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FROM THE PRESIDENT: BEA KELLER

It's hard to pick out one important subject, even two! This message is a medley.

Super PACs 2014 is an election year, and with the unleashing of vast quantities of money by the Supreme Court decision of 2010, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision, expect a summer and fall of ugly advertisements and contradictory claims. The ads are aiming at our limbic system, not our frontal lobes! As informed citizens, we must do our due diligence. Question the claims, and do a little research. Charles and David Koch, New York City former Mayor Bloomberg, hedge fund executive David Sussman, George Soros, and Karl Rove are some of the major donors and organizers—but the Super PACs are not required to disclose their sources. There are many silent donors, each wanting a government that will reflect their ideas. The

Super PACs do have names, and with a little research, you can usually ferret out their agendas.

Minimum Wage Contrary to popular thinking, the age of the average minimum wage worker is 35—only 12% are teenagers. (Sec. of Labor, Thomas E. Perez) The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25/hr. (\$290/wk., \$15,000/yr.) if one works a 40 hour week (*Five Things You Didn't Know About Minimum Wage*, Jennifer Ferris). Sixty-two percent of minimum wage jobs are held by women, many with children (Center for American Progress). Will a hike in the minimum wage to \$10.10 result in a massive loss of jobs? Even Congressional Budget Office Douglas Elmendorf conceded Wednesday that his initial figure of a loss of 500,000 jobs “is a central estimate in a wide range.” A 26% hike in the minimum wage, mandated in San Francisco 10 years ago, had almost no negative economic impact according to economists at the University of California, Berkeley. “Our data

show that an increase up to \$13 an hour has no measurable effect on employment,” said Michael Reich, a Berkeley economics professor with the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. In Seattle, there is a movement to raise the minimum wage to \$15. Reich would not say what the results would be if the minimum wage was \$15, a 61% jump because it had not been studied. (Lynn Thompson, *The Seattle Times*). Washington's minimum wage is the highest of all states: \$9.32.

A recent study funded by NASA warns that history documents repeated civilization collapses when 2 things occur: unsustainable resource exploitation and unequal wealth distribution. “The fall of the Roman Empire, and the equally (if not more) advanced Han, Mauryan, and Gupta Empires, as well as so many advanced Mesopotamian Empires, are all testimony to the fact that

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I hope to see all of you at the library on April 12 for Carrboro Poetica!

—Bea Keller

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

advanced, sophisticated, complex, and creative civilizations can be both fragile and impermanent."

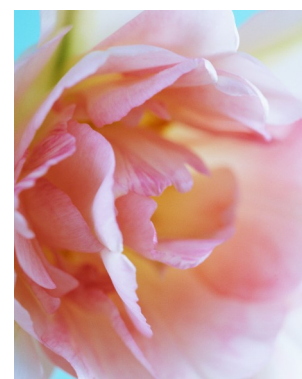
The project was led by applied mathematician Safa Motesharri of the US National Science Foundation-supported National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, in association with a team of natural and social scientists. It identifies the most salient

interrelated factors which explain civilizational decline, and which may help determine the risk of collapse today: namely, Population, Climate, Water, Agriculture, and Energy. This study did suggest that it was possible to avoid doom by building an equitable society, using renewable resources, depleting nature at a sustainable level, and distrib-

uting resources equitably. The study was peer reviewed and will be published in the *Elsevier Journal, Ecological Economics*.

I wish all of you a good start to spring and hope to see all of you at our next meeting, April 12. Five poets are too good to miss!

— Bea Keller



APRIL 12 MEETING

At our next program, the group of 5 poets known as *Carrboro Poetica* will read from their poems. Sara Claytor is a former teacher of literature, writing, and communication at various NC universities and public school systems. Her fiction and poetry has appeared in over 130 publications.

First prize for an essay won at age 12 cast the die for Phyllis Jean Green. It was decades before she was able to write regularly, but acceptance was quick, and 69 years later, her credits include countless poems, stories, and articles, a biography, and the occasional award, and says they're for starters.

