



The purpose of the AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

September 10 Luncheon Includes Special Guests!



Pat Ashe, AAUWNC President

Lucky us! Not only does this week provide the first opportunity we have had in months to meet and greet one another in person, we will also have the opportunity to hear from our North Carolina state president, Pat Ashe. Pat is the former president of the Asheville branch and on August 26th, on the grounds of the NC Legislative building in Raleigh, she represented AAUW NC at a rally to urge the General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. ERA-NC Alliance was the sponsoring organization.

In addition to Pat, we are going to have the opportunity to meet two of our General Meeting speakers from our past year's programs. Those members who were willing and able to attend the monthly events via ZOOM had the opportunity to ask questions; but how much more rewarding to actually meet the women who were willing to give us their time and prepare an informative discussion for us! **Ann B. Ross**, longtime author of the Miss Julia novels, was one of a panel of authors who spoke to us in March. *Miss Julia Happily Ever After*, was re-released last spring. **Bryson Nix-Edney**, Orchard Manager, Apple Wedge Packers & Cider, a fifth and sixth generation family-owned apple production business in Hendersonville, presented our May program, discussing women in agriculture locally and the impact of last spring's late frost on the apple industry.

This is a not-to-be-missed event. Remember, if transportation is a concern, call either of the co-presidents who will put you in touch with a member who will provide a ride for you!

October 8 General Meeting Is Scheduled via ZOOM

Women in Faith Leadership Roles: Breaking the Stained Glass Ceiling



Our speaker on Oct. 8 will be Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne, an ordained United Methodist minister. Karen came to First UMC of Hendersonville as the Lead Pastor in

July, 2020. She is the first female senior minister in that church's 180-year history.

Karen, who grew up in Asheville, was ordained in 1999 and has served churches throughout the western half of NC for the past 22 years. She has experienced all the possible reactions to being a woman in leadership and ordained ministry that women have faced for the 3000 years of recorded religious history, and she's also experienced the joys and gifts of this calling.

In addition to her presentation, Karen will be happy to answer all our questions about what it's like to break the stained glass ceiling.

To help set the stage, I recommend these readings which are easy to find online:

“Women relatively rare in top positions of religious leadership” (Pew Research Center, 2016)

“The Women Who Want To Be Priests” (The New Yorker, June 2021) — Note: I know Kori Pacyniak who is featured in this piece.

Cathy Veal
1st VP for Program

AAUW Western Carolina University

Fall 2021 Virtual Programs:

Monday, September 6, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

*Current Epidemiological Trends in COVID-19:
Assessing Risk Probabilities for the US in 2021*

Dr. Patrick Baron, WCU Health Sciences Program Director

Wednesday, September 22, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Policy Channels of the Opioid Epidemic
Dr. Katie Pincura, WCU Health Sciences Faculty



Free Registration: bit.ly/AAUW_WCU_Fall2021_VirtualPrograms

Board of Directors Update

Your Board of Directors met Friday, August 27, 2021, via ZOOM – the first meeting of our new fiscal year. The first topic of discussion was the luncheon we have planned to coincide with our first General Meeting on September 10, 2021, at the Kenmure Country Club in Flat Rock. A special thanks goes out to Barbara Beckerman for securing this venue for us. About 25 members and guests have RSVP'd so far. However, the specter of the CoVid Delta Variant has been a deterrent to some of you. The Board discussed the pros and cons and decided to ***hold this first in-person event on the covered patio of the club in the open air*** instead of in an interior room. The patio can accommodate 44 seats at 4-top tables. This should give us the social distancing space we are looking for. Of course, any of our plans are subject to governmental and CDC guidelines regarding gatherings of this size.

This summer, 63 questionnaires were mailed to current and former members and 33 responses have been received to date (about one-half). Two members renewed their memberships for the year because of receiving the questionnaire. Nearly every response indicated that **social interaction** was what was missed most during the pandemic. Most expressed members' (and family) health matters and scheduling conflicts with other organizations as the reasons for non-participation in branch activities. A very few showed some interest in participating on a committee or an interest group, but no one wanted to accept responsibility for any of the Board positions which will be open as of next June. Without new, younger and diverse members, our branch seems destined to become a glorified women's social club. Most of our membership who are currently active have already held most of the leadership positions and, understandably, do not want to serve again.

