



# BREVARD BRANCH NEWS

Breaking through barriers  
for women & girls

A Platinum Branch

Our 57th Year  
October 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I feel a little like I just jumped on a roller coaster; everything is moving at breakneck speed. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Katie Thompson (public policy chair), Susanne Rolland (LAF chair) and I met here in Brevard with other AAUW branch presidents and public policy chairs from the western region. The central and eastern regions are having similar meetings. The primary objective of these meetings is to roll out the new State Public Policy Pilot Program (PPPP). The goal of the PPPP is to realize the collective potential of AAUW NC to impact public policy on issues affecting girls and women, especially at the state level.

Rather than having every branch monitor all the pieces of legislation, the PPPP is designed to break down this job into a more doable framework. Each participating branch will choose an issue and follow the legislation regarding it. Brevard has chosen public education as our issue. When legislation is at the point where constituent action has the potential of influencing our representatives' votes, an alert will be sent to all state branches to notify their members to take action. This monitoring, alerting and notifying members will be done through a system of designated branch "senders" and "receivers." Our first opportunity to test out this pilot program on a state level will be mid-November when the NC legislature goes into a special session.

Katie, Susanne and I have recruited three very politically astute members (Amye McCallie, Jill Roberts and Liz Bates) to help us in designing how our branch will implement PPPP. Karla Atkinson, as our State co-president, will advise as needed.

All of this coincides quite serendipitously with the desire on the part of some members to have our branch be more pro-active in helping the public schools in Transylvania County, given the devastating budget cuts this legislature has imposed on schools. Whereas North Carolina used to be lauded for its commitment to education and the future of our children, the General Assembly members sent to Raleigh in this last election decided on a budget that puts North Carolina 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in per pupil education spending.

Penny Davies and Pat Clow have agreed to co-chair a new Public Education Committee to work with the county's superintendent of schools to determine how our branch might best help our schools. They are looking for members dedicated to education and the quality of our schools to join the committee. Please contact Penny or Pat if you are interested in launching this critically important endeavor. And, don't miss our October program. It is going to be a blockbuster!

*Carol Elliott*

## BRANCH MEETING

**7:00 p.m., October 11 at College Walk**

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Silversteen invite you to  
"An Evening With the Silversteens."

Hostesses: Linda Fradley and Judith Johnson



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our science camp scholarship girls for 2011 will be at the October meeting. Grace Owen and Emma Galloway, students at T. C. Henderson Elementary School in Lake Toxaway, will speak about their experiences at Green River Preserve which they attended the first week in August.

The girls are 10 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Emma's parents are Jessica McKinney and Jason Galloway of Lake Toxaway. She enjoys riding dirt bikes, being outside and going to school. Grace's parents are Michelle and Patrick Owen of Balsam Grove. She likes playing the piano, singing and computers/science.

## TRIPPING AROUND

We will be going to the Mint Museum Randolph in Charlotte on Thursday, November 17 to view exhibits titled - *Chanel: Designs for the Modern Woman* and *Fashionable Silhouettes*, selections from the museum's collection of historic costumes and fashionable dresses. Call Pinkie Byrd: 885-8201, or Connie Kay Hughes: 862-6654, for details.

## LEGAL ACTION FUND REPORT

In August AAUW signed onto a brief written by the Women's Law Center in support of two female middle school students who were banned from wearing bracelets promoting breast cancer awareness in school. The plaintiffs in B.H. and K.M. v. Easton Area School District, represented by the ACLU Foundation of Pennsylvania, claimed violation of their First Amendment rights. In April 2011, the district court entered a preliminary order prohibiting the school district from enforcing a ban on the bracelets. The school district appealed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, prompting AAUW to file an amicus brief in support of the students.

AAUW is co-sponsoring "Anita Hill 20 Years Later: Sex, Power, and Speaking Truth," a daylong conference and evening performance on workplace sexual harassment to be held October 15 at Hunter College in New York City. Hill will deliver the keynote address. Twenty prominent legal experts, scholars, journalists, activists and artists will speak in three core plenary sessions. Eve Ensler will curate the evening performance. To offset somewhat the cost of travel to New York, attendance cost is only \$20 and free for students. Registration is online ([www.anitahill20.org](http://www.anitahill20.org)).

