

AAUW-Orange, Durham, Chatham Branch

From the President: Bea Keller

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.Dear members, normally I write a monthly message about an issue that pertains to our mission. There is plenty to talk about in that regard but since this is my last presidential message, I am departing from the usual course. It has been both a pleasure and a challenge to have served as your chapter president for the last four years. During this time, our chapter has expanded its outreach efforts and connected with other groups in our area with similar missions. Our programs, thanks to our program committee (Donna Wilson, (chair), Pam Stephens, Lisa Price, Vickie Healey and me) have been substantial, wide-ranging, and reflective of our mission. We are also working to increase our involvement with area institutions of higher learning with some successes and are currently working to develop our social media presence to reach a wider audience. I owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have served on the board during my tenure—Michele Hoyman, Mary Pater-son, Sandy Passero (2013-2014), Genoveva Aguirre (2013-2015), Donna Wilson, Karen Piplani, (2014-), Mary Kolek, Shirley Ahmed (2015-) and Alice Parsons, who has steadfastly edited and produced a magnificent

newsletter. Pam Stephens, our STEM chair, has done outstanding outreach work within our three counties. Our accomplishments are a cooperative effort. I also thank Sandy Smalley and Kay White for their expertise and wisdom in all matters AAUW. In addition, Kay publishes our directory and prints our tea tickets and Sandy is our current correspondence secretary, replacing Lee Hamilton (2013-2015). The snacks that many of us take for granted are coordinated (and often generated in part) by Ruth Freed. Donna Hammersly and Lee Hamilton performed this service in preceding years. Dona Koeberl has faithfully presided over the Book Club for many years, and has done a superb job. Since our October meeting, Michele Hoyman and Jan Holland have networked far and wide to find women interested in joining us. Annette Jurgelski contacted various news agencies to spur interest in our programs and activities, a task Laurie Tepper has taken over this year. Many other loyal members have given me good ideas, or alerted me to matters of importance, and helped with the tea. To all of these people, I want to express my heartfelt thanks and apologize if I forgot to specifically mention you or your contribution.

Next year, there will be a new board, new ideas and changes. Last October, we began an organizational review and analysis of what we needed to do to be a vibrant, relevant and sustainable

chapter. All healthy organizations must regularly scrutinize and evaluate their operations in order to be most effective. John F. Kennedy said, “Change is the law of life.” I do not know what changes our new board will enact but I am positive that it will be in the best interest of our chapter and will be in the interest of sustainability. I hope all our members will pitch in and support them. According to William Pollard, “Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement.” I look forward to this new chapter in our long history and hope that you will participate wholeheartedly. In 2023, six years from now, our chapter will have existed 100 years!

On April 22, we will have our final meeting of the year on a topic near and dear to my heart followed by installation of new officers and a potluck lunch. Social time will start at 10:30 a.m., and we will be at the Chapel Hill Public Library, room A. I hope to see everyone there!



**Good Morning Book
Club**

*Good Morning Book Club
will meet April 6, 10
a.m. to discuss Reading
Lolita in Tehran by Azar
Nafisi.
—Dona Koeberl*



AAUW – Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties Meeting

Gretchen Aylsworth to present a program on Eyes, Ears, Nose and Paws (EENP) Assistance Dogs at 11:00 am, April 22, 2017 (Social time: 10:30 a.m.) Chapel Hill Public Library, Room A

Before volunteering for EENP, Gretchen Aylsworth was the director of the Guardian ad Litem program, Orange/Chatham Counties from 1989-2009. Its mission is to advocate in court for the best interest of neglected or abused children. She and her staff recruited, trained and supervised approximately 120 guardians.

Gretchen has been a dog trainer and member of the board of EENP since it was founded in 2008. Located in Carrboro, its mission is to partner people with dogs to

improve lives. It trains and places Service and Medical Alert dogs as well as providing ongoing support to working Assistance Dog Teams that have graduated through the program.

In recent years, it has developed a partnership with the NC correctional system to teach inmates to train Assistance Dogs. This is a triple win: dogs get full-time attention, love and training; inmate trainers develop interpersonal, leadership and job skills; and clients receive life-changing support for their disabilities.

Gretchen will be accompanied by a service dog and AI, a work-release inmate who was one of their original trainers and is now in prison in Hillsborough and permitted to work for EENP.

This should be a fascinating, enjoyable program about a very worthwhile community service and will be followed by our annual potluck lunch.

Submitted by Lisa Price

AAUW - ODC Program Planning Begins in July 2017

The Program Planning Committee has identified and scheduled excellent program speakers and topics during recent years and next year's planning will begin during July 2017.

