

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to April! We are fully in the throes of spring, and with spring comes renewal. We have renewal, both figuratively and literally, happening this April locally and nationally in AAUW.



Roberta Carver and the nominating committee will share the slate of officer candidates for our branch in this edition of the newsletter. Due to COVID restrictions, we will not hold an in-person membership meeting in April. Traditionally, this was the time we met our candidates and voted for the slate of officers.

This year, as in last, we will vote electronically. The committee is presenting a wonderful slate of women who will work hard to keep our branch vibrant and engaged. Please show your support for them by voting this month.

I want to share the results of the state election that took place virtually at the AAUWNC Annual Meeting on March 19th. Pat Ashe, who has just completed her presidency for the Asheville Branch, was voted to become our NC State President. Janet Bunger of the Raleigh Branch, was elected for a second term as Branch Advocate. We wish Pat and Janet well as they assume their offices.

Every member of AAUW has the opportunity to vote in the upcoming National Election. Beginning April 7th, you will be asked to vote to elect members to the National Board of Directors as well as to vote on amendments to Public Policy Priorities. There is a proposal to eliminate the requirement to hold an undergraduate or associate degree in order to become a member of AAUW. During our recent AAUWNC virtual conference, I listened to several members speak about the rationale behind this proposal. The following is a statement from the AAUW National Board of Directors.

“Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.”

When I cast my vote, I will be able to do so with the following information:

- I won’t worry about our name. We now have international members, men have already been admitted as members and with the addition of an associate degree several years ago, not all members have attended a university.
- As an organization, we have encouraged women to enter the trades, which is not degree bound.

COMING EVENTS

April 7
2:00 p.m.

Book Group
Zoom

April 12
1:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Zoom

April 13
7:00 p.m.

Branch Meeting
Zoom

May 5
2:00 p.m.

Book Group
Zoom

APRIL PROGRAM

BRANCH MEETING

April 13, 7:00 P.M.

Via Zoom

Wendi Adair
Presents

READING: A KEY TO SUCCESS

Details on Page 3



President's message continued from page 1

- Without diversity our membership will decrease and we will not have enough financial support to carry out our mission.
- Women today have the highest representation in every level of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Please exercise your right to vote!

In closing, I hope you will join us for our last Zoom member meeting of the year. On Tuesday April 13th, we will hear from Wendi Adair, Executive Director of the Augustine Literacy Project.

Cindy Donaldson, President

BOOK SALE UPDATE

Will we have a book sale this year? Brevard College leaders are not ready yet to give their approval for a sale in June. Given the recent loosening of restrictions for public gatherings, we are very hopeful that the sale will be held either in June or July this year, with the precautions required by the state and local authorities.

Yellow box collections are bringing in many books each week. Large donations should be arranged through Kristen Alpert or Carrie Clary. If members are bringing donations to the Nook from friends or neighbors, PLEASE be sure that you ask the donors NOT to donate encyclopedias, periodicals, textbooks, manuals or reference materials. These must be recycled and create a great deal of extra work for the sorting team. Empty Ingles boxes are available at the Nook for donations and are preferable to bankers boxes or liquor boxes.



Saturday, April 10, 9:00 am is moving day. Packed boxes (heavy lifting) will be moved from the Nook to Pisgah Storage. Empty whole boxes (light lifting) will be moved from Pisgah Storage to the Nook. If you have not volunteered for either part of this job and are available, we need your help! This will take under 2 hours. Please call or email Kristen Alpert if you would like to help.

Kristen Alpert, Book Sale Chair

APRIL PROGRAM

Do you remember learning to read? Perhaps you spent time with Dick, Jane and Sally and mastered reading through the Look-Say method. Perhaps you learned to figure out words using Phonics and letter-sound associations. Maybe you spent time reading with your mother or a sibling or had a special teacher who gave you extra support. Whatever your path, learning to read is one of the key markers for students' school success and later success in life.



Unfortunately not every child learns to read easily and successfully, and this impacts poor and minority children more significantly than others. For years, the national percentage of 4th grade students who read proficiently at grade level has hovered about 35% (*National Assessment of Educational Progress [NAEP], 2019*). At this same grade level about one in three students nationally reads with “below basic” proficiency, meaning they are functionally illiterate. Data also confirms that students who are not reading on grade level by 4th grade are less likely to complete high school, hindering their chances for a productive, poverty-free life.

Our April 13th AAUW program entitled **Tutor One Child, Change Two Lives** will share information about a local volunteer reading program whose mission is to help improve the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of low-income students who struggle with literacy skills. The Augustine Literacy Project-Brevard (ALP) is a nonprofit organization that trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, long-term, 1:1 instruction using a research-based literacy approach. ALP serves students in grades 1-12 who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch and are at least one year below their grade level in reading.

Primarily, Augustine tutors instruct students in grades 1-3 at each of the Transylvania County elementary schools: Rosman Elementary, TC Henderson Elementary, Brevard Elementary, Pisgah Forest Elementary, and Brevard Academy. Tutors meet with students twice a week at the student's school for literacy tutoring. The need for Augustine tutors is great, now more than ever. According to the national nonprofit, Reading Partners, eighty-two percent of students eligible for free or reduced-cost school lunch are not reading at a proficient level and if they are not on track by fourth grade, they are four times less likely to graduate high school.