Susanne Rolland, LAF chair



AAUW has initiated an effort called "HERvotes" to preserve women's health and economic rights. Over this year each newsletter issue will feature one of the top ten historic advances for women's lives that AAUW believes are at risk.

### Women's Right to Vote

The 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1920, guaranteed American women the right to vote, although many women of color did not win full voting rights until 45 years later under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Currently women surpass men both in the proportion and numbers who vote.

Threat: Instead of advocating a 21st century voting system that is inclusive, conservative legislatures in 30 states – including North Carolina – are attempting to turn the clock back to the 19th century when only privileged white males were allowed to vote. Newly imposed ID requirements target students, people of color and women. As many as 32 million women of voting age do not have documentation with their current legal name.

In June North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue vetoed a Voter-ID bill passed by the Republican-controlled state legislature. "There was a time in North Carolina history when the right to vote was enjoyed only by some citizens rather than by all. That time is past, and we should not revisit it," Perdue wrote in her veto announcement. This issue may well come up again in the General Assembly.

## COMING EVENTS

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Oct 5</b><br>2:00 p.m.  | <b>Book Club</b><br>College Walk                         |
| <b>Oct 10</b><br>1:00 p.m. | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>St. Philip's<br>Episcopal Church |
| <b>Oct 11</b><br>7:00 p.m. | <b>Branch Meeting</b><br>College Walk                    |
| <b>Oct 25</b><br>1:00 p.m. | <b>Bridge Club</b><br>Carole Pohl's home                 |
| <b>Nov 2</b><br>2:00 p.m.  | <b>Book Club</b><br>College Walk                         |

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Ruthann Burns** moved to Brevard in 2004. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, she spent most of her working career in Indiana. Ruthann received her undergraduate degree in pre-med studies from Marquette University and also earned an MA from Indiana University in Art and Education and a MA from Purdue University in Science and Education.

Ruthann's professional career was in education. She started out teaching first grade and, at retirement, was teaching various classes in special education at Indiana University. Ruthann has been a former AAUW member in Indiana and also in Michigan where she and her family summered.

A recent widow, Ruthann has seven children and 15 grandchildren. Prior to moving to Brevard, she divided her time between Mexico and Northern Michigan. She enjoys reading and quilting. Ruthann is interested in helping with the book sale, and in the book and bridge clubs.

Welcome new member **Susan Howard**. Her profile will come later.

### YEARBOOK UPDATES

**Jill Hershfield** prefers that her cell phone be used: 941-773-4337.

**Aleta Tisdale's** first name is misspelled. Please correct it to: Aleta.

*Laura Ledford, Membership Vice-President*

### BRIDGE CLUB

The AAUW bridge group will meet on Tuesday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Carole Pohl. She will contact the members. If you might be interested in joining the group, please contact Connie Kay Hughes at 862-6654.

### BOOK GROUP

AAUW book group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at College Walk in the downstairs activity room. On October 5, we will discuss *Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks. On Nov. 2, 2011 we will discuss *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present* by Gail Collins. For further information, call Carol Carrano at 883-3424.

## OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM

AAUW Brevard will join Transylvania County's Sesquicentennial Celebration by presenting "An Evening With The Silversteens," an original playlet written by our own member Lee Stewart. Following the skit, there will be a screening of "The Saga of Silvermont" which shows the 18-month restoration of the second floor museum.