Our branch members' community connections and networking are a testament to continuing the momen-

tum aligned to AAUW's goals and objectives for education and advocacy. Your suggestions for future speakers and topics will definitely assist the Program Planning Committee undertake its charge for this next year.

Within the next two weeks, Bea Keller will be sending a broadcast email to all branch

members for you to recommend speakers and topics for 2017-2018. It will be a short survey and easy for you to complete and return.

Donna M. Wilson, Vice President, Program

Outreach Efforts of our Branch

The conference aims to center the voices of UNC Chapel Hill's women of color and indigenous women (Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Multi-Racial, etc.) provide tools and resources to help combat negative representations and trends, and create a collaborative sense of community. It is our goal for conference attendees to learn to cultivate self-worth and to identify sources of empowerment for all of us to become our best selves. (From the conference program)

On a beautiful Saturday morning, in spite of the upcoming Duke-Carolina game, approximately 150 UNC women students, and various campus staff and faculty members enthusiastically attended the WOW Conference. Keynote speakers Dr. Sheila Kannappan (Dept. of Physics and Astronomy), Dr. Kumarini Silva (Dept. of Communication Studies), and Dr. Lyneise Williams (Dept. of Art History) held a panel discussion on Herstories. Unfortunately, Mary Kolek, Michele Hoyman, and Bea Keller were not able to attend as they were helping with the check-in process, but were able to attend other morning and afternoon sessions. Natalie Bullock Brown (Chair, Dept. of Film and Interactive Media,

St. Augustine College) presented a portion of her documentary, *Baartman, Beyoncé and Me*, which addressed how the white, racist,



Michele Hoyman, Mary Kolek, Bea Keller

male culture affects black women's ideal of beauty, followed by a question and answer session which exposed, among other things, how other cultures in the world also placed higher value on lighter skin. The morning sessions explored the value of the creative arts in providing emotional and spiritual healing to women of color, the barriers to using mental health services to women of color, the social barriers that impede socialization between veiled Muslim students and non-Muslim and the impact of social exclusion on one's education, and how to combat internalized racism that dictates lives of women of color. The afternoon sessions investigated how to interject forms of play into one's life to live more fulfilling and emboldened lives, how to use mindfulness, embodied expression and nonviolent communication through concrete models of self-expression, how to overcome financial hindrances as a Carolina

student and thrive as a woman of color, and finally, how to use exclusion, invisibility, marginalization, discrimination and grow in hope to build stories of strength.

The conference organizers, the attendees and the presentations were inspiring, revitalizing and motivating—the Women of Worth Conference was an enriching and thought-provoking experience.

AAUW NC and AAUW-ODC each gave grants of \$500 to buy each participant a copy of Shonda Rhimes' **Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand In the Sun and Be Your Own Person**. The bookmark pictured was printed to underline our participation and support .

--Bea Keller

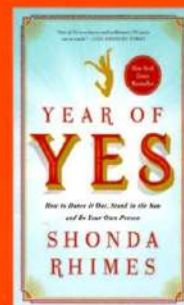


AAUW NC & AAUW-ODC

are proud to support

WOMEN OF WORTH

We hope you enjoy



Treasurer's Report

Financial Report— March 24, 2017

Checking \$1,123.80

Money Market \$1,004.45

C.D. \$5,564.83

Donations to the Schwenning

Scholarship fund total
\$820.00. We encourage
anyone who has not yet
contributed to do so. Every
dollar helps!

Karen Piplani, Treasurer



Margaret Maron Thursday, May 4, 2-4 Extraordinary Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Yes, Margaret Maron will be the guest speaker at our tea! Margaret, who joins Thomas Wolfe, Maya Angelou, Elizabeth Spencer, Doris Betts, John Hope Franklin, Carl Sandberg as a member of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, has agreed to leave the comfort of her farm in eastern North Carolina to speak

to us. Many of us are familiar with NYC homicide detective Lt. Sigrid Harald and District Judge Deborah Knott of Colleton County but those of you who are not might want to investigate her wonderful books! Please spread the word and invite friends. A poster is attached to this newsletter giving all the details.

At our next meeting, please sign up for savory and/or sweet

finger food. If you can help organize and actualize the tea fundraiser, we welcome your help. This is OUR fundraiser. We need everyone's participation.

—Bea Keller

Reminder: Are You Willing to Share Your Story?

