. The AAUW Board will vote this spring on the dues issue, including continuing making all student dues free at C/U member schools. Life memberships are not affected by the proposed bylaw changes.

In order to pass, bylaw amendments require a two-thirds affirmative (yes) vote of the required quorum (5%) of those eligible to vote. All members may vote.

Changes to the Bylaws would be effective immediately. AAUW's national staff will be prepared to change membership language, the join function and other related items as necessary immediately after the vote.

Voting for all members opens on April 7 and will close at 5:00 p.m. ET on May 17. Closer to that time, every member will receive instructions and a unique link for voting - unless a member sends a specific request for a paper ballot.

Many of you know I have long supported [members@openupaaauw.org](mailto:members@openupaaauw.org). The national AAUW Board also strongly supports this proposal to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Please check the national web site election page at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) if you are interested in gathering more information before you vote this spring.

*Karla Atkinson, Public Policy*

### Book Group

On Wednesday, March 3, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom, we will discuss *Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel. On Wednesday, April 7, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom, we will discuss *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent. Contact Carol Carrano for more information.

### AAUW BREVARD CONTRIBUTIONS

*Donations made since the February newsletter*

#### Brevard College Scholarship Endowment

Current book value is \$52,335.00

#### Donor:

Geri Hambley  
Carol and John Carrano I  
Patty Stark

#### In Memory of:

Mary Lou Rhodes  
Mary Lou Rhodes

#### Blue Ridge Community College AAUW Endowment

Current book value is \$98,983.64

If you or a family member is looking for a gift idea, please consider contributing to one of the AAUW college endowments. Link to the necessary forms at: <http://brevard-nc.aauw.net/donate/>

## MARCH BRANCH MEETING



Think back to your childhood. Do you remember an adult with whom you had a special relationship? What made you want to spend time with this person? What did you enjoy about being together? Do you also remember an adult who made the young you feel uncomfortable or insecure? Looking back, can you identify why these relationships were so different?

Today there is research that helps clarify how adults can build healthy relationships with young children, a core for their security and self-esteem. While this information may be essential for parents, it is also important for us in our roles as grandparent, special aunt or caregiver.

We want to have such positive relationships throughout our lives. In “Circle of Security,” a research-based program available in Transylvania County, certified trainers work with parents of children 6 months to 6 years of age to strengthen their parenting skills, as well as their children’s confidence and self-esteem. While many of us no longer parent young children, this presentation provides guidance for each of us to apply in relationships with other children in our lives.

Our presenter, Sheila Gardin Mooney, a certified Circle of Security trainer, will share key concepts of this approach for building healthy relationships with children and emphasize the importance of healthy attachments. As Sheila said, “This is not a program that tells you how to raise children. It is not a rule book specifying what to do. Instead it is a reflective process that looks at what it takes to develop healthy relationships.”

Mooney is well known for her work with children and young people in our community. In fact, she was recognized as our 2019 Woman Who Makes a Difference. A native of Brevard, she graduated from Rosenwald School and Brevard High School before going on to complete undergraduate work at UNC-A and graduate work at Western Carolina University. As a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, she worked in community mental health prior to becoming the counselor at Davidson River School, a position she held for 18 years before her retirement in 2017. She is also a nationally-board certified teacher, the highest level of accreditation for educators.

Sheila Mooney has demonstrated a life-long commitment to the children and youth in our community. In addition to Circle of Security, she has been instrumental in Reconnect for Resilience (helping children who suffer adverse traumatic stress in their lives), Democracy Project of Transylvania County, and the Damascus Road Training Program (helping adults to understand and recognize racism in their attitudes and interactions), among other efforts.

Due to the pandemic our March 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 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, e-mail Cindi Spillman for an appointment or visit the resources section at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Please plan to join the meeting by 6:50/6:55 p.m. to ensure a timely start for the presentation. A short business meeting will follow this program.

*Linda Thompson, Publicity*

### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Brevard Branch high school scholarship of \$1000.00 has been awarded to the TIME 4 Science Program at Brevard High School. Over 60 percent of the introductory students enrolled in the program this year are female.

This spring the TIME program will be conducting a locally-focused environmental biotechnology project. Our scholarship funds will be used to support this project, including local travel, project supplies and DNA analysis testing. Program leader Jennifer Williams anticipates students returning to science competition travel next year since most of their research competitions and events that required travel out of the county in the past were held online this year.

*Jody Schuld, Scholarship Committee*

## BOOK SALE UPDATE

Yellow boxes for book donations will be placed in 25 locations around Transylvania County the first week of March. Large donations will continue to be accepted at the book nook by arranging delivery in advance. Please call or email Kristen Alpert.

Books should be packed in Ingles-type boxes with flaps closed. Empty boxes are available at the nook. Books should be “gently-used,” clean, dry, odor (mildew) free and from a non-smoking home. Please do not donate encyclopedias, periodicals, textbooks, reference materials, dictionaries or manuals. DVDs, CDs, books on CD and puzzles are welcome.

If you are interested in getting involved in any part of the book sale process or have questions about the book sale or nook activities, please contact Kristen Alpert or Carrie Clary. The sale requires many volunteers in many different jobs. Some require “heavy lifting,” some require computer skills for the research and sales of donated books, some require pricing and packing the books, some require being available during the sale days for a variety of jobs. Members can volunteer for a long-term job such as category worker, or a sale-specific job of a few hours or days. All are welcome to participate!

*Kristen Alpert, Book Sale Chair*

