



Hendersonville Branch 45th Annual Meeting

HERStory

May 18, 2023 11:30 Meet & Mingle ~ 12:00 Lunch*
Kenmure Country Club 3 Kenmure Drive, Flat Rock 28731
Stop at the gate to receive parking directions

Keynote ~ Yvette Freeman, Publisher, The ENVOY guide and Owner of Red Angle Photography



After working more than 10 years in non-profit communications, and 11 years in higher education publishing, Yvette Freeman opened her Hendersonville photography business full-time in 2016, turning her lifelong love into her full-time profession. Within five years, she became an award-winning portrait photographer with 18 image competition awards.

A native of Winston-Salem, NC, and a magna cum laude graduate of Bennett College. Yvette is also the founder and publisher of The ENVOY, a print and digital magazine designed to educate and promote minority and women entrepreneurs, community members, and creative artists across the U.S.



Endnote ~ Pat Ashe, AAUW NC President

Pat Ashe has been an AAUW member since 2007 and currently is the 2021-2025 President of AAUW of North Carolina. She is currently the Past President of The GEM Fund Board, which is the philanthropic arm of AAUW Asheville, Secretary AAUW Asheville and a proud grandmother of 3 who live close by. She is a retired hospital administrator whose 43 years of working with predominantly female caregivers translates well to embracing and supporting the mission of AAUW. She has a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Fort Hays Kansas State College and an MS from Arizona State University

President's Message

Dear AAUW Sisters,

This is an Annual Meeting you won't want to miss! Help us celebrate a successful 45th year while you enjoy

★inspiring speakers Yvette Freeman and Pat Ashe

★a reveal (no, not male or female!) of our stunning new branch website

★the presentation of our 2023 Legacy of Leadership Award

★a tasty lunch in an awesome setting

★and, of course, just a little business.

Those are great reasons to put May 18th on your calendar but perhaps the best one is seeing old friends and welcoming new ones.

*** Reserve and bring your friends**

Email Sandy Bernard at ssmreb@bellsouth.net and indicate your lunch choice of **A. Classic Cobb** (Romaine, Turkey, Bacon, Avocado, Tomatoes, Point Reyes Bleu Cheese & Balsamic Vinaigrette) OR **B. The Triple 'S'** (Soup, Salad and selection of tea sandwiches). Cost is \$28. Please bring cash or a check payable to AAUW Hendersonville. **Reservations by Friday, May 12th**

2023 Legacy of Leadership Award

Who is the woman who, in just one year, has re-designed our entire website, led the 1st Thursday Book Group SIG, was our Community Hub transition guru, served as the editor of the NC State newsletter, moved our Directory online (password protected), attended general meetings, and contributed to our scholarship fund? Why it's the woman who's our 2023 Legacy of Leadership Awardee —

Mary Ann Bents

Join us at the Annual meeting on May 18th to celebrate Mary Ann's many contributions to the AAUW Mission, our branch and our state.

45th Annual Meeting Business Session

⇒ 2022-23 Highlights

⇒ Bylaws Revision Vote*

⇒ Proposed Budget**

⇒ Election of Leadership Team***



*The proposed Bylaws revision draft was emailed to every member in March. Cathy Veal will be available to discuss any questions or comments you may have immediately following our April 27th General meeting or contact her at cathyveal@sbcglobal.net

**Current and proposed budget information is being emailed separately. Margi Rex is available to discuss any questions or comments you may have immediately following our April 27th General meeting or contact her at mbkrex@hotmail.com .

***The proposed 2023-24 Leadership Team slate is

Administrator/President	Sandy Bernard
Director of Finance	Margi Rex
Director of Membership	Carol Walters
Director of Community Outreach	Princess Ferguson
Director of Programs	tbd
Member at Large	Diana Bagwell

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Calendar

May

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

Special Interest Group (SIGs)

Book Group

The final Book Group meeting of this year is Thursday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m. 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.

