



Why It Matters. Why We Care. -

I was mulling over the content for this month's branch newsletter when I came across a comment, directed to me in an email from President Sandy Bernard. In it she said, "Reminder that we had 24 + or -people for September, October and December (general meetings) — almost 50% of our members. And although the turnout for January was smaller, it was an excellent program. Every organization in the country is seeing a slow return to in-person meetings. I think 50% is very good."

That is an encouragement, but is it enough? We're past looking over our shoulders at this point. Now, like every other membership organization in the country, we are looking at what's ahead. Someone said to me this week that she thought the last few years aged us all more than we realized. The reluctance to venture out seems to be one of the places that has been hard-hit, whether it is civic activities, church, neighborhood, or just a movie or a concert. I know I'm guilty of being less likely to say, "Sure, I'll go!" or ask someone out myself

There may be inconvenience. There may be some legitimate risk. It may not seem as spontaneous as

it once did to get dressed, jump in the car, and drive out someplace. You may now be a resident in an all-inclusive community that provides on campus activities; or you may just feel quite comfy at home. Aging happens when the spirit of adventure dies, when curiosity lags, when any degree of risk is just too much. This year's program chair, Carol Walters, has spent all kinds of effort to provide programs that are both enlightening and relevant. She is putting herself out there every time she finds a speaker and plans a program. She is trusting that this is what you, the members, want.

It was less than one year ago, in April 2022, that we gathered for a Special Meeting to vote on disbanding our branch. The motion was defeated by a margin of 2 – 1. A small group of individual members stepped up to take on a rebuilding effort, and to some degree it has been successful. Is this still what we want? That is the question we are answering, month to month, with our presence.

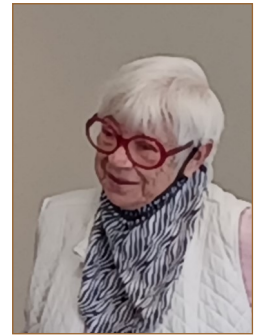
Susan Huff, Editor



March General Meeting Thursday, March 23

When you pick up a book, Do you read for the story? Or the dialog? Or characters? On March 23, Member Carol Walters will explore a memorable list with examples of each from her substantial reading basket, developed as a librarian and rural library system head for many years.

NC authors will head the list with side stories about authors themselves who came to speak at her libraries in Cape Cod, Boston, Seattle, New Jersey. Favorites will be showcased as well.



NC State Humanities Division Director Jim Clark, Phd. was a terrific resource, funding writers in residence when they happened to be on the list, like Clyde Edgerton , Lee Smith, Jill McCorkle, Micheal Malone and Margaret Maron. Sometimes selling them on coming 90 miles to the hinterland of rural libraries was a story itself. Come and bring a friend. You will not be bored!

Hendersonville Co-Op Meeting Room, 11:30 a.m. Bring your lunch or get something at the deli. Speaker begins at noon. RSVP to Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net

2023 Legacy of Leadership Award Call For Nominations

Criteria:

The awardee must be a current AAUW Hendersonville Branch member.

The individual must have shown a recent significant/sustained contribution to the branch that supports the program and goals of the branch and furthers the AAUW mission.

No one can receive the award in two consecutive years.


To nominate someone, please send your answer to the following two questions to Susan Huff by March 30, 2023 at thorazgirl@gmail.com

Who are you nominating?

Why? Limit of 200 words please.

Calendar

March

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

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 *mabents@verizon.net* for the link. This month our discussion is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. When we read Towles previous novel, *A Gentleman In Moscow*, we were much impressed. April selection is *Mary, Mrs. A. Lincoln* by Janis Cooke Newman.

Bridge Group

Eight bridge players gathered together on February 3rd for friendly bridge in the afternoon. Former AAUW member, Eleanor Reim, hosted our SIG at her home. Long time member, Marjean Smith, returned after a 2 month illness. Welcome back Marjean! We are also pleased for the return of Zsofi Teleke, former leader of the bridge group, after a very long illness. We had enough bridge players for 2 tables this month including a guest from Asheville, Sherri Swothke. We hope that Sherri will continue to be involved. The top 3 point scorers were: Zsofi, Dahlene Hultberg, and Sherri Swothke. Well done all!

Our bridge group welcomes new players. We play on the first Friday afternoon of each month. For details please contact Cecille Masters-Webb at treetop3136@gmail.com.

Explorers of the Arts Special Program

The Explorers of the Arts Special Interest Group is hosting professor Laura Felt for a presentation on *THE ART OF IKEBANA: the Japanese art of floral arrangement*. She will explain some of the basic Ikebana concepts and demonstrate a floral arrangement. The presentation will be held at The Flat Rock Village Hall. **We are extending an invitation to all AAUW Hendersonville members but an RSVP is required*.**

Date and Time: March 8 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Location: Flat Rock Village Hall in the Assembly Room - 110 Village Center Drive, Flat Rock

R.SVP: Cathleen Yordi clyordi@aol.com or 828-808-8179

Lunch: Lunch to follow at 12:45. The Flat Rock Wood Room - 1501 Greenville Highway.

***Please indicate if you will be joining us for lunch when you RSVP.**



February 10 Valentine Tea Party



Networking at Noon

Thursday, March 30th 11:30-

The Baker's Box 1508 Asheville Hwy, Hendersonville

Those of us who attended the Valentine High Tea so appreciated the time just to get to know one another better. So we're meeting again and invite you to join us. No agenda, just good conversation, food and fun.

RSVP by March 24 by emailing Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net

**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

NC Convention Is Upon Us

The North Carolina AAUW Convention is coming, via Zoom, on **March 25** with an exciting program and three options for the break-out session that you will most enjoy. *Please see the information attached to this newsletter mailing for details and registration information.*

Scholarship Fund is Growing!

Thanks to recent gifts from Anne Holt-Hartig and our newest member Becky Lewis, we're now at \$3,160 with 40% of our members contributing so far.

Our goal is \$4,500 in honor of our 45th anniversary as a branch and we hope to have **100%** member participation.

Think about this: **"I am making a donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell or do except send my check!"**

Send that tax-deductible check, payable to AAUW Hendersonville Branch Scholarship Fund to AAUW, PO Box 2043, Hendersonville, NC 28793.

Diversity Statement – United We Stand

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

**AAUW Hendersonville Branch
P.O. Box 2043
Hendersonville, NC 28793**

