



# BREVARD BRANCH NEWS

Breaking through barriers  
for women & girls

A Platinum Branch

Our 57th Year  
February 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Let's hear it for global warming ;-)) with 50 degree days at the end of January. How different from the past two years. I can't help but worry that we are going to get a prolonged cold snap in February or March and everything that is budding or blooming is going to take a hit. I saw daffodils in bloom today, and the Lenten rose at the health club bloomed last week. I remember 4 years ago losing or maiming quite a few trees and bushes when we got that late freeze. I do hope that doesn't happen again.

All of this early blooming has put me into a Spring mood and feeling again like everything is changing and moving so fast. There are some changes in officer positions I do want to announce: Joann McCarthy has agreed to take over the rest of Susan Andresen's term as Secretary, and Linda Mashburn has agreed to assume the rest of Linda Schaet's term as Program VP. Thank you, Joann and Linda! I encourage all to step up and volunteer for positions and committees. I have found it so worthwhile and invigorating. You won't find a better group of women to work with.

We have also had to change the date of the May luncheon since the original Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> date falls on Primary Day. Our new luncheon date will be Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you change your calendars.

Our PPPP Committee sent out its second call to action (but the first with an active link to contact our state legislators) on the ¾ cent sales tax dedicated to public education funding. Please see the letter sent to the *Transylvania Times* by our Education Committee reproduced in this newsletter. If you haven't already followed through, please do so now. This represents everything we believe in.

I'm looking forward to our February program on Celtic Legacies. I think I'll wear my Elliott tartan sash and Elliott Clan Chieftain's badge. I'm happy to say that the chief of this Scottish clan is a woman, one of the few.

*Carol Elliott*

### BRANCH MEETING

**12:00 noon, February 14 at College Walk**

"Celtic Legacies" with Kathleen Milligan  
See p. 3 for more information

Hostesses: Annette Blum and Kathleen Milligan



AAUW has initiated “HERvotes” to preserve women’s health and economic rights. Over this year each newsletter will feature one of the top ten historic advances for women’s lives that AAUW considers to be at risk.

## Medicaid (1965)

Medicaid provides access to vital health services for 19 million women at all stages of their lives. In 2007 nearly seven in ten elderly individuals who relied on Medicaid for assistance were women. Additionally, Medicaid covers millions of mothers and more than one-third of all children.

**Threat:** Under the conservative House budget proposal, Medicaid was targeted for deep budget cuts and converted into capped block grants to states. Medicaid still faces threats after the failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to identify at least an additional \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts.

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND REPORT

During the first week of January, lawyer Susan Burke filed an appeal for the LAF-supported case Cioca v. Rumsfeld. As reported in the last newsletter, the plaintiffs in the case are 28 current and former members of the military who allege that they were raped by coworkers and that the defense secretary’s failure to act on the issue of sexual assault in the military amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. Previously on December 13, a judge of the U.S. District Court of Eastern Virginia granted the Department of Defense’s motion to dismiss the case. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in the case in the coming months.

Susan Burke discussed the importance of the case with AAUW’s LAF committee on January 6. She expects that the institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won in the courts, but plans to keep the case in the legal system as long as possible in order to create media attention. She hopes to inspire public pressure for legislation that stipulates necessary institutional changes. Burke and several of the plaintiffs from the case are featured in “The Invisible War,” a new documentary about sexual assault in the military premiered at the Sundance film festival on January 20. The filmmakers worked with Burke to create a petition related to the issue. (An opportunity to sign that petition may be found if you Google “The Invisible War.”) LAF is developing a Program-in-a-Box to help AAUW members bring attention to the case and the issue, believing community efforts are essential to bring about change. [LAF Express, January issue, source of most of this report.]

*Susanne Rolland, LAF Chair*

## COMING EVENTS

- |                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb 13</b>    | <b>Board Meeting</b>                  |
| 1:00 p.m.        | St. Philip’s Episcopal Church         |
| <b>Feb 14</b>    | <b>Branch Meeting</b>                 |
| 12:00 noon       | College Walk                          |
| <b>Feb 28</b>    | <b>Newsletter Submission Deadline</b> |
| <b>Feb 28</b>    | <b>Bridge Club</b>                    |
| 1:00 p.m.        | Pat Clow’s home                       |
| <b>Mar 7</b>     | <b>Book Club</b>                      |
| 2:00 p.m.        | College Walk                          |
| <b>Mar 30-31</b> | <b>AAUW NC Ann. Mtg.</b>              |
|                  | Burlington                            |

## IT’S JEOPARDY TIME AGAIN

AAUW recognizes National Women’s History Month each March by bringing fun and an awareness of women’s history into fifth grade community classrooms with our version of Jeopardy.