The May 4th book selection is ***Sisters of War*** by Lana Kortchik. This book is a gripping and emotional World War Two historical novel. The tale take place in Kiev, 1941: Watching the Red Army withdraw from Ukraine in the face of Hitler’s relentless advance, sisters Natasha and Lisa Smirnova experience life-changing events that disturbingly parallel the war going on in the Ukraine today.

Book group participants have until May 1 to submit their book suggestions for next year. **Others in the Hendersonville AAUW branch are welcome to send suggestions to the group facilitator, Mary Ann Bents.** A compiled list will be distributed with voting via email. Results will be shared at the June 1 meeting. Any tie-breaker votes will be resolved and the books and discussion leaders will be scheduled for the upcoming year. The book group will take a summer break and resume in September.

All branch members and member guests are invited to attend these monthly meetings.

Bridge Group

Bridge is the First Friday in May at Marjean Smith's home in Hendersonville.

AAUW members and guests are welcome to play. For the past two months we have had enough players for 2 tables but we can accommodate 3 tables if others want a fun afternoon of bridge, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. For details contact Cecille Masters-Webb at 828-551-0181 or email treetop3136@gmail.com.

Explorers of the Arts May Trip

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 23 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Morgan's studio is at 176 Carriage Summit Way, Carriage Park. Due to limited parking, we will meet at the Carriage Park Visitors Center (take the first right after entering the community) at 9:45. The gatekeeper will approve you to enter if you choose to drive yourself.



The Explorers of the Arts will meet at the studio of Pat and Richard Morgan. Pat is an award winning watercolor artist and teacher whose paintings focus on capturing just the essence of her subjects whether in figures, flowers or landscapes. Richard, a poet, will speak about his belief that there is personal poetry in each of us. He has published ten books of poetry—often combining his words with Pat's watercolor paintings.

Lunch will follow at the Book & Bee, 795 Mountain Road, Hendersonville, across from the entrance to Carriage Park. Please advise if you will be joining us for lunch when you RSVP.

Please RSVP to Cathleen Yordi clyordi@aol.com or 828-808-8179



AAUW 96th NC State Annual Meeting: "Step Up and Embrace Change"

That's the message from Malinda Gaul, AAUW National Board Vice-Chair during her keynote address. There were two plenaries- a business session and keynoter Malinda Gaul. There were also three breakout sessions. Debbie Cope attended Public Policy and Mary Ann Bents and Sandy Bernard attended Growing Volunteerism. Here are their notes:

Debbie Cope *My first state meeting.*

Very impressed with Pat Ashe's organizational skills and that she kept the business meeting to only what was pertinent.

Breakout session with Dr. Katie Pinscura and Rob Schofield. Excellent program, although the topics covered were fast One big announcement - we got the word before it was publicly announced: NC Policy Watch was started almost 20 years ago, succeeding the NC Justice Center, and now, on April 3rd, it will have a new name and a new website. The name will be NC Newline, still working with local news and the Asheville Watch Dog organization.

Many items were discussed briefly: gerrymandering, medical marijuana, parents' bill of rights, handgun check, Medicaid expansion (it may have passed, but nothing will happen until it is funded), expansion of school vouchers (some want every school a voucher school, i.e. state-funded segregated schools). Right now unaffiliated voters are the largest voting group in the state. State senate has 30 republicans and 20 democrats, and the house has 71 republicans and 49 democrats. (It takes 72 votes to override a veto). Interesting note: NC is the ONLY state to return to partisan judge elections. Mentioned Drs leaving the state due to abortion issues and troubles getting med students and interns/residents here for training. How can we make a difference? A concerted effort is better than small groups operating independently.

Mary Ann Bents

Fourteen of the AAUW NC 16 branches were represented at the Annual meeting Zoom sessions. There were almost 50 participants including our special guests and speakers. It was refreshing to hear that some of the other branches are struggling with similar issues. Some branches have been creative in trying to address them

and to continuously improve. The online breakout sessions were new this year. It provided an opportunity in smaller groups to share thoughts and ideas. I thought this was very productive use of time. The Keynote Speaker's message was wonderful. Very simple and to the point. She was very knowledgeable and responded to varied questions after her speech about general AAUW National operations and plans for improvement.