Barbara Kenyon, a retired professional flutist, gathers her inspiration from her music, family and

CARRBORO POETICA

friends. She has taught poetry classes at the Carrboro Arts Center and was Hillsborough's Poet Laureate during 2012/2013.

Susan Spalt, a retired school health coordinator who achieved some fame for writing the school district's lice policy in rhymed couplets, is fond of saying that her work required her to get people of all ages to do what they really didn't want to do. Her poem, "Carrboro Rocks," was set to music by Billy Sugarfix in 2011 and played at the Carrboro Centennial.

Celisa Steele is managing director at Tagoras, a company whose research and consulting focuses on lifelong

learning. She has served on the board of the NC Poetry Society and the Poetry Council of NC and is the current Poet Laureate of Carrboro.

These five poets have won numerous awards for their prose and their poetry—it will be a special treat to finish our year hearing them read their work. They will bring their poetry collections to sell in case you are interested in adding them to your collection. Our next meeting is also our annual potluck lunch, so please sign up to bring a dish, and plan on coming and having a good time.

— Bea Keller



MEMBER OF THE MONTH - MARY PATERSON

Mary Paterson became a member of our branch when she arrived in Chapel Hill in 1997. She is currently our secretary, and has held numerous offices including president from 2005-2007. A delightful, plain-spoken and independent person, Mary's North Carolina connection runs deep. She is a self-described army brat. Born in Texas, she lived in a variety of places in the U.S. before her parents settled in Lenoir, North Carolina. World War II was brewing and the cavalry, to which her father belonged, had been converted to the Tank Corps. Her father would be training nearby in Fort Benning, Georgia, preparing for the inevitable war. Her mother would be among friends in N.C. Mary credits her father with her love of reading; he loved to read, and his gifts to Mary were always books, classics of every ilk.

Mary was determined to avoid secretarial school which was being avidly promoted by her father. Every day, she hunted for scholarship opportunities in the principal's office where they were posted. Her search paid off—she was one of the first Angier Duke scholars. She notes wryly that it was given to 4 males but only 2 females. At Duke, Mary stuck with her great

love, literature, and completed her B.A. in English. Her marriage to Grant, a petroleum engineer, led them to Toledo, Ohio, and soon there were 4 more Patersons—2 boys and 2 girls—all accomplished adults today. Mary joined



AAUW right out of college; her mother had been a member. She remembers AAUW as a young woman's group; mothers brought their children who played while the women met. Mary was also very active in the League of Women Voters.

In Toledo, Mary held a number of teaching jobs, and completed an M Ed. in counseling. Through her involvement with the League, she helped establish a daycare center for low-income families.

Eventually, she took a job with Public Television in public relations. She then became Volunteer Director (a paid position) at a general hospital in Toledo. Grant was transferred to Alaska, and Mary became Volunteer Director at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. Soon, she was Rehabilitation Director in charge of administering occupational, physical and work therapy programs. Mary regretted the Mental Health Laws enacted in the late 1970's that outlawed work therapy. She felt that employment gave the patients purpose and earning money was a positive experience for them. Mary and her husband returned to Toledo where she became the Hospital Risk Manager. She retired from that position.

In June, Mary will be traveling to Barcelona where her son has rented a place and invited the whole family in shifts. She is looking forward to seeing the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry and located in the Basque Country of Spain. ¡Bien viaje, Mary!

— Bea Keller

**Bridge Club:
Contact Sally
Rohrdanz, 919-
918-3573**



NOMINATIONS . . . AND THANK YOU!

The nominating committee (Kay White, Vickie Healey, Bea Keller) have nominated Donna Wilson for Programs Vice-President, and Sandy Passero for the position of Recording Secretary. Both Donna and Sandy have agreed to serve; we are very pleased to welcome such talent and grateful for their willingness to serve. These positions will be voted on and sworn in at the April 12 meeting.

I would like to thank Mary Paterson for serving as Recording Secretary, and Michele Hoyman for serving as our Programs Vice-President for 2012-2014. Both were gracious hostesses for some of our board meetings. The Programs Committee included Vickie Healey, Lisa Price, Donna Hammersly, Nan Nixon, Bea Keller, and of course, Michele. The Programs Committee did a won-

derful job—we hope many of you, if not all, will serve again with Donna. If you are interested in being on the Programs Committee, we meet once in May or June, discuss all ideas and possibilities and divvy up the program responsibilities. All other business is conducted by e-mail or phone.

