



BREVARD BRANCH NEWS

Breaking through barriers
for women & girls

A Platinum Branch

Our 57th Year
January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



One year is ending with numerous accomplishments by AAUW and a new year is beginning with new challenges and opportunities. On the national level, AAUW awarded \$3.7 million to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations to support 239 fellowships and grants. Among NC branches, Brevard AAUW is renowned for its scholarships to young women and girls in Transylvania County to attend Brevard College, Blue Ridge Community College, the Green River Science Camp and the WISE program at Clemson University. We can be justly proud of our own and National's commitment and achievements.

In the new year, National is going to be launching the AAUW Action Fund's nationwide voter education and turnout campaign called "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard." Our branch will be doing its part as well through the State's Public Policy Pilot Program (PPPP), which is now "live" and almost walking and talking. On the branch level we will also be exploring new forms of voter education. I'm encouraged and hopeful that our voices will be heard.

On a personal level, I've adopted my own PPPP program: Patience, Perspective, Persistence and Purpose. I could have added a quite a few more – passion, priority, perplexity and preservation, not to mention panic, painful and philosophical. Not to get too mystical on anyone, I sometimes wonder whether you just can't get too happy or pleased with life without it turning around and biting you in the butt! Many of you know what I'm talking about and, frankly, I think that's what makes us the women we are and why we are members of AAUW. We recognize the challenges (personal and national); we face them; and, by God, we fight them with all the intelligence, passion and determination we can muster. May we win our fights and succeed in 2012!

See our newsletter coverage (p. 3) on the January program. It looks absolutely fantastic. We have a real fighter coming to talk to us, demonstrating what we women can do when we are committed.

Carol Elliott

BRANCH MEETING

12:00 noon, January 10 at College Walk

Roberta Madden will discuss the current and future status of the Equal Rights Amendment. See p. 3 for more information

Hostesses: Judy Baghose and Linda Mashburn





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.

Medicare (1965)

Medicare is the nation’s health insurance program for seniors and younger adults with permanent disabilities. More than half (56%) of all Medicare beneficiaries are women.

Threat: The conservative majority of the House of Representative passed a fiscal year 2012 budget bill that would effectively end Medicare and replace it for those now under 55 with a voucher to buy private insurance. It would increase out-of-pocket health care costs, limit benefits and severely restrict the choice of doctors. Although the final budget as passed in late December did not include the proposed changes to Medicare, continued reform efforts must be monitored closely for their effects on women.

COMING EVENTS

- Jan 4** **Book Club**
2:00 p.m. College Walk
- Jan 9** **Board Meeting**
1:00 p.m. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
- Jan 10** **Branch Meeting**
12:00 noon College Walk
- Jan 24** **Bridge Club**
1:00 p.m. Pam Brannon's home
- Jan 31** **Newsletter Submission Deadline**
- Feb 1** **Book Club**
2:00 p.m. College Walk
- Mar 30-31** **AAUW NC Ann. Mtg.**
Burlington

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND REPORT

There have been “unsurprising, but disappointing developments,” in the words of the plaintiff’s attorney, in *Cioca et al v. Rumsfeld et al*, adopted for support by AAUW in May of this year.

On November 19, oral arguments were held in US District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia. Susan Burke represented the plaintiffs, 28 current or 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. On December 13, US District Court Judge Liam O’Grady granted the Department of Defense’s motion to dismiss the case, calling the sexual assault cases “troubling,” but indicating that previous cases and Supreme Court decisions have advised against judicial involvement in cases of military discipline.

In the next month, Burke will file an appeal and ask the appellate court to overturn the dismissal. In *Army Times* (Dec. 13) Burke is quoted as continuing the case because “we do not believe that rape and sexual assault should be deemed incidental to serving in the military.” She indicated “we may have to take this to the Supreme Court to get justice for these rape survivors.” In the December issue, *LAF Express* reports that Burke has heard from 400 other survivors in addition to the plaintiffs, many of whom could be part of future suits. Burke will meet with the LAF Committee in early January to discuss the case and its importance.

Susanne Rolland, LAF Chair

CALENDAR SOS

Please help me sell the remaining calendars, a bargain at only \$5.00. The profit for this fund raiser for AAUW is in the remaining calendars. Call me at 862-3609 and I will deliver your order.