I participated in the Branch Leadership Succession breakout session. Sandy was also there to help facilitate this session and to take notes. Participants were respectful and gracious about giving time to each other to share. Ideas were very constructive. Some ideas like varying meeting times and breaking down volunteer roles into smaller tasks seemed reasonable and more apt to have members willing to support. Recognizing all volunteers was a great message; people behind the scenes often do not get the thank yous that they deserve. Everyone's contributions in branches are important. Establishing partnerships in the community is also important; the branches do not need to take full responsibility for events and projects; organizations often have missions that are shared. We need to get creative about doing our branch business in a different way. Try new things.

Sandy Bernard

In a recent poll of branches across the country, 89% have mission-based programs, 67% have fundraisers, 66% conduct grassroots advocacy work (and of that, 40% focus on STEM), and 33% support the National College Conference for Women Student Leaders (commonly called nic-whistle). Volunteerism is at a 30 year high (23%) in the U.S. Of that 23%, 72% volunteer for only one entity.

People volunteer because they need and/or want: solidarity, connections, a new social network, credibility, friendships, enrichment, increased networking ability, to be part of a legacy and because they feel happier.

Calling All Wise Women!



What is your specialty? Are you willing to share your knowledge? Can you talk about your favorite subject for 30-minutes? AAUW Hendersonville is looking to establish a **Speakers' Bureau** from our cadre of wise women. We would make ourselves available to speak at BRCC, club meetings, or anywhere that someone could benefit from our knowledge.

Don't hide your light under a bushel. Please send an email to fletcherprincess8@gmail.com with 75-100 words describing your relevant background and topic. Please use this format. This is a 88-word example:

Talk title: Workplace DEI

Presenter: P. I. Ferguson, MSW

[Relevant Background] I studied social work at the University of Hawaii which is a socially and ethnically diverse environment that figures strongly in the curriculum.

[Course Topic] Diversity, equity, and inclusion play a role in every area of life. However, it is in the workplace that we have the most chance of rationally organizing fair and ethical opportunities that meet a commitment to the principles of DEI. An example of how to build a more inclusive workplace is presented.

If you think your knowledge might not be relevant, note the wide variety of BRCC programs: Business/business training, Culinary and food service; Education – Early childhood education; K-12 teaching Preparation (2+2 AA + BS); Engineering; Healthcare; Human services Graduates should qualify for positions in mental health, child care, family services, social services, rehabilitation, correction, and educational agencies; Horticulture; IT & Computer; Languages: Spanish (12 levels), French (1 level), German (4 levels+), and Interpreter/sign language. Associate degrees are: Associate in Arts, Teacher Preparation, Associate in Engineering, Associate in Science; Associate in Science: Teacher Preparation; Associate in Fine Arts (Theatre), and Associates in Fine Arts (Visual Arts). There are even more programs that may not fit our backgrounds as well, but don't let an exotic or unique background discourage your participation!

**AAUW Hendersonville
Branch Newsletter**

Susan Huff, Editor/Publisher

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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

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.

It's the Healthy Thing To Do!

“**Generosity** truly is good for your heart,” says Dr. Susan Albers from the Cleveland Clinic. “Physical and mental health benefits associated with giving or serving can include:

- Lower blood pressure
- A longer lifespan
- Less stress
- A ‘helper’s high”

Giving can stimulate your brain’s mesolimbic pathway while releasing endorphins. That can lead to a ‘helper’s high’ that boosts self-esteem, elevates happiness and combats feelings of depression.”

So right now, **Debbie Cope** should be feeling pretty healthy! Thanks Debbie, for your recent contribution to our scholarship fund.

Have you given yet? Do it for your health! Our fund has now reached **\$3435** and continues to grow. Your tax-deductible check of any amount, payable to Hendersonville AAUW Scholarship Fund, can be mailed to AAUW, PO Box 2043, Hendersonville, NC 28793.

**AAUW Hendersonville Branch
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