Please don't forget to share a story about what it takes to achieve a dream! Recall that some industrious and talented graduate students from Duke are running a two-week environmental experience program this summer for underrepresented high school juniors and seniors in June. They have asked for stories about how women have overcome obstacles to

find satisfying and rewarding careers. All that is required from you (or a friend or a daughter) is a **brief** description of a defining moment, unexpected events, helpful individuals, or new insights or sources of strength – whatever it was that allowed or inspired you to achieve your dream in whatever your field is/was. See the January 2017

newsletter for more details.

Please send stories (or questions) to me at pam-victor1@att.net. **We really need your story by the end of April!**

Thanks for your help!

—Pam Stephens

Plenary Meeting, March 25, 2017

President Keller opened the meeting at 2:30, offering a warm welcome to new members and guests in attendance. She also thanked current members for coming out to what is a new location for our meetings, the Southwest Regional Branch of the Durham Public Library, and for trying out a new time, 2 PM. (For the April 22 meeting we will return to the Chapel Hill Public Library at our traditional time of 10:30; however, we will be varying locations and times next year in order to be more inclusive and accessible.)

Bea extended appreciation to Sandy Mold, Pam Stephens and Dona Koeberl for providing refreshments. She then reviewed the organization's mission, noting that tenets of AAUW were provided in writing to each attendee along with handouts about the upcoming Scholarship Tea on May 4 featuring noted author Margaret Maron and the April 22 meeting, with featured presentation; *Ears, Eyes, Nose and Paws*.

Bea introduced Pam Stephens, chair of the ODC AAUW Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Committee. Pam provided a brief description of STEM and its importance to the organization. She then introduced the afternoon speaker, Brandy Burnett, co-founder of Smart Girls, Smart Choices, a non-profit organization that mentors young girls from between the ages of 11-17 in order that they may maximize

their full potential, despite being faced with challenges of multiple risk factors. Founded by Brandy and a college friend, SGSC was a response to what Brandy experienced through her job in the social services sector as "an increasing number of girls and young women referred through the justice or emergency care system who were in need of prosocial activities." Several years into its work, SGSC now serves approximately 25 girls per month that come from underserved communities in Raleigh. Begun solely as an independent, volunteer effort by Brandy and her friend Leslie, SGSC demonstrates that individuals can, by force of will and entrepreneurial spirit, harness the good will and expertise of the community in order to provide support and resources to young women in need.

Seeking to further secure the organization's work and expand its impact Brandy applied for and was granted a 2016-17 AAUW Community Action grant. She described the joy she experienced learning of this award and extended profuse thanks to members, noting that the grant allowed SGSC to have more frequent and regular meetings and to have resources and supplies for those meetings- many of which are instructional as well as supportive in nature. In addition to benefitting from individual advocacy and mentoring provided by the volunteer staff members, the girls look forward

to meetings that include instruction on topics that bolster and increase confidence, capabilities, self-management and self-efficacy. Speakers include women who serve both as role models and who can offer lessons on topics such as effective communication, career preparation, job and college application processes, etiquette, leadership skills, financial planning and improving academic performance. Brandy discussed the desire of the organization to expose young women to careers such as STEM that offer promise and promotion. Members expressed support for these goals and were dismayed to hear that young women coming through the legal or foster care system are too often still channeled into training programs for low paying jobs in the service sector versus those in technical / professional arenas.

During a lively and extended question and answer session Brandy provided an array of examples of how members and interested community members can help the organization expand opportunities and outreach. These include acting as mentors, teaching a class or series of classes focused on high interest, high impact issues and skills; donating resources and providing expertise in securing additional grants. Brandy provided a helpful handout describing the vision, goals and program details for Smart Girls, Smart Choices and directed



Website News

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.

AAUW Plenary Meeting (continued)

those interested to their website: smartgirlssmartchoices.com. Her contact information is bburnett@smartgirlssmartchoices.com. Pam thanked her for an inspiring talk and presented her with a small token of appreciation.

Returning to the podium Bea reminded members of the April 22 meeting (see above) that will be followed by the end of the year pot lunch. Members are needed to both help with the event and to bring food. If you did not yet sign up please contact Bea Keller.

Tickets for the May 4 Literary Tea and Scholarship Fundraiser are available from Karen Piplani. Tickets are \$20. Michele Hoyman asked members to distribute information about this event to any book clubs or women's groups they belong to

as the event is a great way to network and to support other women through scholarship programs.

Bea reminded members that annual fees are due and can be paid on line. For an additional \$5.00 you can also become a member of the virtual Tarheels branch. Also she noted the annual state meeting is April 1 in Greensboro. The keynote address is on Reproductive Justice. This event is a great opportunity to connect with members from across the state. Those who are attending will provide an update at our next meeting.