Our project has been well received by teachers, students and parents. To make this annual event successful, it is essential that we have a strong showing of support from our AAUW sisters.

We welcome seasoned Jeopardy volunteers as well as those new to the game. Come one.. come all.. it’s fun, educational and supports the mission of AAUW

Please contact me at 884-6885 or Judy Lauter 862-4890 for more information.

*Dottie Kosiba, Jeopardy Chair*

## LUNCHEON DATE CHANGE

Our Spring Luncheon/May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, at noon.

## BOOK SALE



Preparations for the 2012 Book Sale are going smoothly. Many members are currently transporting large donations of used books, preparing to distribute Yellow Boxes to over 50 community merchants, researching choice/vintage books, sorting, pricing and boxing, preparing publicity for the next few months and responding to website inquiries.

So, what else is needed to support a successful sale now? Volunteers to monitor boxes in the following new locations: 5th/3rd Bank, Glen Cannon, Wal-Mart, Headlines Hair Salon and Deerwood Fitness Studio.

Locations used in the past need volunteers, too, such as Belk, Blue Ridge Quick Print, Copy Works, Highland Books and La Petite Spa.

Yellow Boxes not only provide a convenient place to drop off used books, but serve as a five-month free advertisement for the Book Sale. Your efforts are needed now. Please notify Judy Baghose as soon as possible of your willingness to monitor a box.

Additional requests for you to think about:

- \* Signs throughout the community are placed right before the sale begins and pulled in on the day the sale ends. We need two teams of three each to place those signs efficiently;
- \* Non-Profits/Good Causes need to be informed of the opportunity to select books at no cost on the last day of our sale;
- \* Our After-Sale Social has been scheduled for Thursday, July 5 at Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County. This committee could use a few volunteers to assist with this celebration.
- \* We will soon be signing up move-in and move-out volunteers, cashiers, greeters, and hold-area monitors.

Brevard Branch has a remarkable fund-raiser with a 42 year history of growing success. Let's keep it going strong with assistance from all our members.

**Used Books = \$\$\$ for Scholarships**

*Judy Baghose, Book Sale Committee Chair*

## BRIDGE CLUB

AAUW bridge club will meet at Pat Clow's home, at 1:00 p.m. on February 28, the fourth Tuesday, as usual. Pat will notify bridge club members. Anyone wishing information on this august group should contact Connie Kay Hughes at 862-6654.

## BOOK GROUP

The AAUW book group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, at College Walk to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skoot. For further information, call Carol Carrano at 883-3424.

## FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

"At one time, the Celtic culture was predominant over all of Europe, and today traces of its legacy remain in our language, traditions, attitudes, and even our celebrations of Groundhog Day and Halloween," says Brevard Branch's own Kathleen Milligan.



Her talk -- Celtic Legacies -- will address Celtic pagan myths and traditional stories, the Celtic view of the cosmos and their calendar and festivals.

Kathleen, who taught at Lafayette College and Muhlenberg College, has studied the Celtic culture for two decades and even speaks some Irish Gaelic. Her avocation includes traveling extensively in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England to various Celtic sites.

*Pinkie Byrd, Program Vice President*

## A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Occasionally AAUW's member list is made available by National to carefully screened companies and organizations. A member who does not want to be included should contact [helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org) or call 800-326-2289.

This is something each member must do for themselves. The treasurer can not request this for the Branch.

**WOMEN WHO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE AWARD  
NOMINATIONS**



How many times do you say, "I do not know how she does it," when you observe one of the many women in our community who give tirelessly of their time, talents and spirit to make Transylvania County this wonderful place to live?

It is time to think about some of those women and consider nominating one of them for the 2012 AAUW/Brevard Women Who Make a Difference Award. These inspirational leaders are everywhere around us: schools, social services, non-profit organizations, government and all aspects of our lives. This AAUW award is an opportunity to celebrate the service and accomplishments of outstanding women in our county. The award(s) will be presented at our annual May meeting/luncheon.

The award, created by our Branch in 1996, has been awarded to from one to three women each year for a total of 34 recipients. A nominee should be a woman whose contributions have improved the quality of life of citizens of our county. She should:

- \* Have an impact on the community;
- \* Demonstrate leadership;
- \* Share her knowledge and expertise;
- \* Dedicate her time unselfishly; and
- \* Serve as inspiration to others.

Applications are available on the AAUW/Brevard web site, [www.aauwbrevardnc.org](http://www.aauwbrevardnc.org) and will be available at the February and March meetings. The deadline for receipt of the completed applications is March 27, 2012. Please mail the application and letters of recommendation to:

AAUW Difference Award Nomination  
PO Box 1487  
Brevard, NC 28712-1487

If you have questions, please call me at 883-4688.