Our speaker Wendi Adair founded the Brevard chapter of the Augustine Literacy Project and has acted as the program director for nine years. She started her journey teaching students who struggle with reading when homeschooling her own two children with dyslexia. She received training in the Orton-Gillingham approach of literacy instruction, a researched-based approach proven to help individuals who have difficulty acquiring literacy skills. As an Orton-Gillingham practitioner, she helped students unlock their reading potential.

The fact that most families cannot afford the services of a highly trained tutor led her to discover the Augustine Literacy Project organization in Chapel Hill. ALP trains its volunteers in the same effective science-based instructional methods as Orton-Gillingham and provides tutoring services for free to eligible students. Wendi along with a group of dedicated volunteers and board of directors are devoted to training volunteers through ALP to reach as many eligible students as possible in Transylvania County with effective literacy intervention. More information about this local program can be found at their website and Facebook page: <https://augustineproject-brevard.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/brevardaugustineliteracyproject>.

This AAUW presentation promises to be an informative one about a program that changes lives. Please plan to join us for this wonderful program. Due to the pandemic our April 13, 2021 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,

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 this program.

Submitted by Linda Thompson, Publicity Chair

****Time to Vote for 2021-22 AAUW-Brevard Officers****

Each spring our AAUW branch elects officers for the coming year. Our Nominating Committee began meeting early in January and selected a slate of new Executive Committee nominees for 2021-22. We thank these nominees for their willingness to lead AAUW-Brevard.

Our slate was approved by the Board at their March meeting. You will soon receive a Ballot through email since we cannot yet vote in person due to Covid-19. All members are asked to vote by April 10th so the Election results can be tallied and presented at the April 13th Annual Meeting. Detailed instructions for voting will be on the Ballot. Thank you for participating in choosing our new officers.

Slate of 2021-22 Officer Nominees:

President Elect: Fran Rasmussen (member since 2017, worked on IWIL, Book Sale and 2 years as VP of Membership)

Secretary: Susan Andresen (member since 2009, worked on Scholarship and Book Sale, secretary for several years)

Treasurer: Laura Ledford (member since 2007, Treasurer for several years, worked on Membership, Programs, Scholarship and Book Sale)

Membership Vice-Presidents: Mary Baker (2nd year) and Cindi Spillman (member since 2020, artist, small business owner, VP of Programs and Book Sale)

Program Vice-Presidents: Monalin Solan (2nd year) and Elaine Omann (a member of AAUW periodically since graduate school, educator and mother)

Remember to VOTE. Thank you.

Nominating Committee members: *Roberta Carver, Chair, Beth Ann Chiles, Fran Rasmussen, and Linda Thompson*

IN REMEMBRANCE

Our Branch has grown and flourished through the work of women who are dedicated to the Mission and Vision of AAUW. Recently we have learned that two of these members have passed away.

Sharon Pastorino was a valuable and active member of our Book Sale Committee. Most recently Sharon worked on publicity for the Book Sale. Sharon also volunteered her time as a committee chair.

Grace Munro Roy was the president of our branch from 1973-1975. Grace was on faculty at Brevard College and was a supporter of our endowment for scholarships at the college. In her later years, she loved hearing about the Book Sale and how much income the sale produced so that we could continue awarding scholarships. Grace was an avid reader of our newsletter and articles about AAUW that appeared in the Transylvania Times.

Please remember these two members and the AAUW history they share with all of us.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



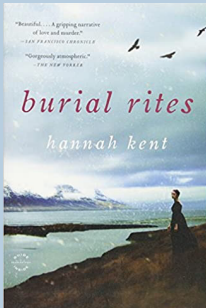
Penny Christian recently moved to Brevard with husband Sam, from Jacksonville Beach Florida. She attended Vanderbilt University with a BA in sociology/psychology and University of Tennessee, Masters in Social Work. In Jacksonville Beach, she worked for over 25 years in social work and was a

member of the City Counsel for 8 years. Penny has two children and two grandchildren. Her hobbies include gardening, knitting, sewing, and reading.



Carol Dugger moved to Brevard, Sherwood Forest, in 2006 from San Francisco where she worked in film production and grant making administration. She graduated from Auburn University in 1976 with a BS in Textile Design. Carol is an active tutor and board member for Brevard's Rise & Shine

and volunteers with various other groups. Carol has one son and her hobbies include gardening, hiking, cooking and traveling.



BOOK GROUP

On Wednesday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m. the book group will discuss **Burial Rites** by Hannah Kent. On Wednesday, May 5th at 2:00 p.m. we will discuss **Becoming** by Michelle Obama. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. Contact Carol Carrano for further information.

ENDOWMENT COLLEGE DONATIONS

Donations made since the March Newsletter

BREVARD COLLEGE AAUW ENDOWMENT

Donor:
Carol & John Carrano

In Honor of:
Cindy Donaldson

Donor:
Carol & John Carrano
Geri & Bill Hambley
Harriet Walls

In Memory of:
Grace Munro Roy
Grace Munro Roy
Grace Munro Roy

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Donor:
Carole Pohl

In Memory of:
Grace Munro Roy

If you and/or a family member are looking for a gift idea, please consider a gift to the College Endowment at either Brevard College or Blue Ridge Community College. You can link to the endowment forms at: <https://brevard-nc.aauw.net/donate/>.