Our Membership Vice-President Genoveva Aguirre and Treasurer Karen Piplani have served 2013-14 with excellence and purpose, and have one more year on their term. I also want to thank Sandy Smalley, who came to every board meeting this year to advise in her kind and wise way, and moreover, served on the Hospitality Committee—which brings me to a big thank you as well to Sandy Passero and Donna Hammersly who chaired the Hospitality Committee with such efficiency and grace. We are

immeasurably indebted to Alice Parsons who puts out our beautiful newsletter. And we thank Dona Koeberl for organizing the book group and Sally Rohrdanz for being in charge of the bridge group. We are also grateful to Lee Hamilton who is our correspondence secretary. Lee, we hope we won't need your services much next year—we will all promise to stay healthy! All of us owe a debt of gratitude to Kay White for organizing the tea, and taking care of innumerable details. All organizations rely on a core of dedicated members, and AAUW-CH is fortunate to have such a good group of people.

— Bea Keller

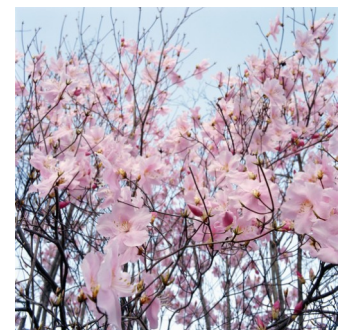


Remember if you have questions about our next meeting or need to check on the book club's selection, please check our web page: <http://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net>. If you want to check our archive of past newsletters in our "members only" section, remember the password is the word "dogwood" in lower case letters.

JUST A REMINDER . . .

Please renew for next year. It saves us time and postage—we appreciate your timely renewal. You can either pay at our next meeting or send a check made out to: **AAUW-CH Branch and send to: Genoveva Aguirre, 709A West Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510.** You do not need to send another form unless your phone numbers, address or e-mail have changed.

— Genoveva Aguirre



ANNUAL TEA ON MARCH 5, 2014 WAS A SUCCESS!

Our branch again had a very successful tea with author, Jill McCorkle. Jill read passages from her book and sparked a lot of interest in the attendees to read her current book, "Life After Life." This is our eighth year that our branch has sponsored such an event to raise money for AAUW Funds. We brought in, with both ticket sales and donations, \$2,415 gross. With our reserve from last year of \$185, our gross is \$2,600. Our expenses, which include

the rental of Extraordinary Adventures of \$260, were kept just below \$500. The Board will vote on the Branch donation to AAUW Funds, keeping some money as a reserve for next year's tea. By keeping the ticket price at \$20 and asking members to bring their friends and donate tea sandwiches, fruit and baked goods, we have found the right formula for a successful event. Among the members who donated food were Sandy Smalley,

Ruth Freed, Vickie Healey, Genoveva Aguirre, Annette Jurgelski, Morita Raposa, Dona Koeberl, Bea Keller, Mary Paterson, Michele Hoyman, Lee Hamilton and Karen Piplani. Thank you all who brought food and attended and those who gave a donation instead of or in addition to their buying a ticket and attending the tea.

— Kay White



IN HONOR OF JEAN BEAZLEY CLARY

Long standing member of our branch, Jean Clary, recently passed on February 14, 2014 at the age of 89 in St. Paul, Minnesota. A graduate of William and Mary, BA-English, in 1946, earning a Phi Beta Kappa award, 20 years later, she received a BS-Education in 1966 at the University of Minnesota. At that time and for 18 years, Jean taught at elementary schools in the inner city of Minneapolis.