Renee Braun, Calendar Chair

BOOK SALE



Only six months until the Book Sale of 2012! Yellow Box distribution throughout our community is nearly upon us. Over the years we have identified 50 locations having a great deal of foot traffic. The presence of Yellow Boxes from February until the third week in June is a visual reminder to the public that we want their Used

Books for Scholarship \$\$\$.

Sign up for Yellow Box locations will begin at the January 10 meeting and continue at the February 14 meeting with Yellow Box distribution at that time. Consider sharing the responsibility for monitoring a box with another AAUW member.

Responsibilities for monitoring a Yellow Box are:

- Deliver the box to location as soon as possible in February.
- Present management with letter explaining the collection of used books. Be sure to put your name(s) and phone number(s) for contact on the letter.
- If this is a new box location, talk to management about our Book Sale and how it benefits scholarships for local students.
- Check on your box weekly or more frequently, if necessary.
- Arrange for monitoring of box during periods when you will be out of town.
- Take book donations to Pisgah Storage on a regular basis for sorting and pricing. Gate combination is 3498.
- Contact me at 966-9068 if you have difficulty of any kind.
- Pick up your box from location on weekend of June 16-17 or Monday, June 18.
- Return your box to Pisgah Storage. Boxes will be numbered this year to track them. We want to account for every box since they are no longer available.

Yellow Boxes encourage the public to sort through their books, provide a convenient drop-off and advertise the dates of our Book Sale. Pick-up for large donations can be arranged by calling me at 966-9068.

Only six months!

Judy Baghose, Book Sale Committee Chair

BRIDGE CLUB

AAUW bridge club members will begin 2012 at Pam Brannon's home, 1:00 p.m. as usual, on the fourth Tuesday, as usual. That would be January 24. Pam will notify bridge club members. Anyone wishing information on this august group should 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 Jan. 4, 2012, we will discuss *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. On Feb. 1, we will discuss *Room* by Emma Donoghue. For further information, call Carol Carrano at 883-3424.

JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

“It’s not just your grandmother’s—or your mother’s—ERA,” is the title of Roberta Madden’s talk at our January meeting. She will discuss who is opposed to equal rights—and why; why it is that equal rights for women are still not guaranteed in the Constitution; and plans underway to pass the ERA.



Madden, former director of the racial and social justice programs at the YWCA Greater Baton Rouge, is a longtime advocate of the Equal Rights Amendment. She testified before legislative committees in Louisiana and has given speeches on the ERA to numerous organizations.

Madden recently returned to Western North Carolina, where she and her family lived during the early 1960s. Since moving to Black Mountain, she has helped organize a grassroots movement for the Equal Rights Amendment and published articles on the ERA in North Carolina newspapers.

Pinkie Byrd, Program Vice President

NEW MEMBER NEWS

Sue Howard, originally from Greenville, SC, moved to Brevard in 2000. She received a B. A. from Winthrop College in 1967 with a major in French and a minor in English.

Sue taught for two years after college, raised a family of three children and retired in 2009 after a number of years as assistant to Brevard architect, Al Platt. Prior to moving to Brevard, she lived for 20 years in Hendersonville. Sue was widowed in 2011.

Sue enjoys spending time with her seven grandchildren and gardening. She is a Transylvania County Master Gardener Volunteer and is the upcoming secretary of the Transylvania Garden Club. She is interested in helping with the book sale and Chamber of Commerce Liaison.

Laura Ledford, Membership 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:

Norma & James Aguilar

Donors:

Frank & Leslie Aguilar

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The AAUW Brevard Branch board recently approved the mission and goals of our new Education Committee.

Mission: The Brevard AAUW Education Committee supports public education at the local level by gathering and disseminating relevant education-related information and supporting initiatives that enhance the education of the Transylvania County K-12 students.

Goals:

1. Gather, review and synthesize key public policy issues related to local education and report this summarized information in an unbiased manner.
2. Prepare and disseminate unbiased summaries of high priority issues impacting education locally to AAUW members and other public audiences, as appropriate.
3. Provide support for selected efforts to benefit local students' education.

Pat Clow, Education Committee Chair

Happy New Year