Dona Koeberl added that the book club is meeting at Annette Jurgelski's house and will be

discussing, Reading Lolita in Tehran.

Margaret Herring announced that Dr. Sandra Steingraber will be speaking at the UNC Stone Center on April 4, 7-9 on the topic of the environmental and health impact of fracking. There is no cost to the event.

Bea adjourned the meeting at 3:31.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Monroe Kolek,
Ph.D., Recording Secretary



Proposed Slate of Officers for 2017-2018

On odd years, we choose another president, treasurer and membership vice-president. Mary Kolek is leaving the recording secretary position so we needed to fill it as well. Michele Hoyman did an extraordinary job of assembling our slate of officers while consulting with Donna Wilson, Mary Kolek, Shirley Ahmed, Vickie Healey, Laurie Tepper, Jan Holland, Randy Rosser, and Bea Keller. We are grateful for all her

hard work and the willingness of those members who agreed to be on our board. Our 2017-2018 proposed board: Mary Kolek, President, Membership Vice-president: Michele Hoyman, Program Vice-president, Donna Wilson (continuing), Treasurer, Karen Piplani, and Recording Secretary, Margaret Herring. We will induct our new officers at our April meeting. Their new terms will begin on July 1. Members Randy Rosser, Laurie Tepper and Jan Holland will help Michele in recruiting

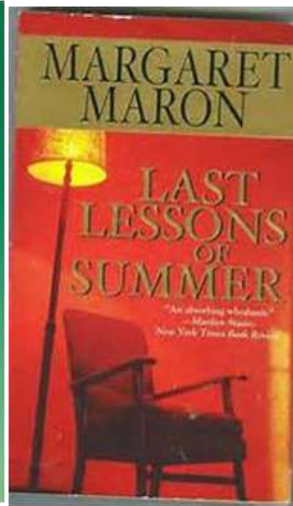
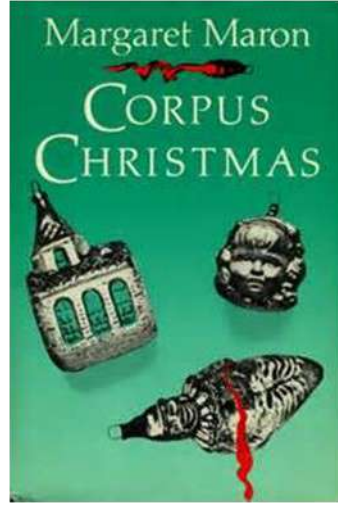
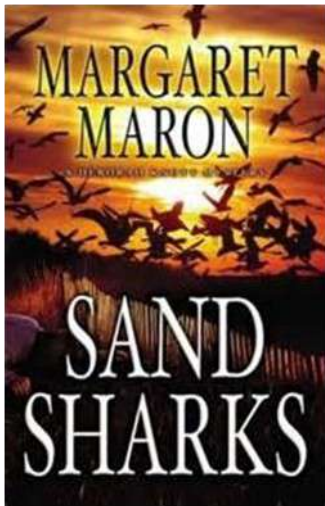
and other membership duties. Bea Keller will sit on the board for a year as President Ex-officio. Sandy Smalley will be correspondence secretary. Ruth Freed will continue as Hospitality Chair. Alice Parsons will continue as our unparalleled editor of the newsletter. The latter three positions are non-board positions.



Love mysteries?
Help a good cause and hear NC's own
award winning mystery writer!

Margaret Maron

Thursday, May 4, 2p.m.-4p.m. at Extraordinary
Ventures, 200 S. Elliott Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Please make plans to come! Invite friends! It is a fun event every year. Our members always provide delicious finger food, and there will be plenty of coffee and tea. But best of all, all proceeds go to AAUW Scholarships—this year, we have 4 recipients at UNC-CH and 3 at Duke. Some years, we have as many as 12 in area universities and community colleges.

ALL PROFITS GO TO: AAUW's SCHOLARSHIPS WHICH FUNDS FEMALE STUDENTS, LOCALLY, AROUND THE WORLD & THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS.

Name _____

No. of tickets @ \$20 _____ Send tickets ___ Will pick up at event ___ (✓ one)

Telephone: _____

Name of guests: _____

Make checks payable to: AAUW-ODC Karen Iplani, 1502 Halifax Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-2728

<http://chapelhill-nc.aauw.net/> Tel: B. Keller 919 929-4432, K. Iplani 919 929-6553 chapel-hillncaauw@gmail.com