Jean and her husband, Grayson, moved to Fearington Village in 1987 and later to Carolina Meadows before moving back to Minnesota to



be near her son a few years ago. While in this area, Jean volunteered her time as a docent at the Ackland Art Museum and as a member of the AAUW-Chapel Hill branch. For several years she chaired a study group on aging for our branch. Jean was also a big supporter of our fundraisers; she would buy a table for 10 for our teas and invite her friends. I remember her bringing handprinted placecards for her table, when we had the teas at the Carolina Club. Jean was a good friend of another former AAUW-CH member, Clara Allen. When Clara Allen was

no longer able to attend our meetings, Jean would visit Clara after each monthly meeting so she could inform Clara of the program for that month.

Jean's husband, Grayson, preceded her in death. They had two sons, Bradley and Richard and 4 grandchildren: Benjamin, Samuel, Grayson and Taryn Clary. The family has asked that memorial donations be made to one of the following: Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church, the Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill or St Peter's By-the-Sea, Swansboro, NC.

— Kay White

Good Morning Book Club will meet at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 3 in the home of Mary Paterson, 750 Weaver Dairy Road, #156, phone 919-918-3447. We will be discussing the book, *Life after Life*, by our March 5 AAUW Tea speaker, Jill McCorkle. Ms McCorkle told us about her favorite people in *Life after Life* and I'm cheering for some folks myself. At page 109 I don't want to put the book down.

Dona Koeberl

MINUTES FROM MARCH 15

Bea called the meeting to order at 10:00 and introduced the speakers: Jessica Porta, Ellie Kinnaird and Susan Young..

Program Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the second most prevalent international crime. It exploits children and young women from Southeast Asia and South America. They are frequently brought into the US through ports in New Jersey and Florida.

North Carolina has a trafficking problem as well because of its major highways, airports and sea-ports and the high military demand. US enforcement is lax. Illegal immigrants

are common. 83% of the victims are American citizens.

Ellie Kinnaird was instrumental in passing legislation in NC to prevent trafficking and to assist the victims. State-wide organizations, particularly the Salvation Army, connect victims with resources to help them. Its Project Fight works to free individuals in NC from their oppressors.

Business Meeting

Bea announced that we made \$2100 on the tea. She asked the members if we would be willing to give a \$100 scholarship to a NCCU Elect Her participant to the National Con-

ference for College Women Leaders. The members agreed.

However, at this time we have not had an applicant for that money. Five hundred dollars will be set aside for seed money. The remaining monies will be used for scholarships..

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon

Mary Paterson

Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT—MARCH 24, 2014

Current Accounts:

AAUW Checking - \$3,679.64

AAUW Money Market Checking - \$1,504.00

CD - \$6,611.67

A final donation of \$180 from the AAUW checking account has been made to UNC-Chapel Hill for the Carrie Heath Schwenning Fund. The Schwenning fund is now fully funded at \$1,500 for the 2014-2015 school year. Many thanks to the members who gave so generously to our local scholarship effort.

— Karen Piplani





CHAPEL HILL BRANCH, AAUW

DUES BREAKDOWN

<i>National</i>	\$49
<i>State</i>	\$11
<i>Branch</i>	\$10
TOTAL	\$70

Membership Renewal/Application

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

Please complete the form below and make your check to: **AAUW-CH Branch**

Send to: **Genoveva Aguirre, 709A West Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510.**

Branch member renewals, you need only to fill out any changes in your information.

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Check enclosed: _____

Address: _____

Phone: H _____ Cell: _____ E-mail address: _____

Newsletter: (check one) e-mail _____ regular mail _____

Education, Occupation, AAUW Experience

Degree(s), College Name, Year Degree Conferred, Major Field of Study

Undergraduate: _____

Graduate: _____

Occupation: _____

Membership Category:

Branch _____ Dual Branch _____ Student Affiliate _____ E-Student Affiliate _____ Honorary Life _____

Paid Life _____ Previous Experience in AAUW _____

Groups at Chapel Hill Branch and/or Other Areas of Interests for Our Branch

(Please check your areas of interest and tell us of your ideas)

SPARC/STEM _____ (Students Participating & Researching Careers/ Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Good Morning Book Club _____ Bridge _____

Areas of Interest Hospitality _____ Public Policy _____ Publicity _____

Program Ideas: _____

Other Volunteer or Interest Ideas: _____