



Dear AAUW Sisters,

As we look forward to a New Year, our branch Leadership Team thanks you for your wonderful support during this year of rejuvenation.

Almost 100% of our members have participated in revitalizing the branch in one way or another! You've attended our general or Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings; contributed to our scholarship fund or AAUW Funds; served on one of our leadership teams; and/or introduced your friends to AAUW. So, **join us in celebrating our accomplishments thus far:**

- ◇ We have a wonderful new membership brochure and FOUR new members!
- ◇ We secured our very first Post Office Box and a 501.c.3 non-profit, tax deductible status.
- ◇ A third of our members have contributed almost \$3,000 to our 45th Anniversary Scholarship Fund.
- ◇ With a new meeting site and time, each of our dynamic general meetings attracted almost 50% of our members. And our Anniversary Luncheon was exceptional.
- ◇ Members continue to enjoy and appreciate our book, bridge and newly restarted art SIGs.
- ◇ Our website has been completely redesigned and is almost ready for the big reveal.
- ◇ An interim Membership Directory was published and an Eblast – AAUW This Week—was launched. Our excellent newsletters continue to provide timely information.
- ◇ The branch Leadership Team policies have been streamlined and the Bylaws team is working on a proposal for your consideration.
- ◇ Our Legacy of Leadership Award was presented to branch members Diana Bagwell and Cathy Veal.

We've tried lots of new things – some worked, some didn't. But we'll keep trying to provide you with a wide variety of opportunities to interact, learn, and support the organization's mission. That's what AAUW does!

Sandy Bernard, Diana Bagwell, Barbara Beckerman, Princess Ferguson, Joen Goodman, Margi Rex, and Carol Walters

January 19 General Meeting

at the Hendersonville Co-op Meeting Room—11:30. Reserve now! E-mail Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net. Lunch options will be sent to all who sign up for the event.

Movement for life, what in the world does that mean for you?

Delightful and informed doctor of physical therapy, Audra Burtch will join us and share a path to even better health. She will share how to remain flexible on our journey to keep vibrant at whatever age.

Dr. Burtch was born and raised in Goshen, Indiana. She swam at Eastern Michigan while completing her degree in Exercise Science. She took a year off to work as a PT Tech and swim coach. Then she moved to Athens, Ohio to complete her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.



During her time at Ohio University Audra traveled to Botswana for a trans-disciplinary rehab service and completed a clinical rotation in Florida where she gained experience treating NFL athletes.



Special Interest Group (SIGs)

Book Group

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 1:30. If joining in person, the location is Church of Christ Annex at 1975 Haywood Road. To join via ZOOM, contact Mary Ann Bents at 667 967-0147 or ma-bents@verizon.net for the link. This month our discussion is *The Boys* by Ron Howard and Clint Howard. If you haven't read the book, come and hear us discuss it! February book is *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore.

Bridge Group

Bridge is open to new players! The group meets to play the first Friday afternoon each month at Marjean Smith's home in Hendersonville. Contact Cecille Masters-Webb at 828 693-4081 or treetop336@gmail.com.

Calendar

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesda	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Book Group SIG	6 Bridge SIG	7
8	9 Leader-ship Team	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Arts SIG	18	19 General Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Explorers of the Arts Event

January 17, 2023, 11:00 am

Don't miss our next outing to the People's Museum in Hendersonville. Meet at 318 N. Main St. at 11 am for a tour by Crystal Cauley.

Crystal has worked for social justice and on many community outreach projects. She is a writer and poet, artist, and activist. She was a 2022 Athena Award nominee. Her love of historical preservation with art and exhibits was the seed of the Black History Collective of Henderson County. She will give us background and a tour of the artwork which is dedicated to preserving the culture and history of Henderson County's Black community. Lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant.

To reserve your place at this event please e-mail Princess Ferguson at fletcherprincess8@gmail.com

The Party Was Lovely!
Seasons Restaurant,
Flat Rock NC



Our gathering on December 14

was a joyous one! With both a significant Branch anniversary (our 45th!) and the holidays to celebrate, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship at Seasons Restaurant in Flat Rock. Princess Ferguson introduced Heather Anderson, our current BRCC scholarship recipient. Heather has weathered much in life and persevered in a way many would not to reach her goal of completing her education. We salute her!

Next we heard from BRCC President, Dr. Laura Leatherwood who updated us on the new direction being taken by the college. There has been a shift in expectation for “work” that now demands workforce training to meet technological advances.

From being considered “the last chance” or a back-up plan to a four-year institution, community college is now the go-to solution for students facing the lack of credentials and dreading prohibitive student debt. In being responsive to change, BRCC has embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign to remain competitive in attracting today’s potential students including Latin-X, veterans, and the prison population as well as lifetime-learners in the senior population.



A nobleman was riding along a road and saw an old man digging in his garden. Beside the man lay a sapling ready to be planted. The nobleman called out, “What kind of tree are you planting?”

“A fig tree,” replied the old man.

“A fig tree! How old are you?” cried the nobleman.

“I am 90.”

“You are 90 years old and you plant a tree which will take years to bear fruit?”

“Tell me,” said the old man, “did you eat figs when you were young?”

“Certainly. Why?”

“Who do you think planted the tree from which those gifts were picked?”

The nobleman hesitated. “I have no idea.”