The cast features Mayor Jimmy Harris as Joseph Silversteen; Anne Munch as his wife Elizabeth; Donna Lovejoy, Jinks Ramsey & Cheryl Walkup as the Silversteen daughters. Other cast members include Joel Munch, Alice Taylor, Stephanie O'Shields, Doug Huth, James Roubion, Karen Canman & William Mashburn. Music is provided by Joe Fazio, keyboardist extraordinaire

*Pinkie Byrd, Program Vice President*

### AAUW BREVARD SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The endowment fund received these donations since the last newsletter:

#### In Honor of :

Grace Roy's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday

#### Donors

Norma Aguilar  
Phyllis Stout

### LOST AND FOUND

Several items were left behind at the September potluck meeting: an off-white pottery bowl with purple flower design, a green dishtowel with vegetable and herb design, a glass bowl with grapes design and a slotted serving spoon. If any of these items belong to you, please contact Laura Ledford at 877-2766.

### BOOK SALE UPDATE

Please do not bring plastic bags to the Pisgah Center sorting units. They are of no use out there and then have to be transported to the gym. Please hold on to them for now and bring them to the gym next June after we have moved in the books and are setting up for the sale.

## CHOICE BOOK GUIDELINES

It won't be long before we are sorting and pricing books again. These tips should help us identify more valuable items that otherwise may be under-priced or even thrown away. A choice book is largely a matter of supply and demand. For example, hardcover books are generally more in demand and less available. Several things to look for include:



**OLD MAY BE VALUABLE** – Value may be difficult to determine without researching, so as a general guide, we will research any book that appears to have been published prior to 1950 and definitely prior to 1900.

**CONDITION** – Books without tears, writing, torn bindings or discoloration are more in demand.

**DUST JACKET, PRICE CLIPPING** – A hardcover with a good dust jacket that hasn't had the price clipped out may be a choice book.

**SPECIAL BINDINGS** – Leather books, such as the Franklin Library series, are readily sold at an average of \$15 to \$20 each, more if they are in very good condition.

**EDITION/PRINTING** – First edition/first printing books are more in demand. Modern books are usually clearly marked; the Choice Group will research older books.

**BOOK CLUB EDITION** – It is very rare that a book club edition will be a choice book.

**AUTHOR SIGNATURES** – If you see a book signed by the author, please put it in the Choice box.

**ODDITIES** – Sometimes you will notice something strange in the printing. We have one where the table of contents is upside down and backwards (we're still researching the value of this book).

**NON BOOKS** (e.g., historic magazines, comics, calendars, bookmarks and gum wrappers!) – This has been one of the more interesting aspects of worldwide internet sales. A gum wrapper (no gum) used as a bookmark in a book from the early 1900s was from gum that was marketed in the 1920s and '30s. It's been listed on eBay and a bid was received in less than 24 hours. Of course, everyone is aware of the comic books that were donated; one from 1935 was quite rare and sold for \$1600. We may sell a used day-planner too!

The Choice Group is preparing a list of books that tend to be rare and still in demand. It will be available for each section and updated over time. Don't be surprised if you see some rather well-known authors (e.g., Grisham, Roberts, Oates) on the list, but it will usually be their first book or two, because a smaller number of books were printed until the publisher was sure the author would sell larger printings.

Bottom line – trust your instinct – if it looks like it might be unusual or worth more than our typical books, place it in the CHOICE box and the Choice Group will check it out. If we don't think it is choice, we will return it to your section with a little marker saying "Not Choice" or a penciled 'NC' on the last white page in the back of the book.

*Veronica & Raoul Gagne, Choice Books Group*

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**When:** Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** Connetsee Overlook Clubhouse  
**Time:** 12:00 noon  
**Menu:** Bread & Butter  
Caprese Salad with Tomatoes & fresh Mozzarella  
Connetsee Chicken Wellington with Mushroom  
Duxelles & a light Sherry Sauce  
Gourmet Rice Pilaf  
Fresh Seasonal Local Vegetables  
Classic Banana Foster over Vanilla Ice Cream

**Cost:** \$16.00, including tax & gratuity  
Please make checks payable to *AAUW Brevard Branch*, & mail to: Ann Grant, 12 Galuyasdi Court, Brevard, NC 28712

**Program:** Seasonal entertainment. We will also collect art supplies for T-Carts' school programs.  
*Ann Grant & Carolyn Van Ness, Co-Chairs, Special Luncheon Events*