*Ladene Newton, WWMD Chair*

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

Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) issues the Annual Report of Donors in January each year. For several years in a row, AAUW/Brevard has led the list in their highest donor category. We can all be proud that we are truly making a difference in the lives of Transylvania County women who are seeking higher education opportunities. Every dollar, whether it is from the annual book sale or from individuals, contributes to funding scholarships in perpetuity.

A special note: Our efforts are being enhanced by two employees of BRCC who have money deducted from each monthly paycheck and deposited in our AAUW/Brevard endowment fund. One of them said in an e-mail recently: "We're proud to give to AAUW-Brevard because of what your group has done for so many young women and for the community."

Below are other donations made since the January newsletter:

**In Honor of:**

Ladene Newton

**In Memory of:**

Howard Runion  
(Husband of Betty Runion)

**Donors:**

Harriet Walls

**Donors:**

Karla S Atkinson  
Carol Carrano  
Mary Kay and Bill Jennings

**BREVARD COLLEGE IWIL NEWS**

AAUW Brevard has received a grant from AAUW NC for \$300 towards the Smart Start workshop to be cosponsored by IWIL at Brevard College on Wednesday, February 29 from 6-9 p.m. This interactive role-playing workshop on "How to Negotiate Your First Salary" is open to 40 Brevard College senior women. A hearty thanks to Joann McCarthy who used her grant writing skills to secure this grant for our local branch!



Mark down Monday, April 2, at The Porter Center for the showing of *Miss Representation*. This film "explores how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in influential positions in America and challenges the media's limiting and often disparaging portrayals of women...". We will need volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. If you are interested, email or call me at 883-4342.

*Sue Ziegler, IWIL Chair*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The following letter appeared in the *Transylvania Times* on January 26 . We request that members reply to the letter, especially supporting the reestablishment of a 3/4 cent state sales tax, the monies going toward public education.

To the Editor:

As an organization that supports education, the Brevard Branch of AAUW watched the recent funding cuts to North Carolina schools with concern. The cuts dropped our state to 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for per pupil spending, and the fallout has resulted in reduced school staffing, increased class sizes, reduced class offerings and reduced funding reserves in local districts.

Transylvania County Schools have done well at maintaining educational services in light of these budget limitations, but cannot hold this level if there are future reductions.

As North Carolina enters a new legislative season, AAUW urges all citizens to let our representatives know that we support refunding past cuts and adding increased funding to education. Our schools hold the key to a well-educated populace so essential to our state's future.

The following are specific actions that our legislators can take to secure a strong educational system in North Carolina:

Vote for the proposed increase in the sales tax of three-quarters of a cent with proceeds dedicated to education.

This temporary measure replaces a lapsed sales tax that had the support of the majority of North Carolinians.

Restore funding to the Teaching Fellows program that helps to attract the brightest and best to education.

Support funding for high-quality early childhood education, such as the More at Four program, as longitudinal research shows that such programs not only result in increased educational achievement, but also positive societal outcomes such as reduced crime.

We are proud of the support education receives in Transylvania County, and we can't risk additional cuts to education locally or statewide. Now is the time to let our state legislators know the importance of funding North Carolina's future by funding education now.

The contact information is: Representative Trudi Walend (email:Trudi.Walend@ncleg.net or phone 919-715-4466) and Senator Jim Davis (email Jim.Davis@ncleg.net or phone (919) 733-5875). Your voice can make a difference.

*Pat Clow, Education Co-Chair*

## MAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 12 Noon

**\*\*NOTE CHANGE OF DAY\*\***

Overlook Clubhouse, Connestee Falls

Menu To Be Announced

Cash Bar Available

Cost: \$18.00 per person, inclusive

For Reservations: Send check payable to AAUW Brevard to Ann Grant, 12 Galuyasdi Court, Brevard, NC 28712

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, May 1st

Program: "Women Who Make A Difference" & Installation of 2012-2013 Officers

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Two of our scholarship recipients have accomplished some academic success recently.

Le'Kristin Avery graduated from Blue Ridge Community College in December with an Associate's Degree and was just accepted to East Carolina University as a junior. She worked at CVS while attending Blue Ridge and received our scholarship from 2010 through Fall 2011. We congratulate Le'Kristin on her accomplishment, and wish her continued success at ECU.



Stacie Bulluck was named to the Brevard College Dean's List her first semester. Stacie is majoring in art and will attend our February meeting, where she will show some of her art work. We congratulate her on her academic achievement and creative accomplishments.

Forms for members who want to participate in the Give a Grad a Gift Program will be available at the February meeting. Any AAUW member can give a free AAUW National membership to a recent grad within two years of their graduation from a college or university. Further information is available at the national AAUW website.

*Carole Pohl, Scholarship Chair*