“You see, sir, our forefathers planted trees for us to enjoy, and I am doing the same for those who will come along after me. How else can I repay my debt to those who lived before me?”

Our foremothers have planted those “fig trees of AAUW” and we of another generation have reaped their harvest. Let us be sure that we too plant some “fig trees” for those future generations of young women who look to us for their harvest!



100% member participation is our goal for our 45th Anniversary Scholarship

Fund. To contribute Bring your tax deductible check, payable to AAUW Hendersonville Scholarship Fund, to a meeting or mail it to AAUW, PO Box 2043, Hendersonville, NC 28793. If the donation is a pledge and/or in memory or honor of an individual, please contact Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net. Your donor gift is optional. To decline it, note “no gift” in your email or on the check notation line.

Thank you for your support, Sandy Bernard

Women In the World

Senate Votes To Add New Protections For Pregnant Workers

Excerpted from *Huffpost.com* Dec 22, 2022, 12:53 PM EST By *Dave Jamieson and Arthur Delaney*

The U.S. Senate added a measure to its spending bill on Thursday [Dec 22, 2022] that would guarantee basic workplace accommodations for pregnant employees, a major victory for worker advocates who've spent years lobbying for the change. The legislation, known as the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, was attached as an amendment to the omnibus spending bill being negotiated in the upper chamber. It passed 73 to 24.

In another win for family-friendly work policy, senators also voted to approve a separate amendment expanding the rights of women to pump breast milk at work. That measure, known as the PUMP Act, passed 92 to 5.

The pregnant workers measure would require employers to make "reasonable" accommodations for employees affected by pregnancy or childbirth, unless it imposes an "undue hardship" upon the business. The legislation was modeled on the Americans with Disabilities Act, and tracks with

several state laws already passed to bar discrimination against pregnant workers. A compromise version of the pregnant workers legislation was brokered by Sen. Bob Casey, a Pennsylvania Democrat who sponsored the original bill, and Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican. ...Many women continue working in physically demanding and often low-wage jobs throughout their pregnancies. The legislation would help ensure they had sufficient break time, easy access to water, lifting restrictions if needed, and other sensible protections.

When it comes to workers who are breastfeeding, federal law already requires employers to provide reasonable break time and a clean space to express milk. But millions of workers, many of them salaried, were excluded from that law when it was passed as part of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. The PUMP Act would end the carve-out and extend protections to millions more.

Taliban Ban Girls' Education

1440 Daily Digest DailyDigest@email.join1440.com 12/22/2022

The Taliban-led Afghan government suspended primary school education for girls yesterday [Wednesday, Dec 21], a day after issuing a decree prohibiting women from attending universities. The move institutes a complete ban on education for women in Afghanistan.

The Taliban, which took over the capital of Kabul last year after US troops withdrew, have also barred female teachers and other staff from working in schools, which had been one of the few professions still open to women under the new government. The strict Islamist group's actions have been a reversal of a previous pledge to maintain increased freedoms gained over the past two decades.

Since its takeover last year, the Taliban has continued to impose restrictions on women and girls in Afghanistan. In March, the group banned female passengers from boarding flights without a male chaperone, and in May, it required women to cover their faces and bodies in public.

Editor's Note: On December 26, the Taliban announced that women working for NGOs (non-governmental organizations working primarily as a charity arm to provide food, health care, and medicine to women and children) would no longer be able to maintain their jobs, leaving this most vulnerable population without services at the beginning of a harsh winter. Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE have stopped their operations in Afghanistan until their female employees can return to work.

**AAUW Hendersonville
Branch Newsletter**

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AAUW—

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Non-partisan. Fact based. Principled. Inclusive and intersectional.

Issue Areas: Economic Security, Education and Training, Leadership

EDITORIAL:

When Nancy Pelosi recently greeted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as he prepared to address Congress, she performed her last official act as Speaker of the House. She is 82 years old and has been the Speaker since 2007, the first woman to attain that office.

Sometimes called the most powerful woman in the US, she has garnered her share of accolades as well as fierce criticism for the way she wields her power.

The office is not without controversy and to have a woman in it makes just too big a target for those who disagree with the Democrat party, “a woman’s place,” and the two combined. She has, after all, been second in line to the presidency for over 15 years.

And yet, Nancy dutifully raised five children prior to becoming a national figure. Her participation in politics was the product of modelling by her parents and boredom with life as a homemaker. Constant presence as a volunteer and party operative led to a run for office as her last child left for college. Now 82, Pelosi did not begin her rise to power and prominence until twenty years ago – the age where most people consider retirement! She is still full of energy and – to my constant envy – still races around the Capitol in heels every day! Nancy Pelosi deserves recognition as the model of a leader in the feminist tradition. She has been able to wrestle the diverse interests of her Democrat members time and time again. Her power is not in charisma, nor does it surface in ugly language or veiled threats; it is in legislative diligence, understanding, and reading people well. This is often iconized in the “power pin” she so often wears, representing the mace that epitomizes the legislative power of “her” House.

While remaining an elected Congressional member (D-Calif.) Nancy Pelosi seems ready to pass the gavel and watch a new era of leadership arise. And we women of her generation have another example to provide to our granddaughters and great-granddaughters of achievement on the part of a woman. Anything is possible!



Susan Huff, Editor

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