COMMITTEES such as STEM may not be necessary anymore as schools and other organizations have filled that need. Our usual sources for fundraising have been diminished due to the pandemic so WAYS AND MEANS (fundraising) may become redundant, as well. With a greatly reduced amount of funds for scholarships, the UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE RELATIONS Committee may have little to do. COMMUNITY INTEREST and PUBLIC INFORMATION/RELATIONS could be important to the Branch as alternative ways to promote the mission of AAUW.

Some suggested new **INTEREST GROUPS** surfaced from the questionnaire responses. Whether these serve the AAUW mission or merely the need to socialize has yet to be determined. In order of popularity, these were: GENEALOGY, CURRENT AFFAIRS, PHOTOGRAPHY, WRITING and an AD HOC group. The standing BOOK STUDY group combined the Tuesday and Thursday groups into one. ART STUDY continues to be a favorite among members. GARDEN STUDY showed less interest perhaps stemming from mobility issues and the inability to continue with gardening chores.

Book Group Open to All Members

Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd is our selection for October 7. Based on historical documents, including personal letters, this is a historical fiction account of how a teenage girl produced indigo dye, which became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina, an export that laid the foundation for the incredible wealth of several Southern families who still live on today. Although largely overlooked by historians, the accomplishments of Eliza Lucas influenced the course of US history. When she passed away in 1793, President George Washington served as a pallbearer at her funeral.

Want to join us for this book only or as a member of our group? We meet via ZOOM at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

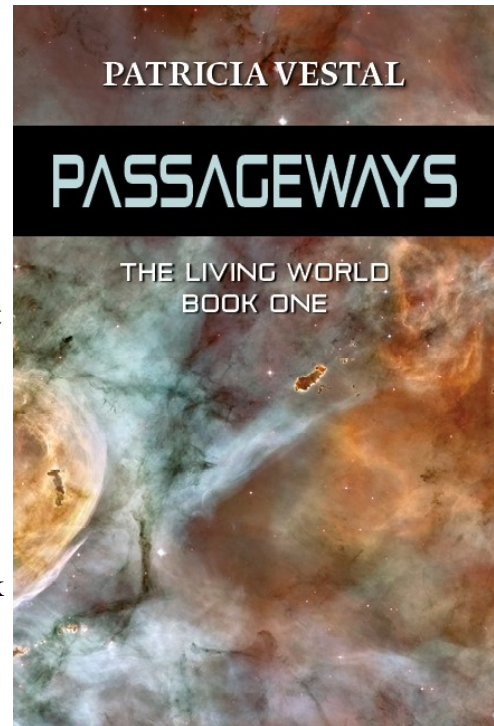
To receive a link for the meeting, contact Mary Ann Bents at mabents@verizon.net. You may link to the group through your device or by phone.

Future selections are:

- ◆ *The Moment of Lift*
- ◆ *The Midnight Library*
- ◆ *Founding Mothers*
- ◆ *The Vanishing Half*
- ◆ *The Four Winds*
- ◆ *Northrn Spy*
- ◆ *A Reliable Wife*

Hendersonville Claims Another Published Author!

As many of you know, I've recently focused my attention on writing and publishing my science fiction series through my own imprint company. It's been a productive learning experience (with many frustrating moments), but I'm pleased to tell you that the first book is now published and available, I describe it as adventurous but thoughtful speculative science fiction. The overall theme is climate crisis and human mistreatment of the Earth, but each book has a stand-alone ancillary conflict and story. If you know others who read this genre, please pass it along.



This first book is called *PASSAGEWAYS: THE LIVING WORLD BOOK ONE* and is available in e-book and paperback at: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1737584913>. Or search your favorite online book retailer such as Barnes & Noble. I also have a Facebook author page where I'll be posting tidbits on the books and related posts. <https://www.facebook.com/pvestalauthor>

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the September luncheon.

Patricia (Pat) Vestal

**AAUW Hendersonville
Newsletter**

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Board of Directors Update (Continued)

Certain Board Members are willing to take on different leadership responsibilities. This would mean the vacated positions would have to be covered by the general membership. Therein lies our dilemma. A branch without leadership cannot exist. Branch continuation is a serious issue which should be contemplated by every member and should not be taken lightly. Your AAUW membership continues no matter what the branch does. Dissolution (formal or by lack of participation) followed by a merger with a more diverse and active branch could be an ideal solution.

Sandi and I welcome your comments by email, telephone or regular mail. Please let us hear from you. We look forward to seeing you all on September 10th at the Kenmure Country Club.

Sandi Lancaster and Norma Treadwell

Sandi Lancaster and Norma Treadwell
AAUW Hendersonville Branch Co-Presidents